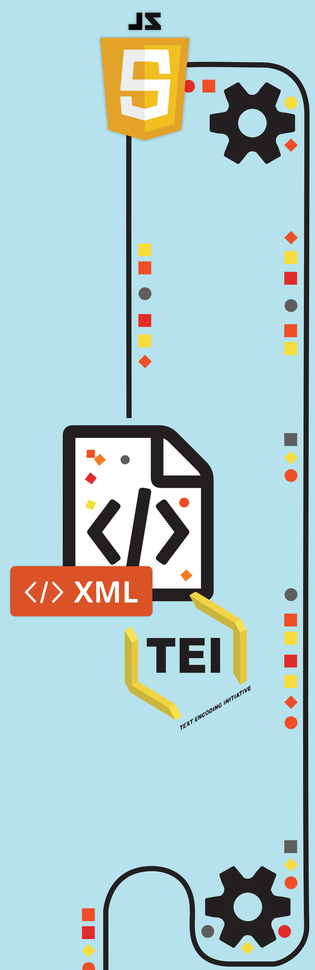
EVT 2.0

A new architecture to publish critical editions in digital form

EVT (Edition Visualization Technology) is a light-weight, open source tool specifically designed to create digital editions from XML-encoded texts, freeing the scholar from the burden of web programming and enabling the final user to browse, explore and study digital editions by means of a user-friendly interface.

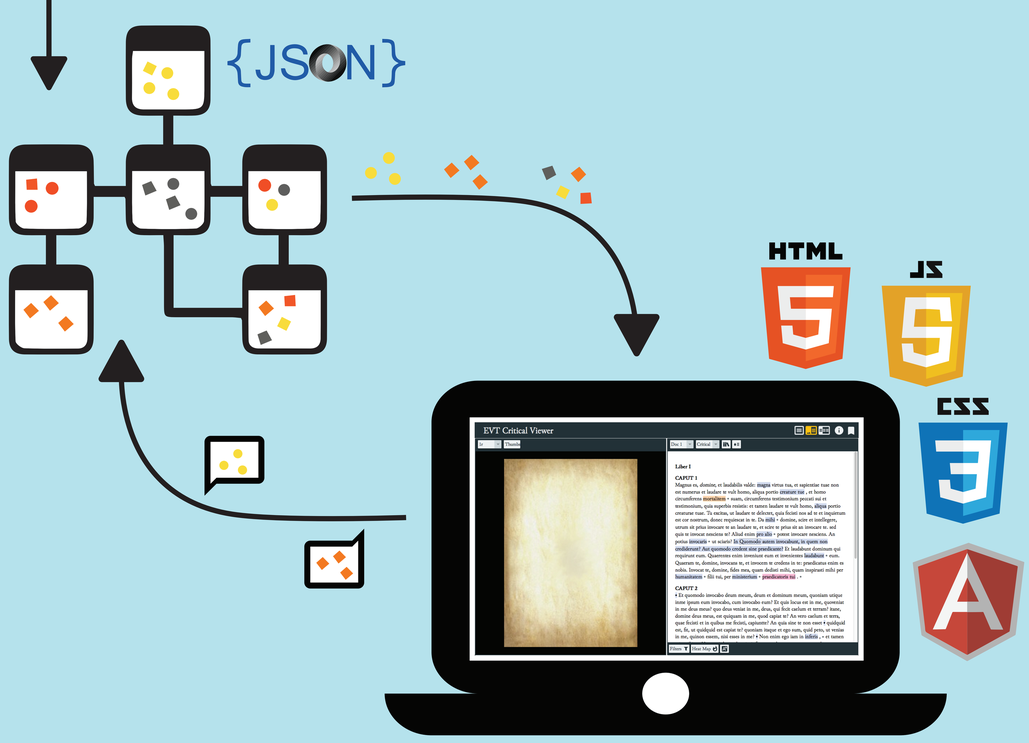


HOW IT WORKS

We chose the Model View Controller design pattern to develop the new web application, since it allows to separate the logics of data presentation from the core of their processing.

The XSLT stylesheets have been abandoned in favor of a set of JavaScript parsers specifically written to retrieve edition content directly from the XML file.

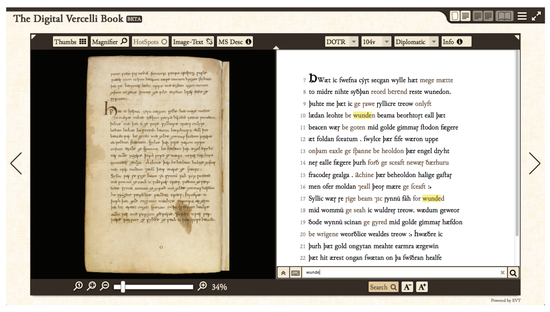
Edition data is then saved in a JSON structure, organized in such a way that it can be easily and rapidly accessed when needed. The final styling of documents is entrusted to CSS style-sheets and is easily customizable.

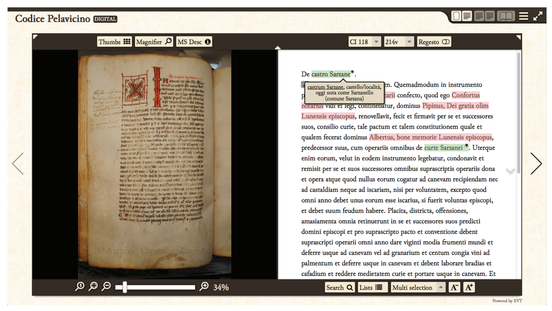


Note that the current JavaScript parser can only process TEI XML documents, but it is possible to add new parsers for different formats so that they are converted to the intermediate JSON structure, e.g. it is possible to add a custom XML (non-TEI) parser, a LaTeX parser, etc.

WHY A NEW VERSION?

EVT was born in the context of the Digital Vercelli Book project (http://vbd.humnet.unipi.it/beta2/), but the continuous development and need to adapt it to different types of documents and TEI-encoded texts has shifted the development focus towards creation of a more general tool for the web publication of TEI-based documents, able to cater for multiple use cases.



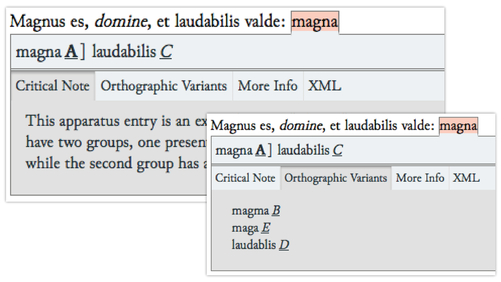


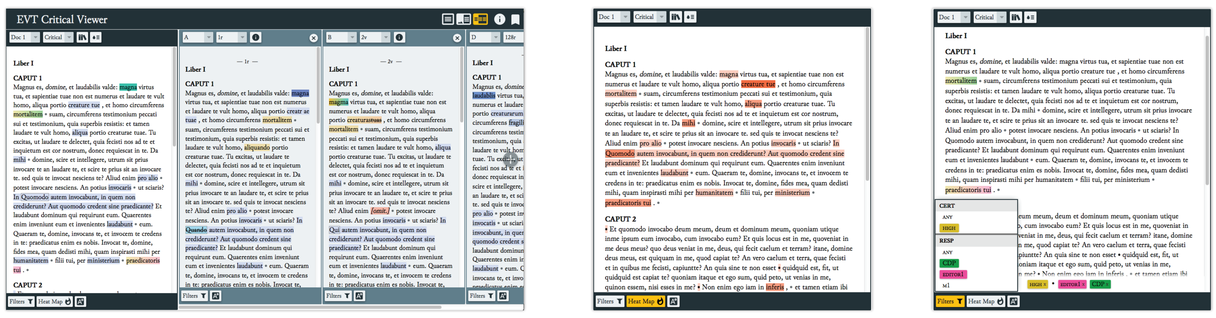
The increasing number of available widgets has made the general layout quite complex with regard to the interaction between them, and complicated to handle. We needed more flexibility and modularity in order to make the development of new features easier and faster, and this has led to a completely new infrastructure.

MAIN FEATURES

CRITICAL EDITION SUPPORT

Enlarged critical apparatus, variant heat map, witnesses collation and variant filtering are some of the main features developed for the critical edition support.





BOOKMARK

Direct reference to the current *view* of the web application, considering view mode, current document, page and edition level, collated witnesses and selected apparatus entry.

HIGH LEVEL OF CUSTOMIZATION

The editor can customize both the user interface layout and the appearance of the graphical components.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

EVT 1 has been quite popular not only because it is easy to use, but also thanks to some great features, such as the support for diplomatic and interpretative editions, the image tools and the image-text linking functionality, the integrated search engine and the lists of named entities. Therefore, our first goal is to integrate these features in the new version as soon as possible.

We also plan to enhance it with additional features: traditional critical apparatus layers, image-text linking leading to selected witness variants, GIS-like support to show named entities in a map, and more.

REFERENCES & CONTACTS

EVT home page: http://evt.labcd.unipi.it/
Contact email: evt.developers@gmail.com

EVT development repository: https://github.com/evt-project/evt-viewer
EVT release page: https://sourceforge.net/projects/evt-project/

Digital Humanities 2016
Kraków, 11– 16 July
Università di Pisa
Università degli Studi di Torino
Laboratorio di Cultura Digitale