Lunchtime Lectures

07.07.2015, 12:30 (s. t.)

Francisco Alvarez:

Towards a TEI model for the encoding of diplomatic charters: the charters of the County of Luna at the end of the Middle Ages

Abstract:

Diplomatics is a consolidated field in the study and edition of historical sources. In spite of having its own scientific vocabulary and dealing with legal sources there is not a TEI module nor any other standard covering specifically the encoding of diplomatic documents. Although there is a noticeable number of projects dealing with the diplomatic editions of charters, none has tried so far to export their encoding model to other sources in order to establish a standard. This multiplicity has lead to the current scenario of encoding fragmentation and loss of interchangeability among the created editions.

The Charters Encoding Initiative (CEI) has been the most solid (although unfortunately incomplete) attempt to achieve a standard and integrate it into TEI. Francisco Alvarez aims to continue the task initiated by CEI and to recover its original purpose of creating a TEI standard for the encoding of charters. He will present a case study: a TEI ODD designed for the encoding of a corpus of late medieval Castilian charters from the County of Luna. He will document how it is articulated with the framework provided by TEI, putting special attention in the encoding of charter metadata (dates, calendar, tradition, physical description, etc.), diplomatic discourse, and means of authentication.

Vita:

Francisco Alvarez graduated in History in the University of Oviedo, Spain, in 2009. He enrolled there to the PhD program of the History Department and began his research on "The Documentary Production of the Counts of Luna at the End of the Middle Ages: Lordship Administration, Political Struggle and Social Legitimacy". In April 2014 he received an ESR Marie Curie Fellowship and moved to Lyon, where he works for the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales for DiXiT (Digital Scholarly Editions Initial Training Network) on a project called "Practice and Usability of Digital Critical Editions". During the last three months, the Zentrum für Informationsmodellierung has hosted his secondment as a requirement within DiXiT.