The Imperial Diet of Regensburg of 1576 – a Pilot Project on the Digital Edition of Sources on the Early Modern Era

(from the FWF application)

Inhalt

1   The Imperial Diet – Editorial Practice and Current State of Research

In 1988, in the first volume published by the Historical Commission's "Imperial Diets 1556-1662 Division," Maximilian Lanzinner established the editorial principles which form the methodical base of the series to this day.[1] Lanzinner, who based his principles on ideas formulated by Heinz Angermeier in 1986,[2] formulated the following hypothesis, which was to be considered an editorial rule and has been substantiated by the division's subsequent work: the imperial diets of the second half of the sixteenth century differed fundamentally from those which met during the Reformation period (which have been edited in the "younger series" of imperial diet records).

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[1] Lanzinner (1988), 65–113. All subsequent page references to Lanzinner within the text refer to this work.
[2] Position paper of the Historical Commission 1986 (in the collection there).

Lanzinner focuses on two aspects of this transformative process: (1) the growing importance of administrative literacy, which can be seen to some degree in all the diets' participants and which proved of great consequence to the edition of these imperial files (in the age of printing); (2) the emperor's changed role within the imperial system after Emperor Charles V's abdication in 1556. The "moments of diplomacy and political confrontation" between emperor and imperial estates became less important after 1556, and the imperial diets (and other imperial assemblies) developed into conferences which dealt with "the affirmation, improvement, and handling of that which the 'Reichsherkommen' and the imperial constitution dictated and [with] the issue of the empire's character as a federation" (p. 68f.).

Taken together, both of these factors – the overabundance of source material and this deeper understanding of the imperial diet as an institution whose purpose it was to flesh out the principles laid out in 1555 – determined and continues to determine the editorial practice. Editors were in fact forced to adhere to this practice as long as the edited sources had to be pressed between two book covers for publication. Thus, the contents of the source edition were necessarily limited in many ways: (1) Only those sources were edited which shed light on the "diet as a whole" (p. 75) – from the initial convening of the delegates through the reading of the emperor's proposition[3] to the recess (*Reichsabschied*). (2) The edition solely includes sources – some in the form of summaries (*Aktenreferat*), some abridged, some regested, and others in full – that fall within this time frame (25 June–12 October in the case of the Imperial Diet of Regensburg in 1576). (3) It comprises only those sources, which document the exchange of the emperor and the imperial estates with the proposed contents on the one hand (*Verhandlungsakten*), the agenda presented by the Mainz Chancellery which flowed into the deliberations on the other (*Beilagen, Gutachten* etc.).(4) Likewise it is the involvement of the archchancellor – a position handed down to the archbishop of Mainz since the Middle Ages – which determines which aspects of the communicative practice of petitioning are scrutinized in the respective volumes, although the practice is central to the diet's communicative processes. (5) Topics within the diet's proceedings for which there was no formal, concrete proposal but which were the subject of deliberations by the estates, regardless of how these were conducted, are classified and edited as side issues (Nebenhandlungen). The Catholic and Protestant estates' deliberations on religious peace (keywords: Religious Freedom [*Freistellung*], *Declaratio Ferdinandea*, Religious Negotiations), which had been officially addressed by the emperor in 1559,[4] are part only of this subchapter, even if they were of crucial significance for imperial politics.

This organization of the source material according to content and formal structures is complemented by the edition of minutes (Protokolle) dealing with internal deliberations (such as by the curiae, the committees, the confessional parties) and the procedures themselves. Where such records are not available, they are "constructed" from text fragments and other sources, mostly relying on reports and directives (*Berichte und Weisungen*).

The volumes' introductions and annotations (*Sachkommentar*) refer to those source collections which are inextricably linked with the diet's proceedings and which are therefore systematically catalogued in the archives visited. These are not included in the main text body, however, due to the limited number of pages available and

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[3] The chapter headings of the printed edition are underlined; cf. in detail Annex I.
[4] Compare Fröschl (1994), 48.

the preliminary decision to explore the diet in its materialist, formalist dimensions. The printed volume thus excludes more specifically: 1) sources dealing with the history prior to the imperial diet (including the formal instructions); 2) correspondence as well as reports and directives;[5] 3) sources which attest to some participants' membership in other corporative groups within the empire (imperial circles [*Reichskreise*], associations, etc.); 4) sources on negotiations with third-party members attending the diet on a regular basis, such as, for example, nuncios and emissaries of West European civil war parties; 5) records shedding light on particular details about the diet's proceedings (amongst others, ceremonial processes); 6) groups of sources outlining the emperor's role in greater detail (particularly minutes of the Privy and Imperial Aulic Councils; "private negotiations" between individual estates and the emperor).

Without a doubt, any edition on the diet's history must necessarily include the issues dealt with by the assembly of the estates in a formal way.[6] However recent studies (not only of the imperial diets) have shown,[7] that it is insufficient to deal with the event at this purely instrumental level because the diet was characterized by intense processes of political communication. For the first time, the proposed edition presents a unique opportunity to illustrate the complexity and intricacy of these communications and interactions as they took place during the imperial diet.

2 Project Aims

2.1 Overview

It is the project's primary goal to develop methods for digitally editing early modern non-serial sources and to facilitate use of these sources to gain insights into the history of the imperial diets in the latter half of the sixteenth century. This goal can be fulfilled through the close cooperation of experts on the imperial diets and experts in the field of digital humanities. The binational project team is a pool of such knowledge. The experiences gained by the team while working on the project may not only be of use for the Historical Commission's editors in their future work, but also, to name just one example, for the planned digital edition of the Everlasting Imperial Diet as part of a project proposed by Christoph Kampmann and Michael Rohrschneider (North Rhine-Westphalian Academy of Sciences, Humanities and the Arts / Academy of Sciences, Humanities and Arts Mainz; cooperation partner: Gabriele Haug-Moritz).

While preserving the high editorial standards of the extant editions of imperial diet records, innovative digital technologies will help reduce the numerous editorial measures hitherto necessary to publish the work in print (summaries, abridgements, abstracts/*Regesten*). Central source groups which play a crucial role in understanding the proceedings of the imperial diets and which have until now only been presented in

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[5] To differentiate: Fröschl (1994), 70-74.
[6] Even taking into account the culture of informality, characteristic of the imperial diet's history in general, the exclusive, if not uncontested, role of the prince-elector of Mainz – who ranked just slightly below the king – represents the imperial diet's one element that became the event's institutionalized fix point already in the 16th century (Neuhaus [1998]; Gotthard [1998], 211-214). The prince-elector is therefore referred as "formal." To the categories of "formal" and "informal" as such compare Stollberg-Rilinger (2013b).
[7] Of Barbara Stollberg-Rilinger's numerous works we highlight here: Stollberg-Rilinger (²2013).

introductions and annotations are to be made accessible to scholars. This complements the current editorial concept and on the other hand reduce extensive, time-consuming commentary work.[8]

Given the pilot project's specific character, as well as the decision for a hybrid edition (i.e. published both in book form and on the Internet; as explained below), it is clear that it is not the project's aim to document all relevant source materials in their entirety, but to expand upon the current available content in a considered manner. Source groups which shed light on the diet's preliminary history and the emperor's actions, as well as on the imperial diet's proceedings in its openness and dynamics, are therefore presented additionally in the (digital) edition in their full length. The participants' correspondence which is central to this aspect—i.e. that of the emperor, the Elector of Mainz, and the Elector of Saxony—is presented in its entirety. Other correspondence is presented in a reduced description, including: 1) reference (*Nachweis*); 2) contextualizing information; and 3) content analysis (via captions, "*Betrefftitel*"). In addition, the correspondences of the prince-electors' (which are not edited as full text) are to be cataloged systematically according to the persons involved and the communication situations described above. Annex I (Editorial Concept - Synopsis) contains a synopsis of the current and proposed editorial concepts.

The digital edition will contain full text transcriptions of the documents and highly structured data representing essential parts of their content. The transcription in a customized XML/TEI will present structured archival metadata to the documents, their text in a form which enhances the established transcription rules by easy applicable encoding (like the mark up of deletions, additions and corrections), their content as abstracts, and the persons and subjects of the communication represented in the documents. Each document will have a basic XML/TEI encoding and a RDF representation.[9] The digital edition will thus allow not only a full text search of the documents but complex search possibilities in the representation of facts about persons, subjects, and types of communication as well. The subjects of the documents will be represented in a SKOS resource allowing multilingual descriptions and searches.[10] The individuals will be described following the factoid model[11] and make use of the CIDOC-CRM event-based model.[12] This will allow reordering the documents by date, participants, and subjects discussed. Hence, this will open up the possibility to extract communication patterns which are hidden in the current order of the printed editions: who is communicating, when, how, where, with whom, on which subjects? The main browsing access will be typological in the tradition of the printed editions, as well as chronological, according to the archival organization, by individuals and the political powers they are representing, and, finally, by subject. The full-text search will allow for parameters in a combination of these categories and will integrate rich visual search possibilities (see Annex III, fig. 1-4).[13]

The project uses a "digital first" workflow with a hybrid result. In addition to the digital edition a print version will be created with a structure corresponding to the current editorial concept to conclude the series of

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[8] Annex I illustrates this in detail.
[9] A similar approach of double access is taken by the digital editions at the Max-Weber-Stiftung: http://quellen-perspectivia.net/de/portal/start.
[10] W3C: Simple Knowledge Organisation Standard (SKOS) (2009).
[11] Bradley/Pasin (2015) based on the work of Bradley/Short (2005).
[12] CIDOC's Conceptual Reference Model, http://www.cidoc-crm.org
[13] On rich search interfaces see Ruecker / Milena / Sinclair (2011).

printed editions for the imperial diets' records for the period of the successful religious peace. The setting copy will be created with XSLT-transformations and the typesetting program TeX. The necessary scholarly work for this version will be executed by Josef Leeb funded by the Historical Commission.

The publication of a print edition in addition to the online version has been thoroughly considered. The continuation of the existing series is the first argument. The second is, that the problems involved in the long-term archiving of digital data have not yet been sufficiently resolved to create general trust in this editorial form. One open question concerns the ongoing availability of public funding to provide for the continual cost of the required data storage and maintenance. For this reason, the book is to be retained as a medium, even though the digital edition follows current recommendations for long-term preservation, as the GAMS repository is OAIS compliant and is a Trusted Digital repository under the Data Seal of Approval[14] (cf. Annex II: Data Management Plan). Bitstream preservation will additionally be supported by archiving the data in the Leibniz Supercomputing Centre of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities. All data will be made available to the public under Creative Commons licenses. The digital edition of the records of the Imperial Diet of 1576 (like all future editorial work) will allow for the printing out of individual files, file groups, or the entire edition.

2.2 Innovative Aspects of the Project

Historians have recently stressed the extent to which interpretations of the imperial diet which solely focus on formal decision-making processes are influenced by the model of modern parliamentarism. Disproportionate attention is thus paid to formal processes outlined in official documents at the expense of addressing other channels of communication.[15] Without going into more detail here, it seems necessary to point out the following: if institutional theory is correct that within the nature of institutions in general and of organized bodies, like that represented by the imperial diet, in particular,[16] institutional meaning and institutional objectives ("Sinn und Zweck institutioneller Ordnungsarrangements") are inexplicably intertwined, it naturally follows that no political institution, past or present, can be properly assessed by merely focusing on the institution's objectives and the written depiction of the decision-making process (and documenting these issues in an edition). It is just as important to consider the way specific (conflicting) and morally binding value propositions become manifest in routine actions as well as in the ways they are discussed, scrutinized, realigned, and recorded.

This new understanding of the diet which has been developed over the past quarter century necessitates a modification of the current editorial practice: historians should focus not merely on the formalized procedures and the diet's outcomes but examine the nature of these events as evidenced in the participants' actions, dialogues, and written communications. In other words: it is essential to document the imperial diet's proceedings. The editor should strive to make maximum use of this insight for the proposed research project particularly because the sixteenth-century imperial diet was an institution with only a few explicit rules – the event's deeper meaning was rooted in the application of implicit knowledge. By modelling the data around the interactions of the historical actors (*interaktionszentriert*), the digital edition will focus on the complexity of communications and

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[14] https://assessment.datasealofapproval.org/assessment_143/seal/html/.
[15] Summarizing and differentiating: Neu (2012), 64-83; see also Haug-Moritz (2009), 37-60.
[16] Thus the differentiation between instrumental and symbolic actions Stollberg-Rilinger (2004), 497f.; see also Blänkner (2005), 90-93; Vec (2001), 559-587.

dynamics of the event. Thus, it will, compared to the current editorial concept, offer substantial advantages to future generations of scholars rather than incremental lineal progress.

Based on this understanding of imperial assemblies, the research team will revise the editorial concept, even if it is not able to fully do it justice: as desirable as it would be to present all of the sources dealing with the diet in their full length alongside in-depth analysis, the time constraints of necessary for the project preclude this. Since this project intends to cultivate experience in the field of digital editing – which will be of great value in future editorial projects – while meeting the project's publication deadline, significant consideration will be given to possibilities for the extension of the current editorial concept. Despite these limitations of time and budget, the systematic compilation of all source materials concerning the imperial diet of 1576 and its inclusion within an online accessible digital archival reference is a significant contribution to historical scholarship in its own right.

The extension will be two-fold: (1) As a first step, the most important participant standing at the centre of the institutional self-conceptualization,[17] around whom the entire diet's proceedings revolved, is taken much more into account than in current editorial practice: the emperor as person and office keeper (more precisely, in 1576: the emperor Maximilian II., and the Roman King Rudolf, elected in 1575).[18] The organization of the archival records on the imperial diets is itself evidence that the emperor stood at the centre of the proceedings: Administrative literacy and archival storage of the imperial diet's records start in the chancelleries of the emperor and his most important partner, the prince-elector of Mainz in his function as imperial arch chancellor. It is thus with good reason that their records are generally, if not in all cases,[19] treated as "original records" (*Originalüberlieferung*, p. 73).

In order to paint a fuller picture of the imperial head of state, it becomes necessary to refocus the editorial lens both in terms of time frame and content: In other words, (a) to include more than just a short introductory summary of events preceding the diet, beginning with the invitation sent to the participants (in case of the Diet of Regensburg, on 10 November 1575) up to the diet's festive opening (25 June 1576), but to give a full documentation of the extensive preparations for the diet undertaken by the imperial court; Furthermore, (b) to add records to the edition dealing with the emperor's actions during the diet, in particular records of the Privy Council and the Imperial Aulic Council. This section of the edition is also to include sources dealing with the emperor's central, ceremonial role within the diet's proceedings and within the imperial court.

Such an extension of the current editorial concept, coupled with the new digital editorial concept, will highlight the symbolic as well as instrumental dimensions of the diet's proceedings, as well as gain new insight into the diet's position between the poles of the traditional "Hoftag" (granting of imperial privileges; investitures) and the more "modern" imperial diet, which was in the process of gaining institutional autonomy.[20] It will further demonstrate that the phrase "emperor and empire" implied more than just "emperor and estates," as is primarily documented in the many supplications recorded in the minutes of the Imperial Aulic Council. Recent research

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[17] Rehberg (1998), 388.
[18] Laubach (2015), 338f.
[19] Thus the record of the electoral convention (*Kurfürstentag*) of 1575 is missing (Neerfeld [2015], 49f.).
[20] Lanzinner's observations conclude that the 1570s represent a key period in this regard, Lanzinner (1998). Concerning the category of "institutional autonomy" see Sikora (2001), 15-19.

suggests that one of the diets' central functions was to allow the empire's subjects to experience the empire as a venue which manifested itself primarily in the imperial exercise of judicial power or the granting of clemency (*kaiserliche Rechts- und Gnadengewalt*).[21]

(2) Conceptualized by its legitimizing core, the imperial diet therefore appears also in other regards as an institution whose purpose exceeded its function as a venue of political decision making: the diet also served as a 'communication and information system'[22] whose antennae stretched way beyond the empire's borders. The diet, especially the diet of 1576 (side issues: the election of the king of Poland; the Netherlands; Moscow delegation), also represents a communicative hot spot of European politics, serving as evidence of the intertwined nature of communication within Latin Christendom in the latter half of the sixteenth century, which, in turn, was the necessary prerequisite for the success of such a highly communicative event.[23] This European dimension of the diet will be highlighted at the level of selected correspondences, as well as integrally incorporated at the level of the extant printed editions.[24]

To return briefly to the topic of political correspondence: reviewers of the "imperial diet records" have repeatedly called for a comprehensive edition of the political correspondence (at least of the diet's most important participants). As valuable as such a work would be, however, a project of this scope runs the risk of the edition not being finished on schedule. Three measures are built into the proposal which go beyond the limits of the current editorial practice (listing and ordering the archival documents in the annotations): 1) the complete body of individual correspondence is to be listed and documented, headed by keywords; 2) printed source editions are not only to be listed, but also included as digital images (as long as this infringes upon no copyright laws); 3) due to reasons discussed below, special heed is paid to the Saxon prince-elector's correspondence, which is to be edited in its entirety as well as the correspondence of the emperor and his most important associate during the Imperial Diet's proceedings, the prince-elector of Mainz (cf. Annex I).

2.3   Progressive Research Aspects

There are no modern comprehensive studies of the Imperial Diet of Regensburg of 1576 because the relevant files are not available in edited form. Even today, the most differentiated presentation of the diet's proceedings and its prior history (beginning immediately after the convention of the prince-electors [*Kurfürstentag*] in 1575, November 3), dates back to 1895.[25]

More recent articles deal with particular aspects, with special emphasis on the issue of the Polish king's election[26] at the prince-electors' convention in 1575, as well as the "Muscovite delegation,"[27] which is dealt with in connection to the proposed agenda item "recuperations/ Livonia." Important insights into the classification of

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[21] Ortlieb (2015).
[22] Friedrich (2007).
[23] Cursory hints may for example be found in Ritter (1889), 500, 505, 512f.
[24] Compare 3. Literature; 1. Sources (selection).
[25] Moritz (1895), 185-433; compare still Ritter (1889), 1, 479, 500-514.
[26] Neerfeld (2015), 33f., 343-352; Augustynowicz (2001); idem (2010).
[27] Aulinger (1980), 159-164; Völkl/ Wessely (1992).; Bojcov (2012); Neuhaus (2012) u. (2013).

the imperial diet of 1576 within the general context of genuine imperial political issues are provided in particular by studies which deal with the perspective of individual imperial estates (Electorate of the Palatinate, Bavaria, Counts of Wetterau)[28] as well as by Lanzinner's pioneer study (1993[29]) which added a fresh perspective on imperial politics. In addition, some papers have treated the experiences of individual participants.[30]

Further, studies dealing primarily with two thematic fields – the issue of taxation to fight against Turkish troops and the application of the articles of the Peace of Augsburg – follow established scholarly tradition by examining these issues systematically while following a horizontal timeline.[31] It is in part due to the availability of the edited volumes of sources on the imperial diets (published since 1988) that this time-honoured research tradition is now becoming an important factor in producing fresh insights. In addition, it is important to mention two additional volumes produced more recently by the long-time head of the Historical Commission's imperial diets division, Maximilian Lanzinner. While not limited exclusively to the diet of 1576, they do deal with important problems of the imperial diets taking place during the second half of the sixteenth century which will be reconsidered within the framework of the proposed edition.[32]

Finally, based on the plans for the proposed edition, a few of the most important theses of recent scholarship are outlined below:

1. Moritz' seminal study showed already in the nineteenth century that the Diet of Regensburg in 1576 marked a "turning point in the history of the imperial Turkish taxes (*Reichstürkenhilfe*)." This has been recently scrutinized in detail by Rauscher.[33] Within the past twenty-five years acceptance of the view has grown that the Regensburg imperial diet of 1576 represents another such "turning point" in regard to the imperial federation's disintegration—which gained momentum in the late 1580s.[34] In his summary of the religious negotiations and the concerns over the "*Reichstürkenhilfe*" which stood at the center of the proceedings of the Diet of Regensburg during the summer and autumn of 1576. Edel, for example, has stated: "The empire's political prelude to the Thirty Years' War began not in 1602 or 1608/09, but as early as 1576."[35] The reason for this is that, for the first time, single members of the Protestant imperial estates (Electorate Palatinate, Hessia, Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel) made their votes for the proposed taxes, which were approved by the majority, "contingent upon their own compensatory political (confessional) demands".[36] The Diet of Regensburg is therefore of primary importance for understanding the history of the imperial polity in the period between the Religious Peace of Augsburg and the beginning of the Thirty Years' War.

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[28] Edel (1997), 370-441; Heil (1998), 524-566; Schmid (1989), 293-297.
[29] Lanzinner (1993), 407, 446-448, 450, 474-480, 483-485, 489-509.
[30] Nicklas (1995), 148-164; idem. (1997), 181-206.
[31] Gotthard (2004), 352-355, 359, 375f., 384f.; Rauscher (2004); idem (2003), 45-83, esp. 74-76; Lanzinner (2010). All these works provide the reader with access to the older literature.
[32] Lanzinner/Strohmeyer (2006); Lanzinner (1998).
[33] Rauscher (2003); idem (2004).
[34] Lanzinner (1993), 474; compare esp. Rauscher (2004), 324-328, 361.
[35] Edel (1997), 414.
[36] Gotthard (2004), 385 (Verbanden ihre Zustimmung "mit ihren eigenen religionspolitischen Anliegen kompensatorisch"); also compare Id., 355, 382f.; Lanzinner (1993), 499-504; Edel (1997), 413f., 443.

2. More recent research on the diet of 1576 has also illustrated the importance of the preparations in understanding the diet's actual proceedings. The reticence to compromise on confessional political issues and the consolidation of the confessional parties – in case of the Catholics, largely represented in the Landsberger Bund (*alliance*) – can only be adequately interpreted in light of events taking place before the diet.[37] The digital edition of the estates' instructions, published in their entirety, will make it possible to outline these events more clearly than ever before. As the situation demanded, substantial preparations were undertaken in the imperial court prior to the diet: Maximilian II. solicited expert opinions; the Privy Council met repeatedly; imperial emissaries travelled to the courts of Munich, Dresden, and Cölln an der Spree, and an emissary of Electoral Saxony visited Vienna.[38] Unfortunately, there have been no comprehensive studies on the exact nature of these preparations yet.

3. Finally, more recent research has resulted in a better understanding of just how informal the proceedings at the diet still were and how little institutional autonomy the diet had. The Electorate of Saxony had disagreements with both the Electorate of the Palatinate and the Electoral of Mainz (religious negotiations, *Ansagestreit*[39]); these played out on different but nonetheless interwoven levels. The emperor, who was already gravely ill and died the very day that the recess was read, intervened repeatedly in the negotiation process.[40] Both factors speak volumes to the continuing openness and fluidity of the diet's proceedings, and to the considerable authoritative power[41] some actors wielded within the confessional – i.e. imperial, political – framework, with which they influenced not only the nature but also the outcome of the event. The demonstrative distance exhibited by the Saxons beginning in September towards the Palatinate's attempts to forge a single confessional Protestant party – for example, Saxony boycotted a personal meeting of adherents to the Augsburg Confession who were invited to a personal meeting with the emperor[42] – paved the way to the most comprehensive tax to defend the empire from the Ottomans in its history up to that point. It also put an end to all attempts to establish confessional freedom ("*Freistellung des Bekenntnisses*"). Furthermore, the history of the Diet of Regensburg illustrates that the Saxon elector's authoritative power as "head" of the Protestants was a good deal more fragile than that of the emperor. Rumors and speculations geared towards discrediting Elector August's integrity appeared in August and September: his conduct was characterized as a sort of "treason" of his position, for, since the age of the Reformation, the Saxon prince-elector had been recognized as the highest-ranking Protestant estate.[43] The planned Digital Edition and the modelling of the conversational acts will further advance this line of research.

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[37] Edel (1997), 371-384; Heil (1998), 535-538; Schmidt (1989), 294; Moritz (1895) (as already mentioned), 185-229, 239-261.
[38] Lanzinner (1993), 477f; Moritz (1895), 232-239.
[39] Concerning the dissent between Electoral Saxony and Electoral Palatinate, see Edel (1997), 398f., 406; the "*Ansagestreit*" has hitherto played little role in the literature; however, it is already well documented in the archival records (esp. HHSTA Vienna: MEA RTA 1576, Fasz. 73).
[40] Edel (1997), 387f., 404, 408, 421; see also Lanzinner (1998); regarding the emperor's death and funeral see Aulinger (1980), 317-322.
[41] Regarding the concept of authoritative power and its distinction from other forms of power see Popitz (1992), 24-29, esp. 28f.
[42] Moritz (1895), 370-378; Edel (1997), 421-424.
[43] Edel (1997), 417-421; Moritz (1895), 326f.

3 Digital Methods

3.1 Digital Editing

In the future, digital methods will certainly dominate scholarly editing.[44] This means not only that the computer is a natural tool for preparing scholarly editions,[45] but also that digital editions which allow for both digital and printed versions meet all the standards of scholarly editing. Digital editions are advantageous in that they provide a more flexible means of cataloguing historical texts and offer better accessibility than the print medium ever could. Digital editing breaks free of the constraints of the printed page – and many recent digital editions demonstrate this effect.[46]

Research on digital scholarly editions of primary sources from the early modern period suggests that digital editions allow for a clearer presentation of the content of the texts: digital versions of the editions by the Historical Commission offer common indexes of individuals named in the texts; court records or supplications can be used as documentation of social interactions;[47] and economic information in accounting records can be calculated[48] without losing the connection between the data and the edited text.

Dietmar Heil has only recently emphasized the use of archival finding aids in editorial practice, in particular for the edition of imperial diet records.[49] In the field of digital editing, the discussion of the concept of a "social edition" [50] and of linked open data and the semantic web[51] have suggested ways that the archivists' work can be transferred into digital environments by extracting information from digital finding aids and archival digitisation automatically. Libraries in fact increasingly consider themselves data contributors to scholarly editions.[52] The application programming interface (API) to archival finding aids created by the "Deutsche Digitale Bibliothek"[53] will therefore allow archival work to be integrated directly into the edition when there is no editorial intervention necessary. Other resources to be reused are the identifiers for persons and places offered by the "Gemeinsame Normdatei" (GND) and the biographical services reusing this information, in particular at the Historical

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[44] In the last years, two fundamental texts on theory and research of digital scholarly editing have been published: Sahle (2013) and Pierazzo (2015).

[45] See the DFG "Förderkriterien für wissenschaftliche Editionen in der Literaturwissenschaft" [2015] http://www.dfg.de/download/pdf/foerderung/antragstellung/forschungsdaten/foerderkriterien_editionen_literaturwissenschaft.pdf.

[46] See for a comprehensive list of digital scholarly editions the catalog maintained by Patrick Sahle http://digitale-edition.de/ and for the evaluation of digital editions the review journal RIDE published by the Institut für Dokumentologie und Editorik, http://ride.i-d-e.de/ with the catalogue of evaluation Criteria by Sahle (2014).

[47] Old Bailey Online project ((http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/); on the project, see most recently Howard [2015]) has created extensive registers on persons and subjects in the records of main London criminal court 1674-1913.The project "Supplications filed by subjects at the Imperial Aulic Council of Emperor Rudolf II. (1576-1612)" has published a database (http://www-gewi.uni-graz.at/suppliken/de/datenbank, see Vasold [2015]) offering access to the records by indexing supplicants. A similar project for medieval petitions, mostly from the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, was produced in Great Britain in cooperation with the National Archives (Kew) and the University of York (William Mark Ormrod) from 2003–2007 (Special collections: Ancient petitions).

[48] Burghartz (2015).

[49] Heil (2015).

[50] Siemens/Timney (2012a); Id., (2012b).

[51] Most recently Wettlaufer (2015).

[52] This tendency is shown by several contributions in: Institut für Dokumentologie und Editorik (2011).

[53] API der Deutschen Digitalen Bibliothek, 2013, http://api.deutsche-digitale-bibliothek.de.

Commission (Deutsche Biographie), which allows for connecting the persons in the records of the imperial diets with external information. Finally, the project can draw on the data standardization activities in the Digital Humanities community: Annotation of transcripts and description in XML/TEI[54] is oriented towards long-term preservation, offers useful methods to create links to structured resources, and allows the extraction of highly structured data to represent the instances of communication.

3.2   Digital Enrichment

A main focus of this project is the analysis of communicative acts documented in the records of the Imperial Diet of 1576. In preparation of the project a preliminary conceptual model of this communication is in development. This considers the following components: There are *individuals participating in communication situations*. The agents can participate by *addressing* others or by being *addressed*. Those addressed can be non-communicating but *involved* in the communication action or they can be pure *observers* not involved. The communication is a temporal entity in the sense of the CIDOC-CRM (E2)[55] which has a geographic place, *where* it happens, and a time, *when* it happens, and it can have a *duration*. The communication situation is dealing with one or more *subject matters*. The situation can be classified as *formal*, i.e. following mostly implicit procedural rules established by practice, or *informal* and it can be *face-to-face* or *absent*. The participants can be *absent*. The participants can be *representatives* for others absent. The number of those addressing/being addressed allows distinguishing between bilateral and multilateral communication. This leads to the outline of the ontology included in Appendix IV.

3.3   Long-term Preservation

The humanities asset management system GAMS is a FEDORA-commons-based repository built for long-term preservation. The system is modelled on the OAIS model, which clearly separates the data storage from the application and dissemination environment.[56] It offers a range of dissemination services for XML/TEI format in which the textual data is stored in the repository: For instance, display of geographical information via maps; transfer of textual data to Voyant Tools, a web service for simple statistical corpus analysis; high performance full-text searches based on Apache Lucene and SOLR[57]; query of the extracted data, which is stored in RDF, following the W3C Semantic Web recommendations,[58] and processed in the high performance triple store Blazegraph[59]. The data ingestion is supported by services to convert customized TEI into full standard compliant TEI, extraction of semantic concepts like place names via automatic correlation with gazetteers. Formal definitions map text to RDF statements. The ingest functionalities are included in the user-friendly Java client "Cirilo."[60] Using this infrastructure, the Centre for Information Modelling has published several digital editions with semantically enriched data.[61] Also cf. Annex II on this topic.

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[54] Text Encoding Iniative: Guidelines 2016.
[55] CIDOC's Conceptual Reference Model, http://www.cidoc-crm.org
[56] Reference Model for an Open Archival Information System (OAIS), 2012.
[57] https://lucene.apache.org/solr/.
[58] W3C: Resource Description Framework (RDF) 2014.
[59] https://www.blazegraph.com/
[60] Steiner/Stigler (2011-2015).
[61] E.g. Moralische Wochenschriften, ed. by Klaus-Dieter Ertler, 2011-2016, http://gams.uni-graz.at/mws. See for further projects: http://gams.uni-graz.at/context:gams.projekte.

4 Expected Broader Effects

Editing is the basis for any humanities oriented research because it makes historical sources available for further use and analysis. The edition of the records of the imperial diet of 1576 will fill a crucial gap in studying not only German and but also European History. The use of the edition goes beyond historical research: The intensive documentation of communication in the records makes it a resource for communication studies. Consequently, the texts can serve as an important resource for historical linguistics.

Even in the young field of digital scholarly editing the planned digital edition goes beyond the state of the art: It realizes a new model to represent the different layers of scholarly editions of historical sources and uses new results from information visualization[62]. It can therefore function as a role model for future editing projects of historical sources.

Digital Editing helps to disseminate the source material to a wide audience even beyond academia. Publishing research findings open access on the internet always reaches a broader audience than print only scholarly publishing methods. The planned rich context search functionalities not only furthers historical research but also makes historical documents more accessible for the lay historian as well as the general public.

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[62] Ruecker et al. 2011

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5.3 Abbreviations

ACDH - Austrian Centre for Digital Humanities	GND - Gemeinsame Normdatei
API - application programming interface	HHSTA - Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv des Österreichischen Staatsarchivs
BBAW - Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften	HiKo - Historische Kommission München
CEI - Chaters Encoding Initiative	IDE - Institut für Dokumentologie und Editorik
CENDARI - Collaborative European Digital Archive Infrastructure	MEA - Mainzer Erzkanzleiarchiv
CIDOC-CRM - CIDOC Conceptual Reference Model	MOM-CA - Monasterium.Net
DAH - Digital Arts and Humanities	OAIS - Open Archival Information System
DDB - Deutsche Digitale Bibliothek	RDF - Ressource Description Framework
DFG - Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft	RIDE - Rezensionszeitschrift des Institut für Dokumentologie und Editorik
DHd - Digital Humanities im deutschsprachigen Raum	RTA - Reichstagsakten
DiXiT - Digital Scholarly Editions Initial Training Network	SKOS - Simple Knowledge Organisation System
DOI - Digital Object Identifier	TCD - Trinity College Dublin
EAD - Encoded Archival Description	TEI - Text Encoding Initiative
FWF - Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung	W3C - World Wide Web Consortium
	XML - Extensible Markup Language
	XSLT - Extensible Stylesheet Language
GAMS - Geisteswissenschaftliches Asset Management System	ZIM-ACDH - Centre for Information Modelling - Austrian Centre for Digital Humanities