COST Action Distant Reading for European Literary History

European Literary Text Collection (ELTeC)

Distant Reading

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TS Budapest Track 1, Corpus design and text contribution for ELTeC

TS – Organisation, schedule and data

- Schedule
- Slides
- Training data
- Corpus data

TS – Track 1

- Introduction to ELTeC
- Metadata in the teiHeader
- Optical character recognition
- Hands-on experience in creating ELTeC TEI-XML versions of source texts
- Start from scanned page images or from a pre-existing HTML version
- TS output: contribute new TEI encoded texts to the ELTeC GitHub repository

Outline

1. COST Action Distant Reading and Working Group Scholarly Resources

2. ELTeC Corpus Design

3. WG Workflow

COST[2] Action Distant Reading

- Christof Schöch, University of Trier
- CA16204 will
  - „create a vibrant and diverse network of researchers jointly developing the resources and methods necessary to change the way European literary history is written“
  - „contribute to the development and distribution of methods, competencies, data, best practices, standards and tools relevant to Distant Reading research“[1]
  - started autumn 2017
- Working groups
  - WG 1: Scholarly Resources
  - WG 2: Methods and Tools
  - WG 3: Literary Theory and History
  - WG 4: Dissemination

[1] www.distant-reading.net

[2] European Cooperation in Science and Technology = COST[3]

Working Group 1: Scholarly Resources

- Creating an open source multi-lingual benchmark corpus for European literature of the 19th century (novels): European Literary Text Collection (ELTeC)[4]
- 34 Members from 22 countries
- Main tasks are
  - defining corpus design
  - developing basic encoding schemas
  - developing workflows

[4] https://www.distant-reading.net/wg-1/

Working Group 1: Scholarly Resources

Context of the WG:

- closely related to WG2 Tools and methods and WG3 Theory, cf. parallel tracks of the TS
- aims to support many different perspectives on distant reading
- many members with different scientific background and experience in data creation
- enabling distant collaborative work on creating ELTeC

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1. COST Action DISTANT READING and Working Group SCHOLARLY RESOURCES

2. ELTEC Corpus Design

3. WG Workflow

Corpus design

Corpus design defines two things (cf. Hunston 2008; Lüdeling et al. 2016):

- candidates → sampling
  - Which text(s) can be included in the corpus? Which can't?
- proportion → balancing
  - How many texts with which characteristics should the corpus contain?

Corpus design – approach of WG1

- Sampling and balancing criteria[5] will
  - not define what a novel is
  - follow a non-normative but metadata-based approach (not canon-based)[6]
  - aim to represent the variety of a population[7]
  - allow for a comparability of texts and individual sub-collections according to different metadata set(s)

[5] https://github.com/distantreading/WG1/blob/master/sampling_proposal.xml

[6] Each canon is a result of rating texts from different perspectives: intellectual, economical, or/and reader rating (a.o. Herrmann 2011; Winko 1996).

[7] Cf. for discussion of representativeness Biber (1993) and canonicity and corpus design Algee-Hewitt and McGurl (2018) and Bode (2018).

Sampling criteria

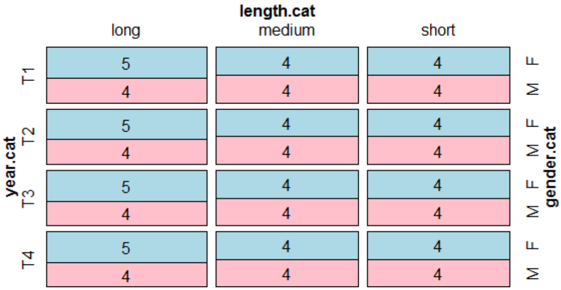
- **language**: European languages, no translations
- **prose**: narrative fictional prose
- **period**: 1840–1920
- **length**: min. 10.000 words
- **publication**: prefer books over novels published in serial publications
- **access**: only freely available digitizations

Balancing criteria

100 texts per language (language collection)

- **period**: distribution over time
  - group T1: 1840-1859
  - group T2: 1860-1879
  - group T3: 1880-1899
  - group T4: 1900-1920
- **gender**: min. 10% and max. 50% written by female authors
- **authorship**: 9 - 11 authors with exactly three novels (otherwise, only one text for each author)
- **length**: min. 20% are short novels (10-50k word tokens), min. 20% are long novels (>100k word tokens).
- **reprint**: min. 30% are highly canonized novels, min. 30% should be non-canonized novels (rarely or never reprinted), based reprint counts within the period 1970-2009 ("unmarked", information not yet available)

(ideal) Composition



Amount of texts with balancing categories (year, length, gender)

ELTeC summary `https://distantreading.github.io/ELTeC/`

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WG workflow

- WG1 on GitHub[8]
    - organization and documentation
- ELTeC on GitHub[9]
    - data and scripts
- Archiving on Zenodo[10]

[8] https://github.com/distantreading/WG1

[9] https://github.com/COST-ELTeC

[10] https://zenodo.org/communities/eltec/

References I

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