



POSTDATA: Towards publishing European Poetry as Linked Open Data

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European
Research
Council





Outline



- The Context
- The Problem
- The Approach
- Where are we now?
- Future Work
- Conclusions



Context



Project **POSTDATA** Poetry Standardization and Linked Open Data

ERC Grant
PI: Elena Gonzalez-Blanco



Context – Where?



A digital humanities center is an entity where new media and technologies are used for humanities-based research, teaching, and intellectual engagement and experimentation. The goals of the center are to further humanities scholarship, create new forms of knowledge, and explore technology's impact on humanities based disciplines".

Diane M. Zorich, A Survey of Digital Humanities Centers in the United States, 2008



Context – Where?



- LINHD: a bridge between different fields of knowledge
- LINHD has:
 - Philologists
 - Software Developers
 - Natural Language Processing Experts
 - Ontologists & LOD technologists



DH in the World



The map displays the following logos and their approximate locations:

- CulturePlex** (Cultural Complexity and Digital Humanities) - North America
- ml@b (at) h** - North America
- hyperstudio** (Digital Humanities at MIT) - North America
- HUmlab** (Umeå University) - Scandinavia
- digilab** (ricerca e servizi) - Europe
- DIGHUMLAB** (Digital Humanities Lab Denmark) - Scandinavia
- GCDH** (GÖTTINGEN CENTRE FOR DIGITAL HUMANITIES) - Europe
- KING'S College LONDON** - Europe
- Center for Digital Scholarship** - North America
- Studio@Butler** (A collaboratory for educators, scholars, and librarians) - North America
- MITH** (MARYLAND INSTITUTE FOR TECHNOLOGY IN THE HUMANITIES) - North America
- NULAB** (for texts, maps & networks) (Northeastern University) - North America
- SCHOLARS' LAB** - North America
- DH initiative** (DIGITAL HUMANITIES) - North America
- Digital Innovation Lab** - North America
- centerNet** - North America
- UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA LIBRARY** - North America
- Centre for E-RESEARCH** - Europe
- DIGITAL HUMANITIES CENTER FOR JAPANESE ARTS AND CULTURES** - East Asia
- HN Huma-Num** (la TGIR des humanités numériques) - Europe
- DARIAH-EU** - Europe
- CLARIN-D** - Europe
- Research Center for Digital Humanities** (臺灣大學) - East Asia
- Center for Digital Humanities** (Центар за дигиталне хуманистичке) - Russia
- huni** (Humanities Networked Infrastructure) - Australia



Context - What

- The metrics on European Poetry

4 Estuans intrinsecus ira vehementi
in amaritudine loquor mee menti.
factus de materia levis elementi
folio sum similis, de quo ludunt venti.

8 Cum sit enim proprium viro sapienti,
supra petram ponere sedem fundamenti,
stultus ego comparor fluvio labenti,
sub eodem aere numquam permanenti.

12 Feror ego veluti sine nauta navis,
ut per vias aeris vaga fertur avis;
non me tenent vincula, non me tenet clavis,
quero mei similes et adiungor pravis.

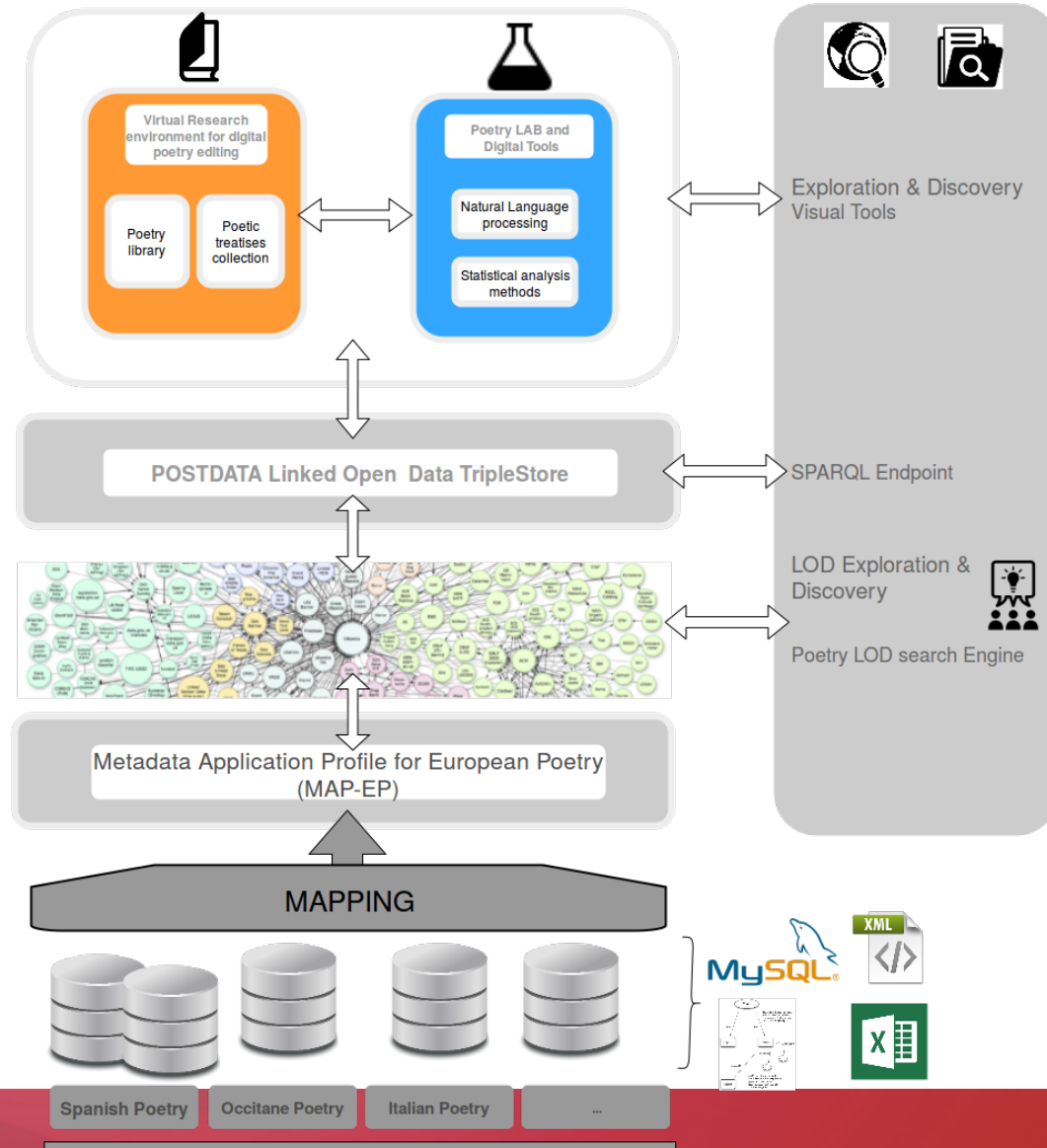
Carmina Burana, 191



Researchers
Public at large



POSTDATA user interface





The problem

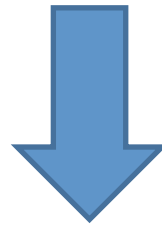


- At least 21 repertoires on Poetry metrics & other information (in the Web of Documents)
- This community wants to share all the data among repertoires
- ...to enhance its research
- And more...



The problem

- First issue: standardize poetic features
 - Different languages
 - Different cultures/traditions



Philologists take care of this issue!



Philological barriers: different ways of conceptualization

4 Estuans intrinsecus ira vehementi
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Carmina Burana, 191

Alexandrines

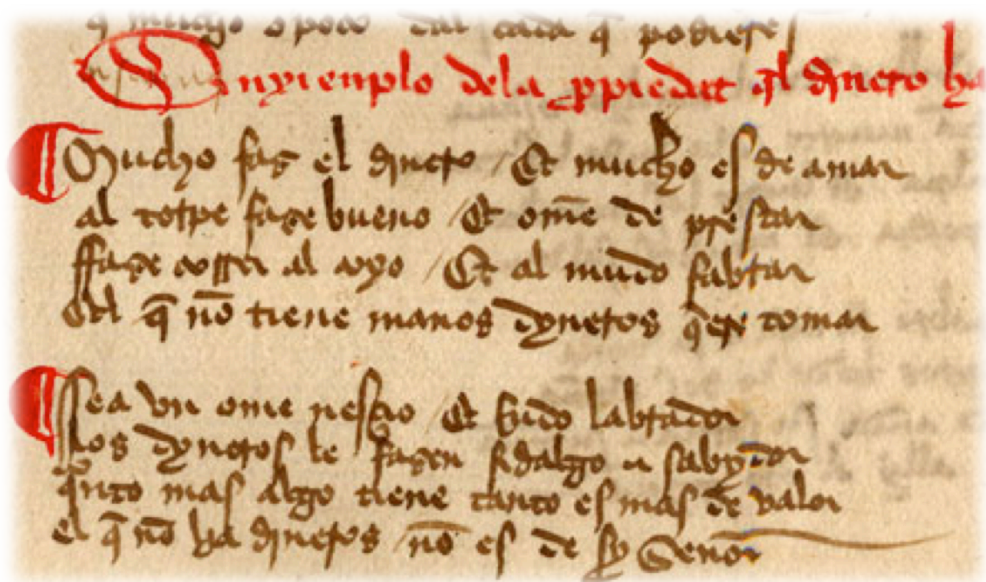
Goliardic

12A12A12A12A
(Romance)

4x(7pp+7p)
(Classic Latin)



Philological standardization: starting point



Author

Title

Incipit

Manuscript

Post quem

Ante quem

Language

Topics

Edition

Online edition

Work

Isometrism

Isostrophism

Metrical scheme

Rhyme scheme

Rhyme

Musical notation

Number of

stanzas

Number of lines

Poetic form





The problem



Second issue: repertoires locked in their silos of information:

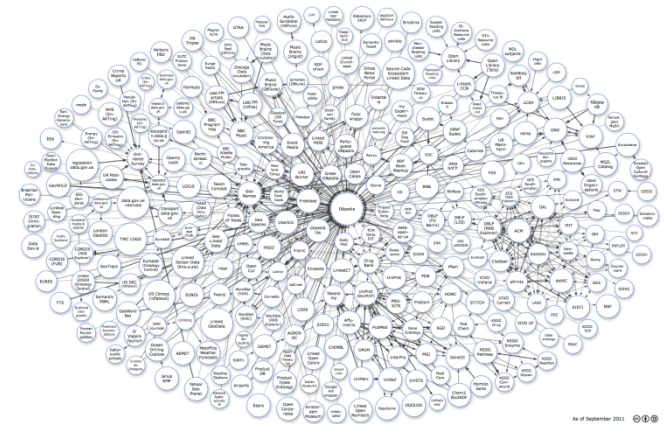
- Different paradigms: Local and Web of Docs
- Different technologies: XML, Excel, Access, MySQL, SQL, Data stored in Perl Objects
(so far)
- Different data models



The problem



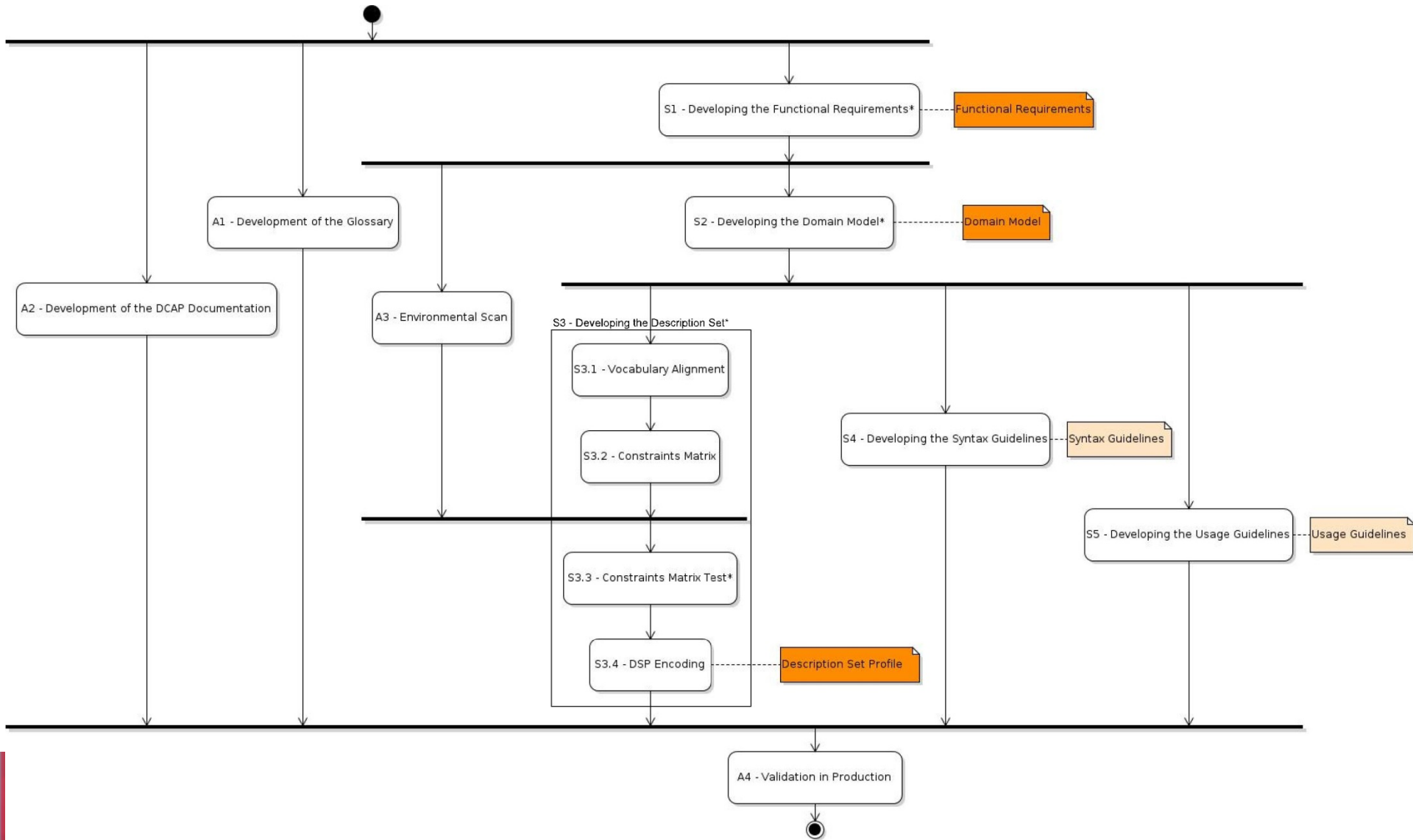
- How to overcome these differences?
- LOD technology
- Development of a Metadata **Application Profile** for the European Poetry community



As of September 2011

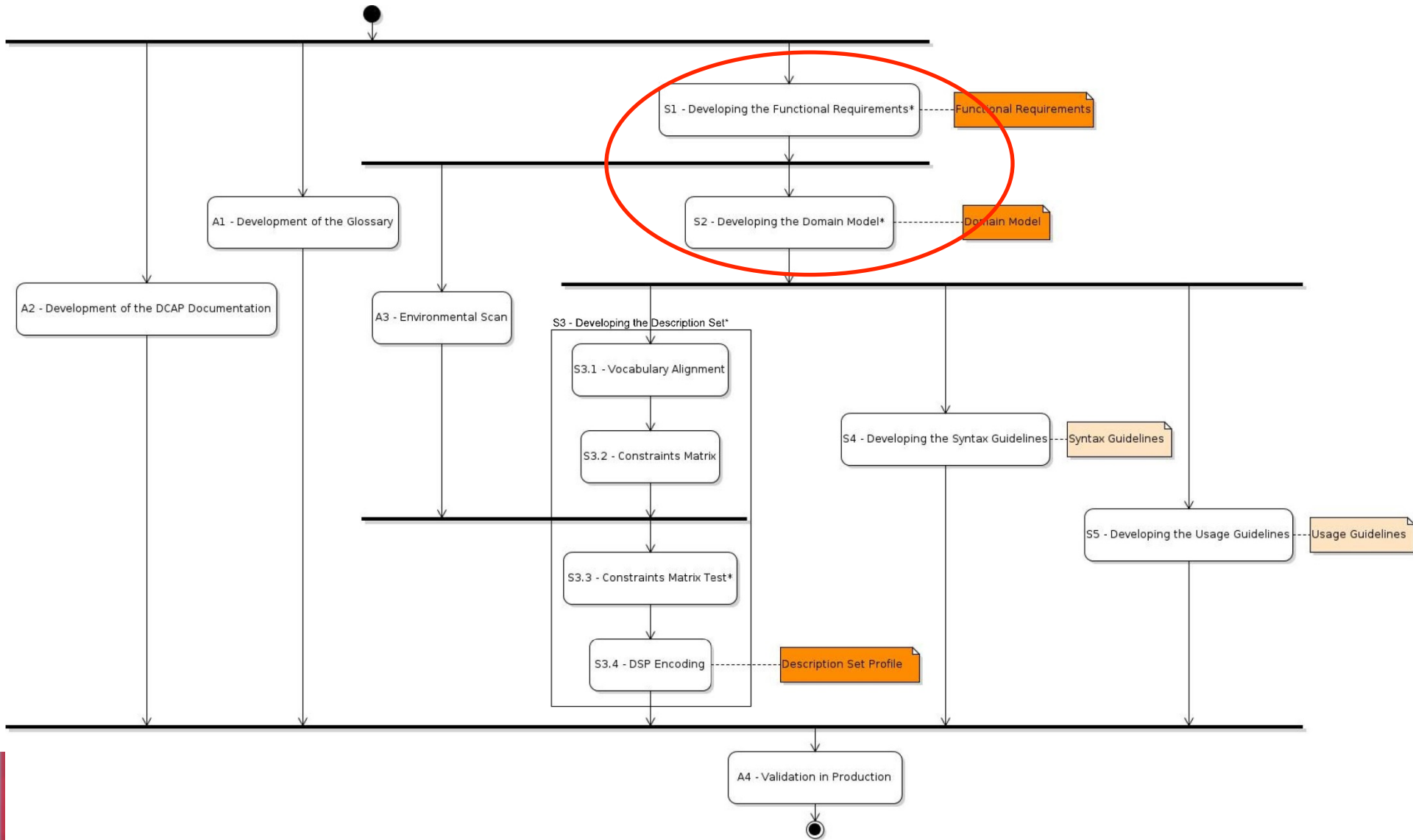


The Approach





Were are we now?





Where are we now ?



- S1: Defining the Functional Requirements
 - Analysing the Websites' functionalities and the Logical Models of the databases (when possible)
- S2: Defining the Domain Model



Where are we now ?



- Reverse engineering process eliminates all the details that have to do with the implementation/representation
- We have followed the process:
 - ID keys deleted
 - Separate different concepts that are represented in the same table
 - Tables that enumerate terms deleted → become properties that can be repeated
 - When models have conceptual problems → fix problems

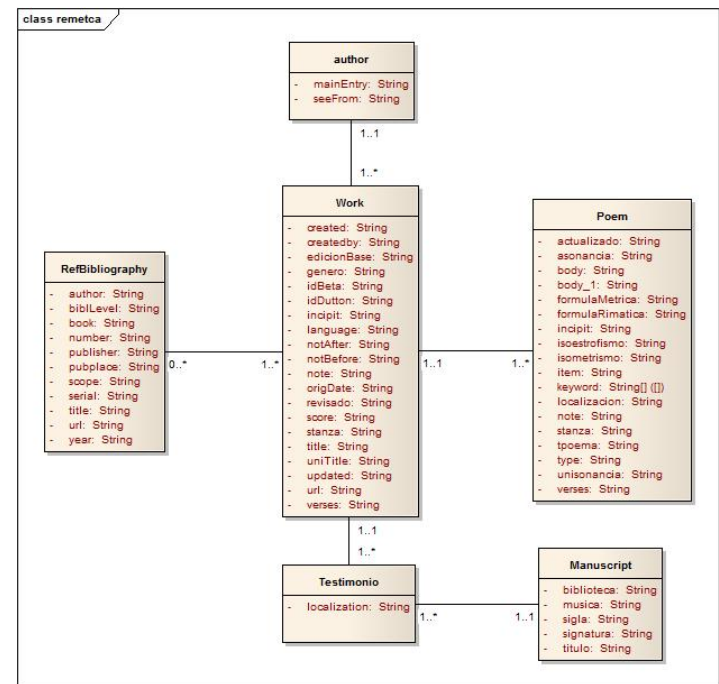
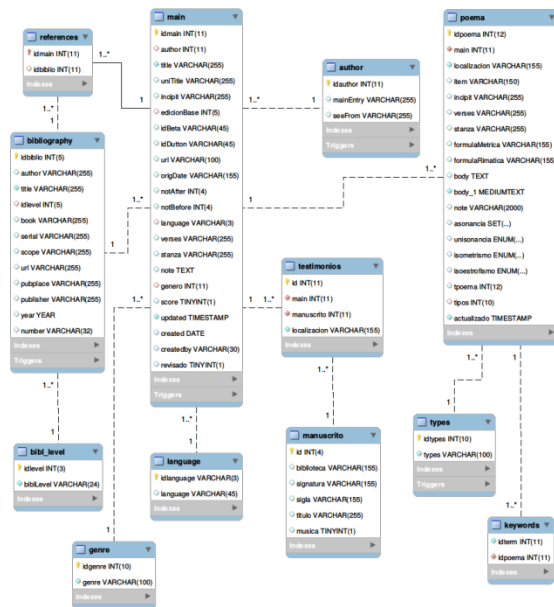


Analysing Data Models

Relational Database



Conceptual Model



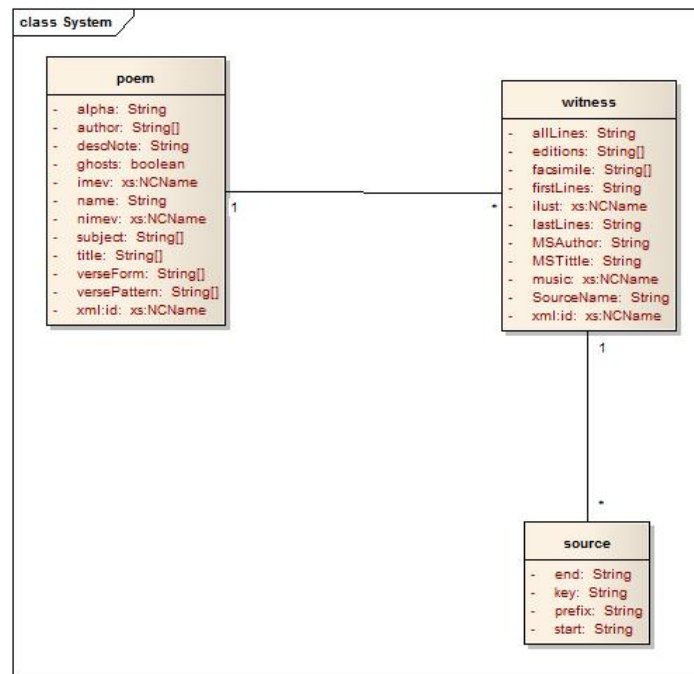
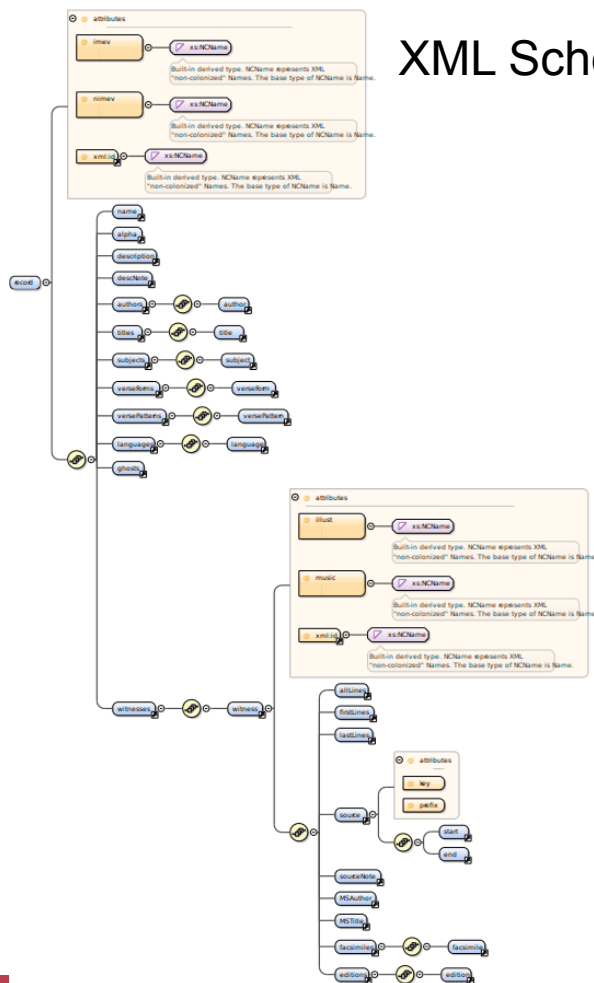


Analysing Data Models

XML Schema Model



Conceptual Model





Analysing Data Models

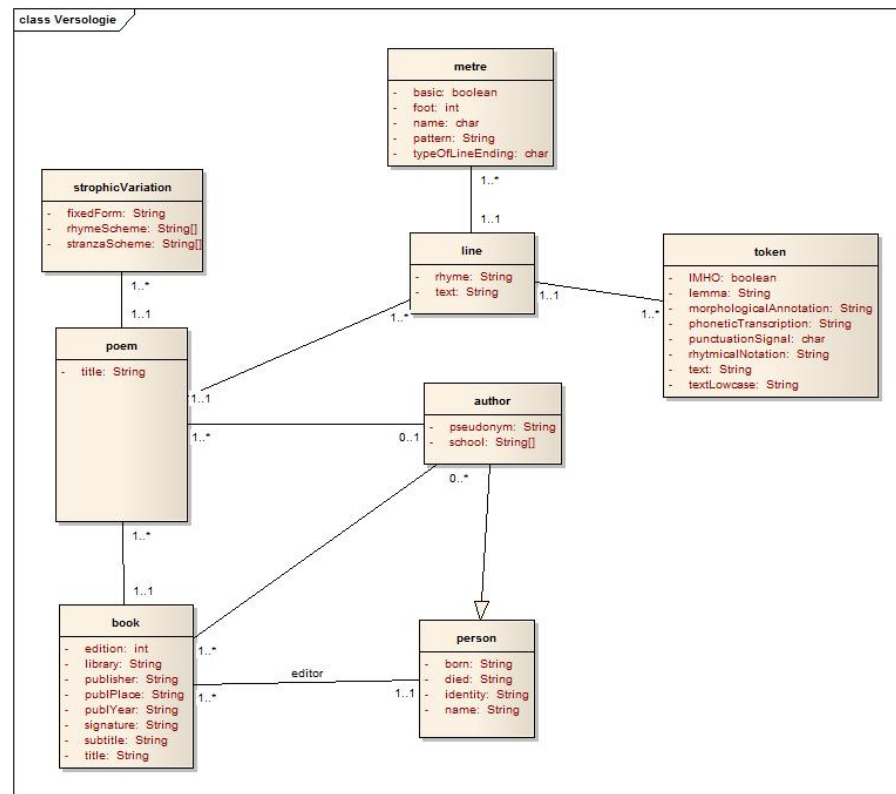
Perl Script structure



Conceptual Model

```
#!/usr/bin/perl
my $poem = {
#####
# POEM'S HEAD
#-----
#
# General information on poem, author, book from which it comes from...
#####
'head' => {
#----- IDS -----
'id' => {
# Id of a book from which the poem comes from
'book' => '0001',
# Id of a poem (unique in entire corpus - first four numbers correspond to the Id of a book
'poem' => '0001-0000-0000-0001-0000',
},
#----- GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC METADATA -----
'biblio' => {
# Title of a book from which the poem comes from
'title' => 'Na zemi a na nebi',
# Subtitle of a book
'subtitle' => 'Bázně',
# Year of publication of a book
'year' => 1900,
# Place where the book was published
'place' => 'Praha',
# Publisher of a book
'publisher' => 'Unie',
# First, second, third... edition of a book
'edition' => 1,
# Name of the library from which the book have been digitized & the signature of a book in library
'signature' => 'Národní knihovna ČR, Praha; 54 H 2287',
# Title of a poem
'poemTitle' => 'JAROSLAVU VRCHLICKÉMU',
},
#----- INFORMATION ON AUTHOR (OR EDITOR) OF A BOOK -----
'author' => {
# Name of the author that is written on the book (may be a pseudonym)
'name' => 'Albert, Eduard',
# Real name of the author (differs from 'name' in case of pseudonym) - e.g. the play 'Catilina' would
'identity' => 'Albert, Eduard',
# Year of birth of the author (if not known, the attribute is left undef)
'born' => 1841,
# Year of death of the author (if not known, the attribute is left undef)
'died' => 1900,
},
#----- INFORMATION ON AUTHOR OF A POEM -----
# If it differs from the author/editor of a book (anthology etc.) - otherwise left undef
'locAuthor' => {

```





Analysing Data Models



- During the process of reverse engineering we standardize, i.e.
 - Call the same concepts by the same name (working together with the philologist)
 - Try to call the same names to tables or properties as classes or terms that already exist in A3: Environmental Scan



Where are we now ?



- If the repertoire's responsables did not provide database definition → analyse the functionalities of the Website
- Study the controlled vocabularies and standardize them: 1) ask for them, 2) collect them in the Websites



Where are we now ?



- Study other communities/projects for interoperability, ex:
 - Biblioteca Nacional de España - <http://www.bne.es>
 - Biblissima - <http://www.biblissima-condorcet.fr>
 - Pelagios - <http://pelagios.org/>
 - Claros - <http://www.clarosnet.org/>



Where are we now ?



- A3: Environmental Scan:
 - A report
 - contains a review schemas available in any serialization of the Semantic Web
 - that may serve the needs of the Domain Model





Future Work



- At the end of S1 & S2 processes we will have Functional requirements & Domain Model defined
- We will validate the Domain Model in two meetings (Jan/Feb 2017) with:
 1. The repertoire's responsables (circa 20)
 2. Semantic Modelers experts (3)



Next step ?

- Defined the Domain Model & the Environmental Scan → develop the S2.1: Vocabulary Alignment
 - To match the terms of the metadata schemas identified in the Environmental Scan (A3) with the needs of the Domain Model.



Conclusions



- POSTDATA aims to put poetry metrics data in LOD
- There are at least 21 repertoires on the Web of Documents
- To achieve that we need to: 1) standardize the way poetry metrics is defined, 2) create a Metadata Application Profile (MAP) for the European Poetry community
- We are following Me4MAP to create this MAP



Europeana Poetry?



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