Archaeology of infrastructure

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Archaeology of Reading

- http://bookwheel.org
- Project funded by Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
- Partners include Johns Hopkins University, University College London and Princeton University
- Scholarly goal to understand history of reading practices
- Technology goal to build infrastructure
Our corpus

- 12 books annotated by Gabriel Harvey (c. 1550 – 1631)
Historiographical developments

• From a reader to the history of reading
• It’s not about Harvey!
• Harvey as an ‘operator’
Scholarly Goals

• Capture all the different forms of annotation
• Provide way of examining them in conjunction with one another
• Make it possible to follow Harvey through his books

Buchanan, *De Maria Scotorum regina*, 11.
Capturing the annotations

- Use of XML
- Existing schema’s: TEI (Text Encoding Initiative)
- Limits of TEI
AoR Schema & Manual

• Development of schema: iterative process
• The Transcriber’s Manual
• Not a client-provider relationship
An Engineering Approach
An Engineering Approach

- People
- Process
- Product
Public Results (to date)

• Digitized corpus of early modern books
• Detailed mark-up of physical annotations
• IIIF-compliant viewer(s)
• User interface that meets use cases developed by scholars examining medieval manuscripts and early modern books
Infrastructure Results

• Shared canvas inspired data model (with IIIF as the protocol for implementation)
• XML schema developed in an iterative process
• Content from earlier projects available for viewing through same platform automatically
• Detailed statistics about scholarly outputs
• Data release
Machiavelli, *Art of Warre* (London, 1571); Princeton University Library
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  – http://www.bookwheel.org/?page_id=14
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