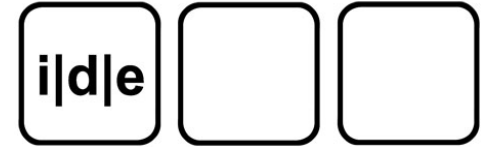




University of Cologne
Cologne Center for eHumanities (CCeH)



Institute for Documentology and Scholarly Editing (IDE)

Traditions of Scholarly Editing and the Media Shift

Patrick Sahle

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON DIGITAL HUMANITIES
Scholarly Editing and the Media Shift – Procedures and Theory
Verona, 8.9.2015

overview

scholarly editing ...

1. the tradition: goals and doubts
2. media shift: relativity
3. return to go! a new definition
4. documents and texts
5. the media shift: real impact

scholarly editing ... as we know it

goals and aims

- make documents & texts available for research
- provide additional knowledge
- reconstruct what has been lost: the „Urtext“
- realize the authorial intention
- heal the wounds of transmission
- provide a authoritative reading
- secure document heritage by publication

critical editions: the doubts

- final editions vs new editions
- feigned transparency: the apparatus
- the many schools and approaches
- editions for whom?
- scholarly editing and technologies

editorial concepts as a reflex on technologies?

- technologies are tools to solve problems that are there (?)
- technologies impact our understanding of the world (!)

dogmas of (print technology → print culture)

- author orientation
- the single text
- standard typography and layout
- letters over images
- canonization
- authority

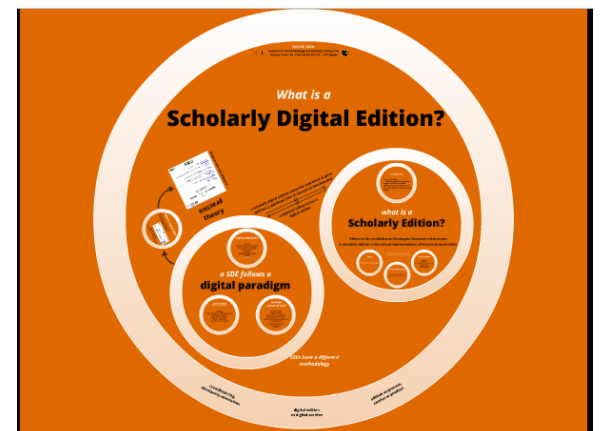
- Michael Giesecke: Der Buchdruck in der Frühen Neuzeit. 1991
- Michael Giesecke : Von den Mythen der Buchkultur zu den Visionen der Informationsgesellschaft. 2002

return to go!:

What was it, we originally really wanted?

- make documents and texts from our cultural heritage available ...
- by reproduction
- by critical engagement
- ... available and useful for many

Patrick Sahle, Den Haag, 2012,
<http://prezi.com/mdt8efbe3o3a/>



a broad definition of the scholarly edition

A scholarly edition is the critical
representation of historical
documents

representation?

critical?

historical documents?

digital scholarly editions?

A scholarly edition can not be expressed in print
without a significant loss of content or
functionality

A digitized edition is not a digital edition

elements for a theory of digital scholarly editing?

scholarly editions as a process that is
guided by a explicit goal,
based on sound methods,
well documented,
transparent, traceable,
attached to identifiable actors

elements for a theory of digital scholarly editing?

high quality

easy accessible

comfortably usable

critically examined

sensibly annotated

texts

as the goal of editing

the theoretical framework: what is text?

Journal of Computing in Higher Education
Winter 1990, Vol. 1 (2), 3-26.

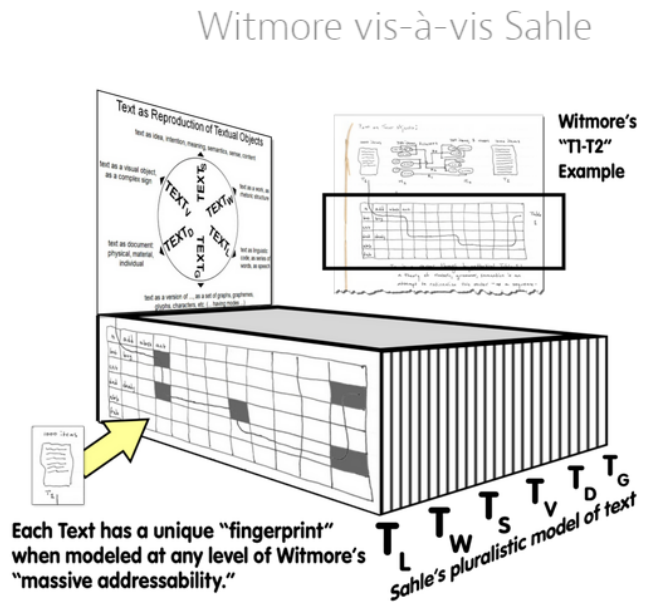
What is Text, Really?

Steven J. DeRose
praXis

David G. Durand
Brandeis University

Elli Mylonas
Harvard University

Allen H. Renear
Brown University



Allen Renear et al. : What is Text, Really? Journal of Computer Documentation 21/3 (1997), S. 1-24.

Originally: Journal of Computing in Higher Education 1/2 (1990), S. 3-26

Patrick Sahle: Digitale Editionsformen. Zum Umgang mit der Überlieferung unter den Bedingungen des Medienwandels. Teil 3: Textbegriffe und Recodierung. Norderstedt 2013. <http://kups.uni-koeln.de/5353/>

Jim Salmons: FactMiners' Fact Cloud & Witmore's Text as Massively Addressable Object. 4/2015
<https://declara.com/content/q5Pv9q1N>

the theoretical framework:
what is text?

modelling ...

text

text representation

transcription

context

meaning

a pluralistic theory of text

goal:

- represent texts ...
- ... of any kind and genre
- ... for as many usages as possible

starting point:

which information has to be kept to get
“the same text”?

a pluralistic theory of text

the ontological lever:

no entity without identity

(Willard Van Orman Quine)

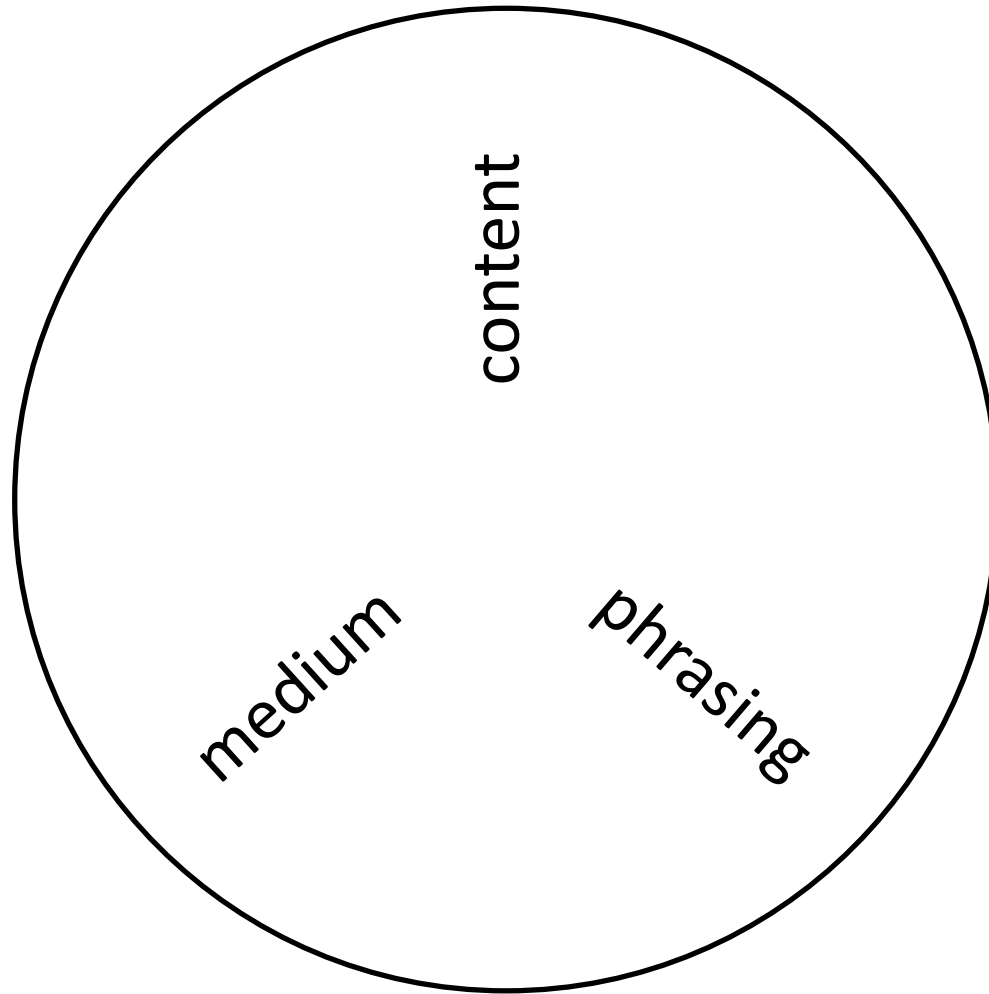
- when are two things „the same text“?
- when does an edition present „the text“

a pluralistic theory of text

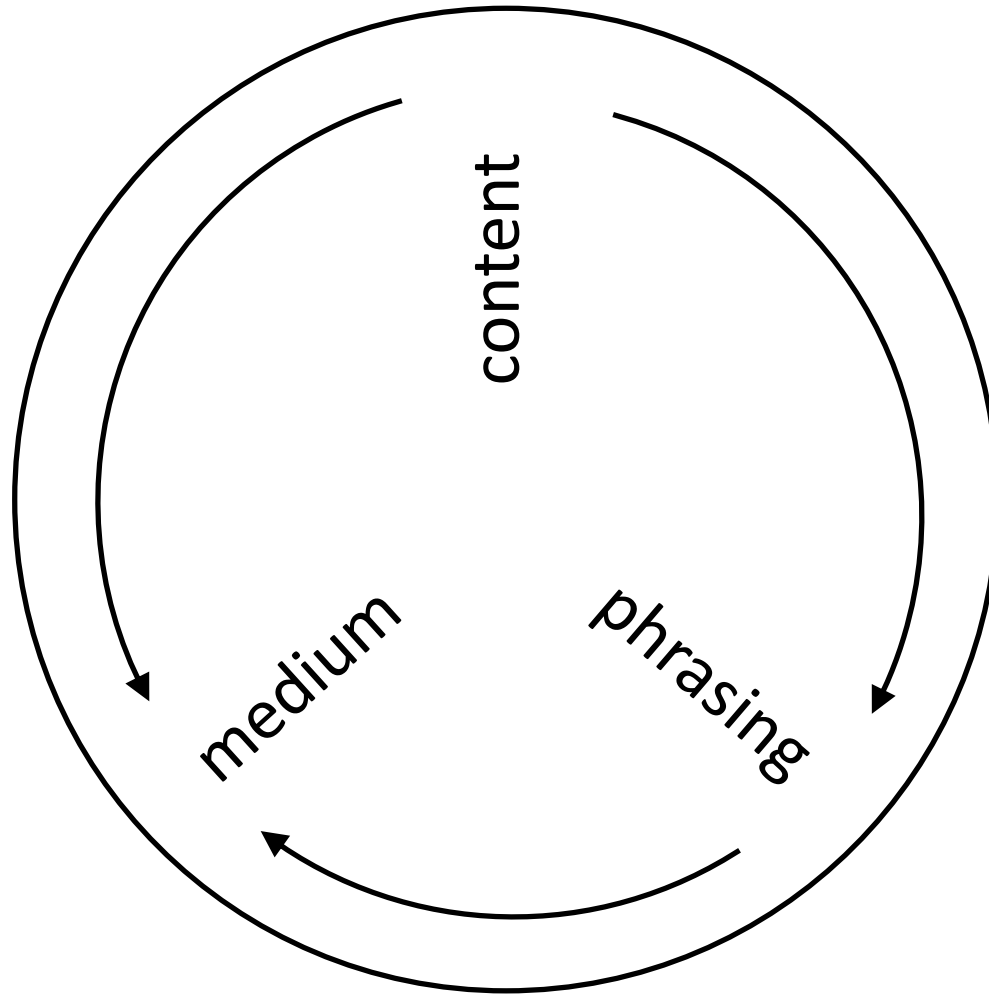
The simple approach: text has three aspects

- what is expressed: content / semantics
- how it is expressed: verbalization / phrasing
- how it is communicated: media / communication

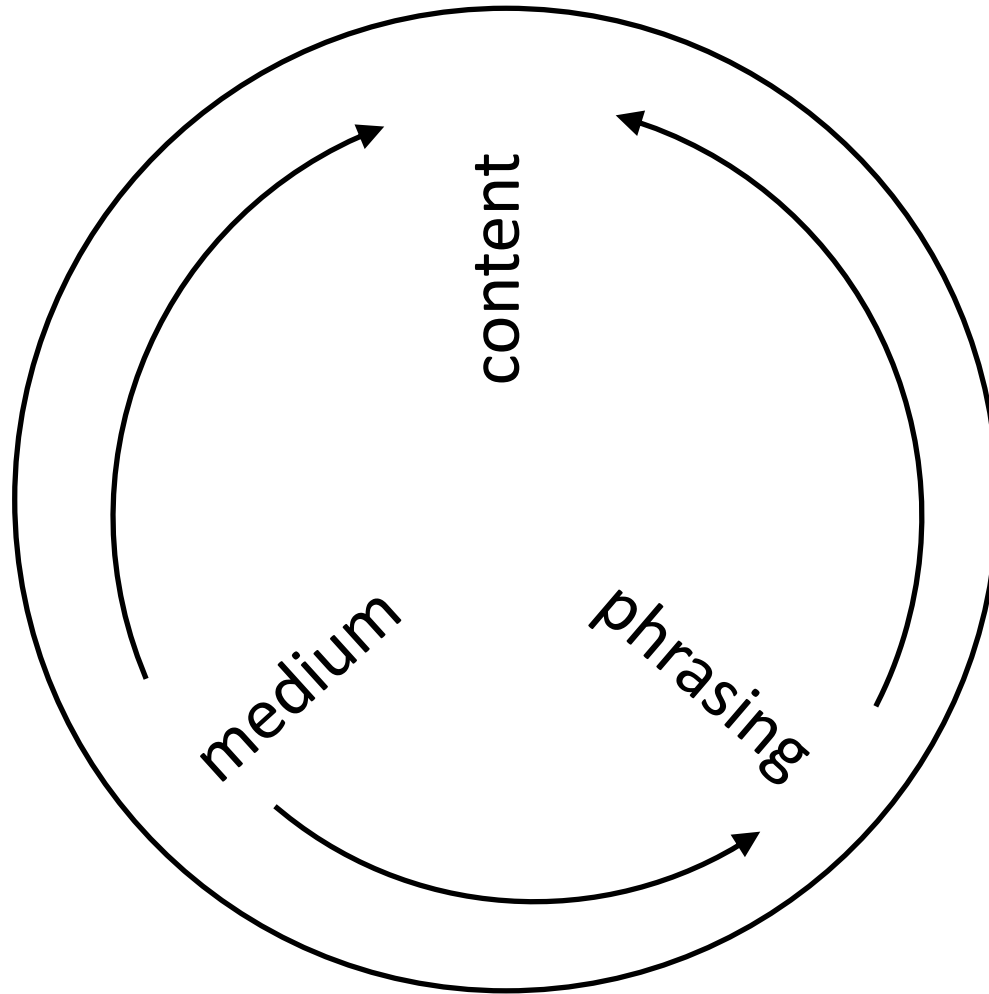
pluralistic theory of text



constructive



reconstructive



when are two things “one text”?

- Pinocchio is Pinocchio?
- Collodi’s Pinocchio is not Disney’s Pinocchio?
- Collodi’s Pinocchio is not the Japanese translation of Collodi’s Pinocchio?
- Collodi’s newspaper version is not his first book edition is not the revised version?
- the newspaper version is not the critical edition?
- orthography, typography, layout matters?
- the book in the library is not the book in another library?
- the draft manuscript is not the published text?

text as reproduction of textual objects

text as idea, intention, meaning, semantics, sense, content



S

TEXT

text as a work, as rhetoric structure

W

TEXT

text as a visual object, as a complex sign

TEXT

V

D

TEXT

TEXT

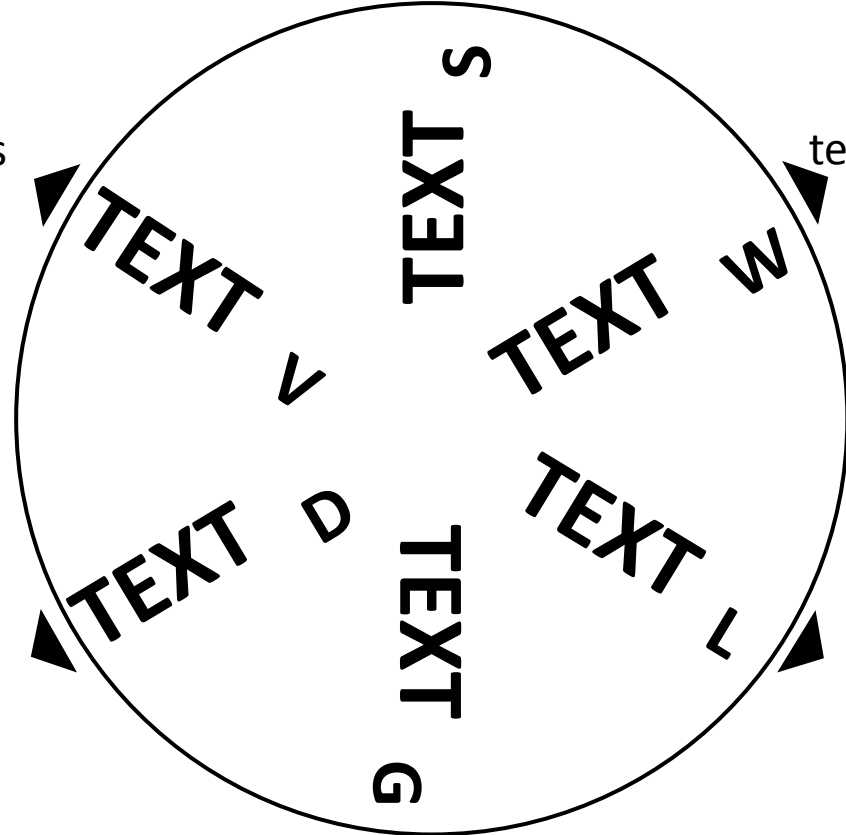
text as linguistic code, as series of words, as speech

L

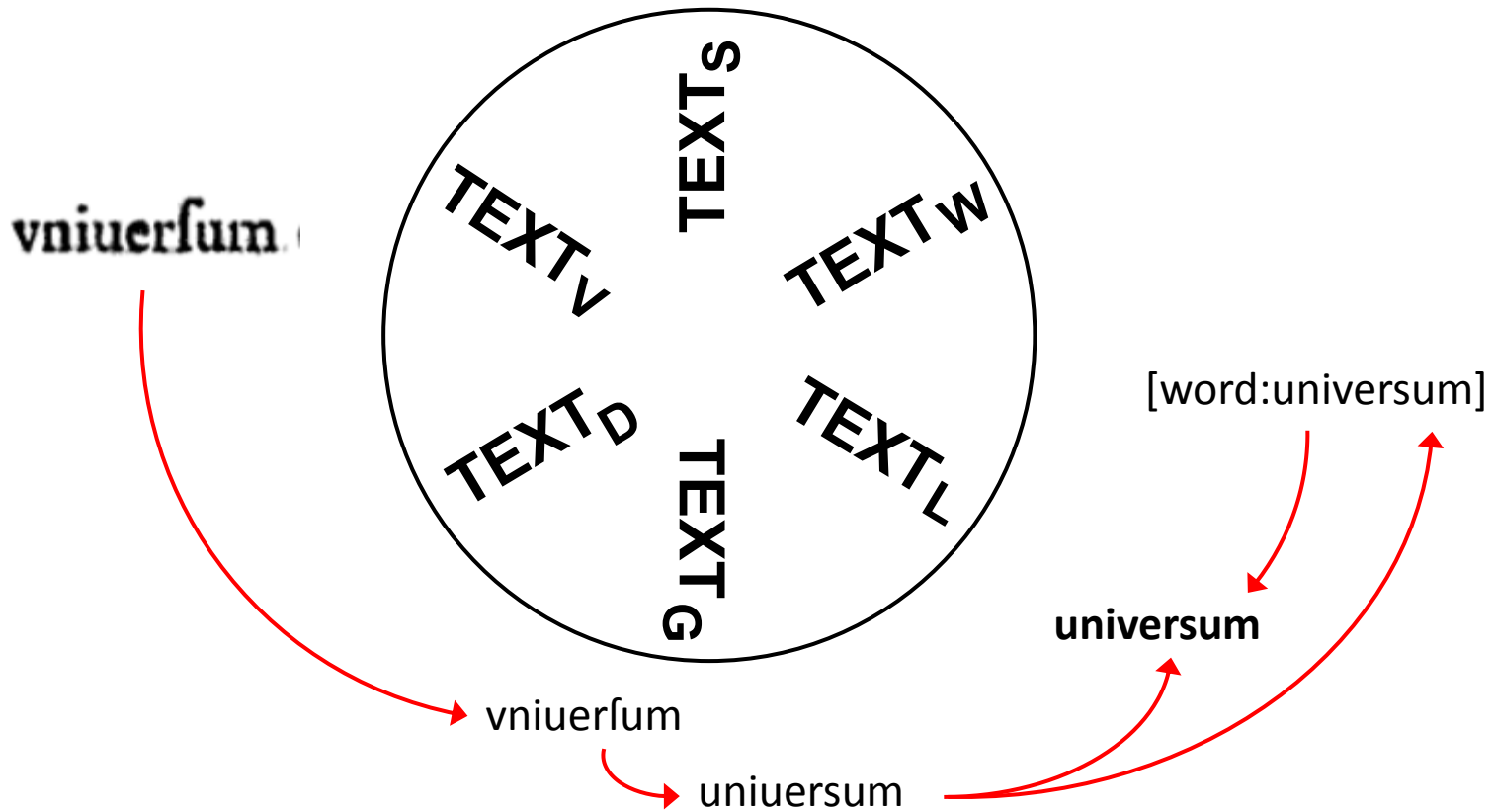
TEXT

G

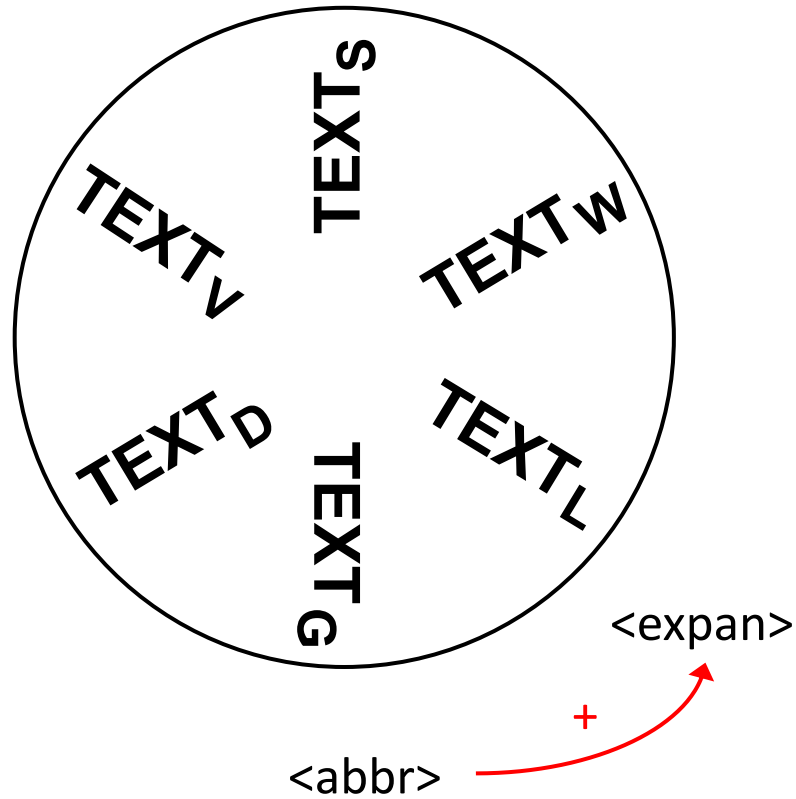
text as a version of ..., as a set of graphs, graphemes, glyphs, characters, etc. (... having modes ...)



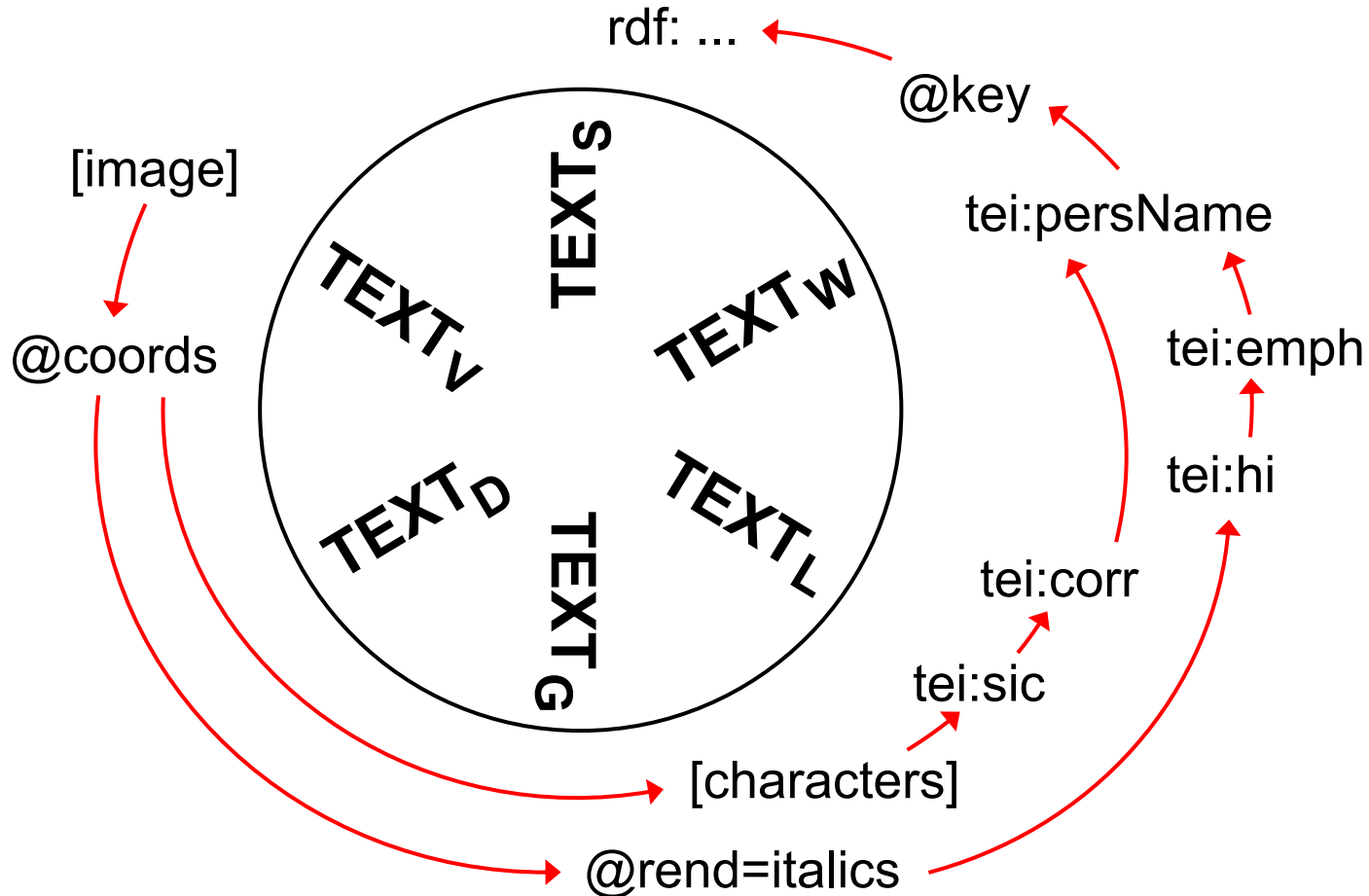
transcription as result of reading



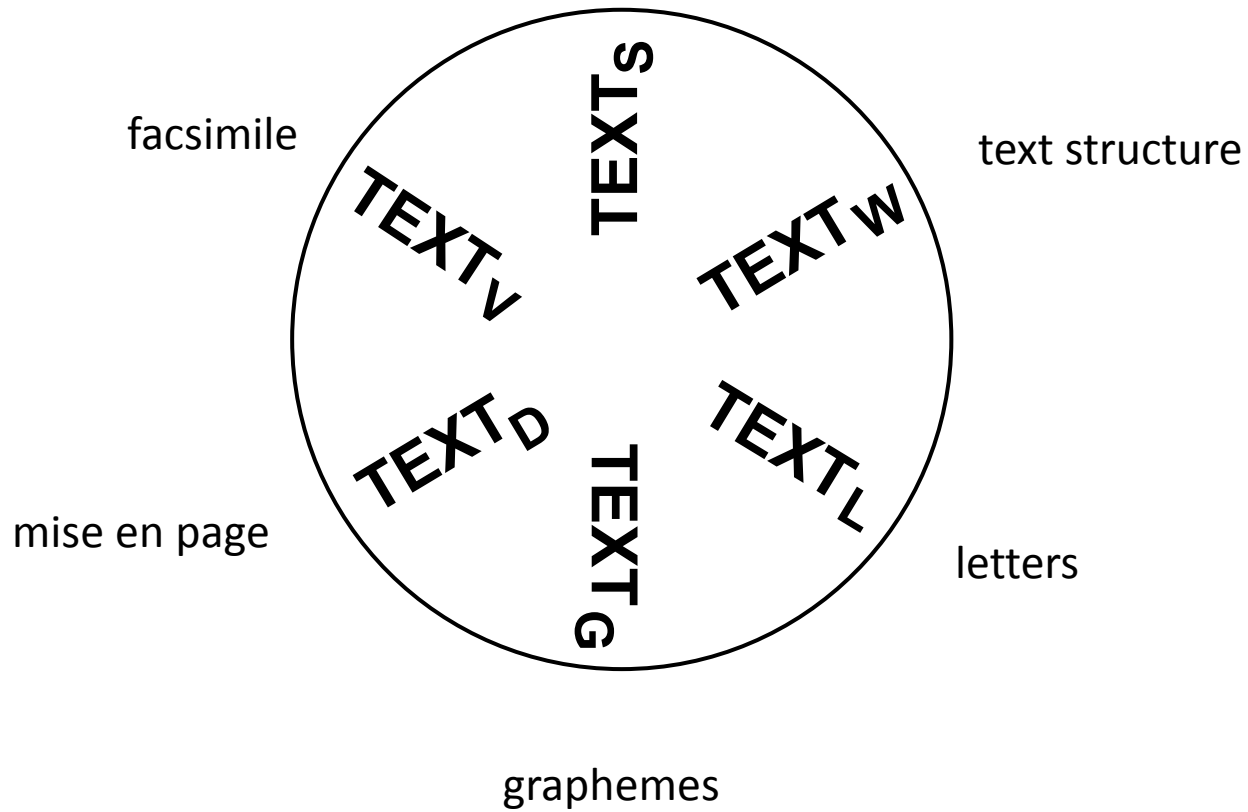
digital transcription as multitext



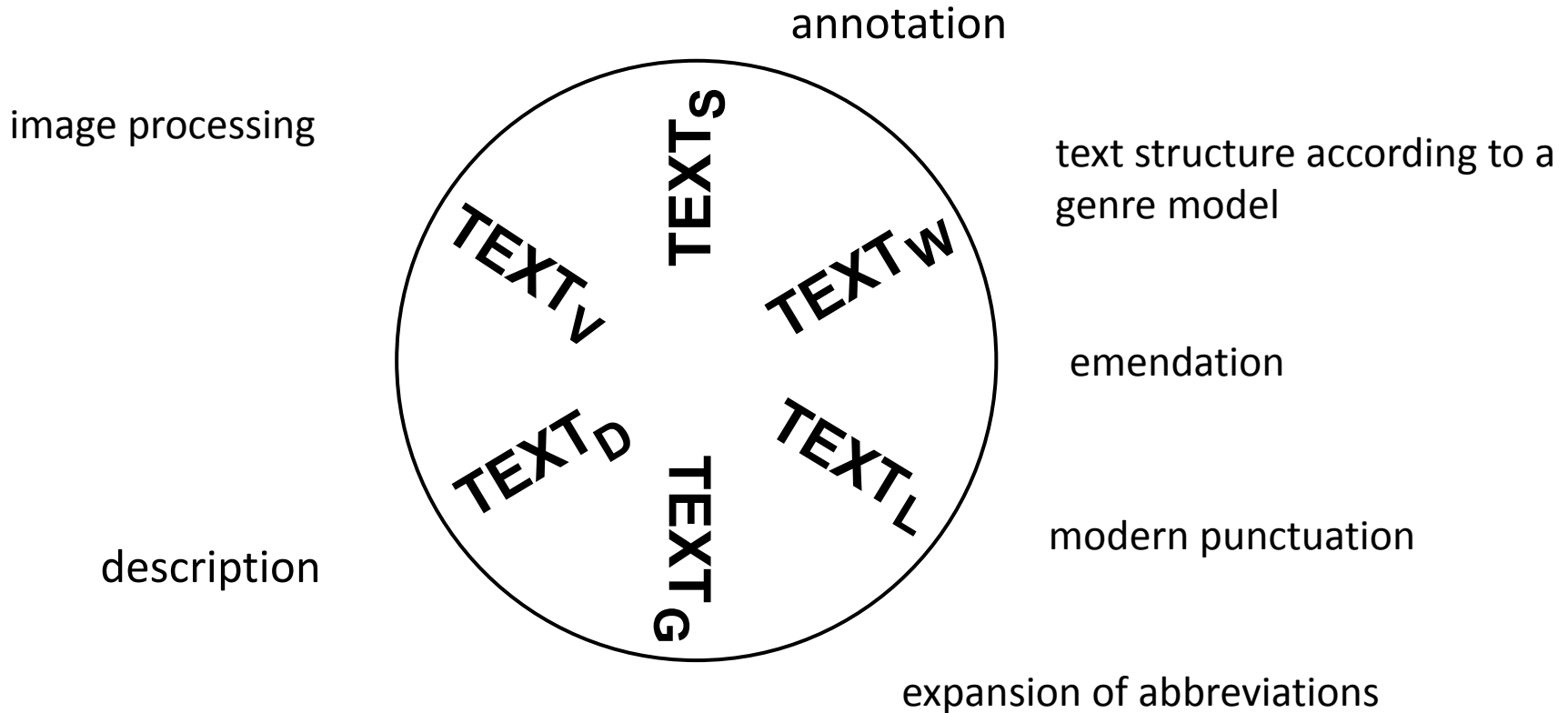
transcription as a protocol of perception, mapping and interpretation



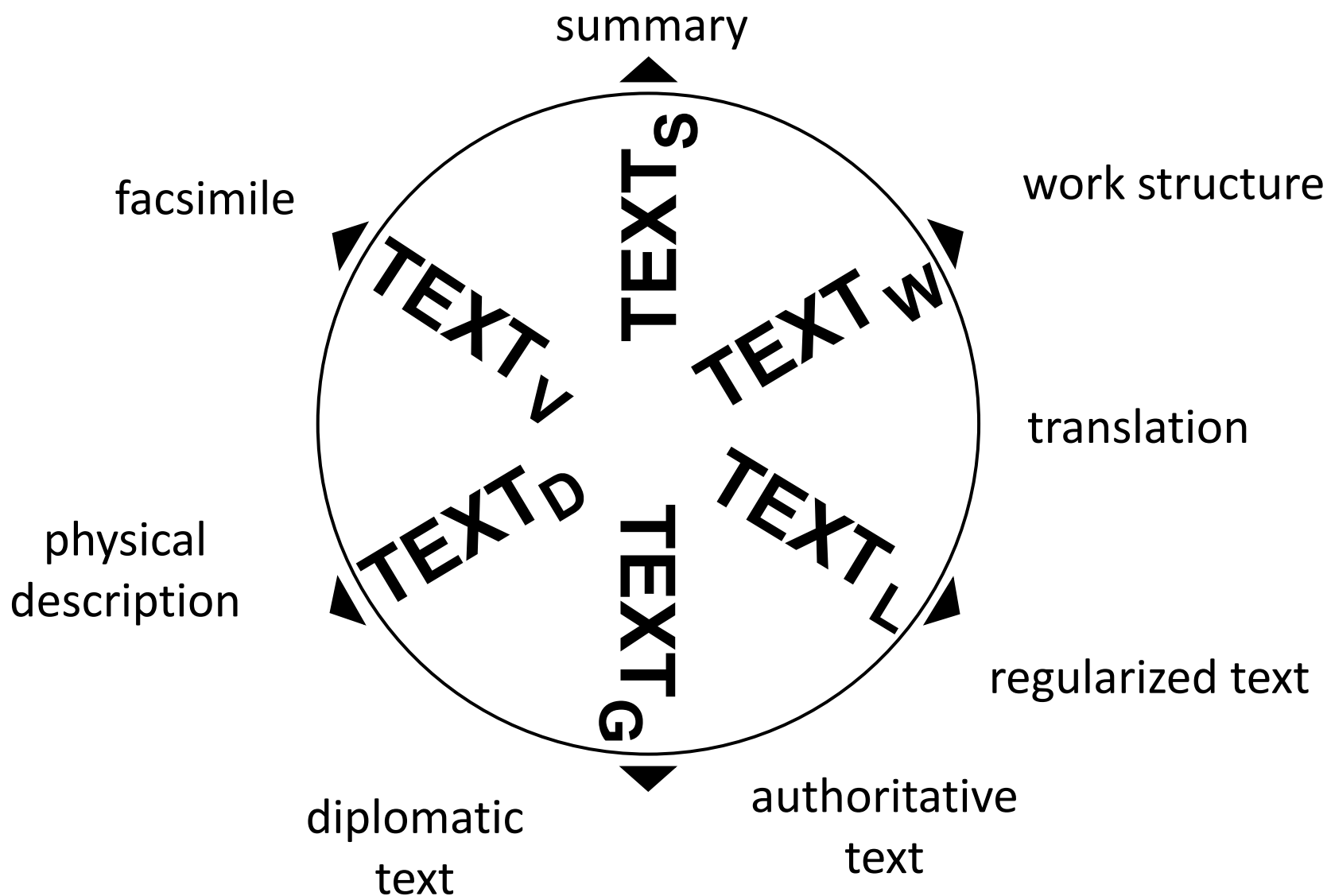
transcription as reproduction



transcription as production



notions of text and some of their possible manifestations in the edition

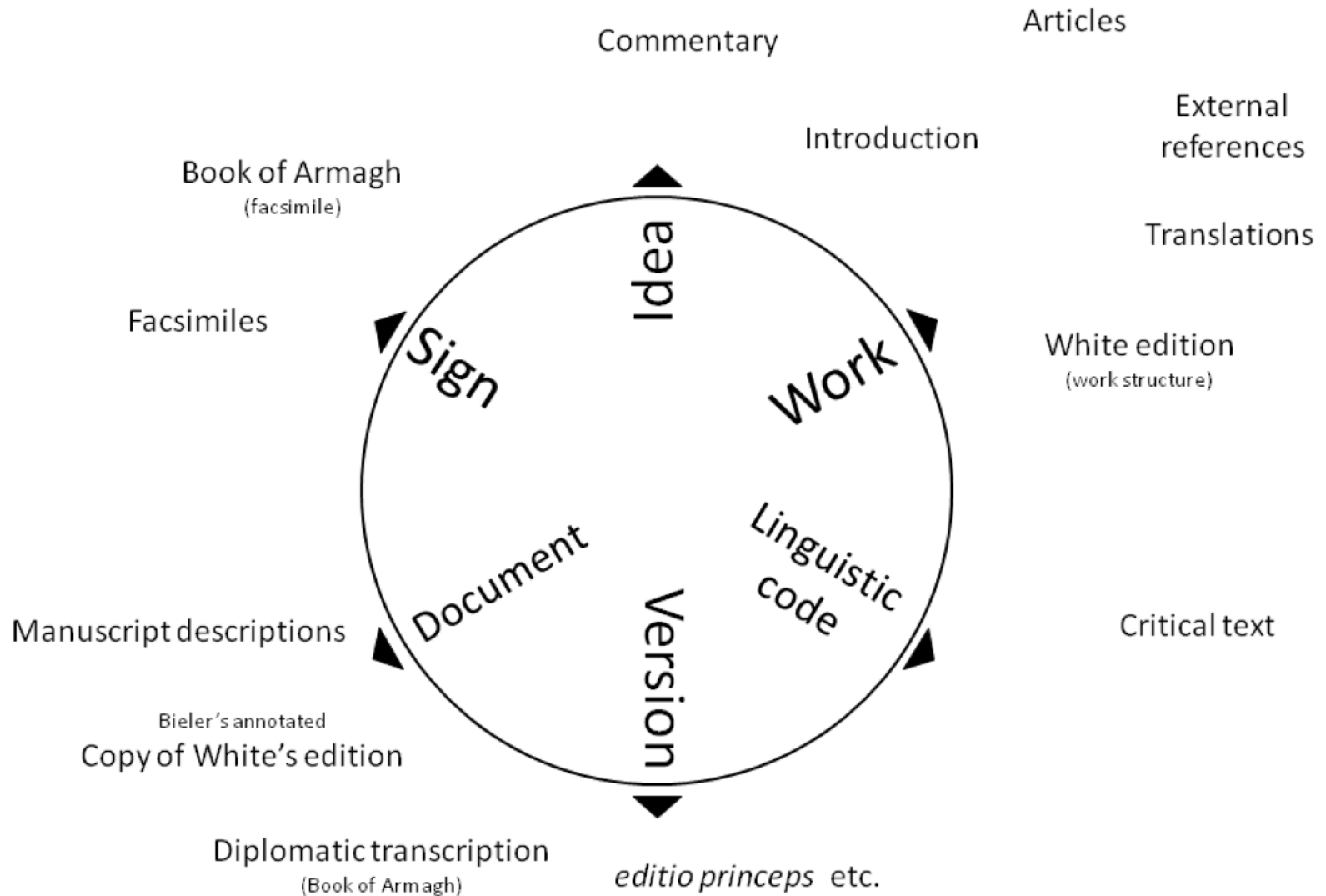


[locating an edition ...]

Franz Fischer: *All texts are equal, but... Textual Plurality and the Critical Text in Digital Scholarly Editions.*

Variants 10 (2012) – The Journal of the European Society for Textual Scholarship, 77-92.

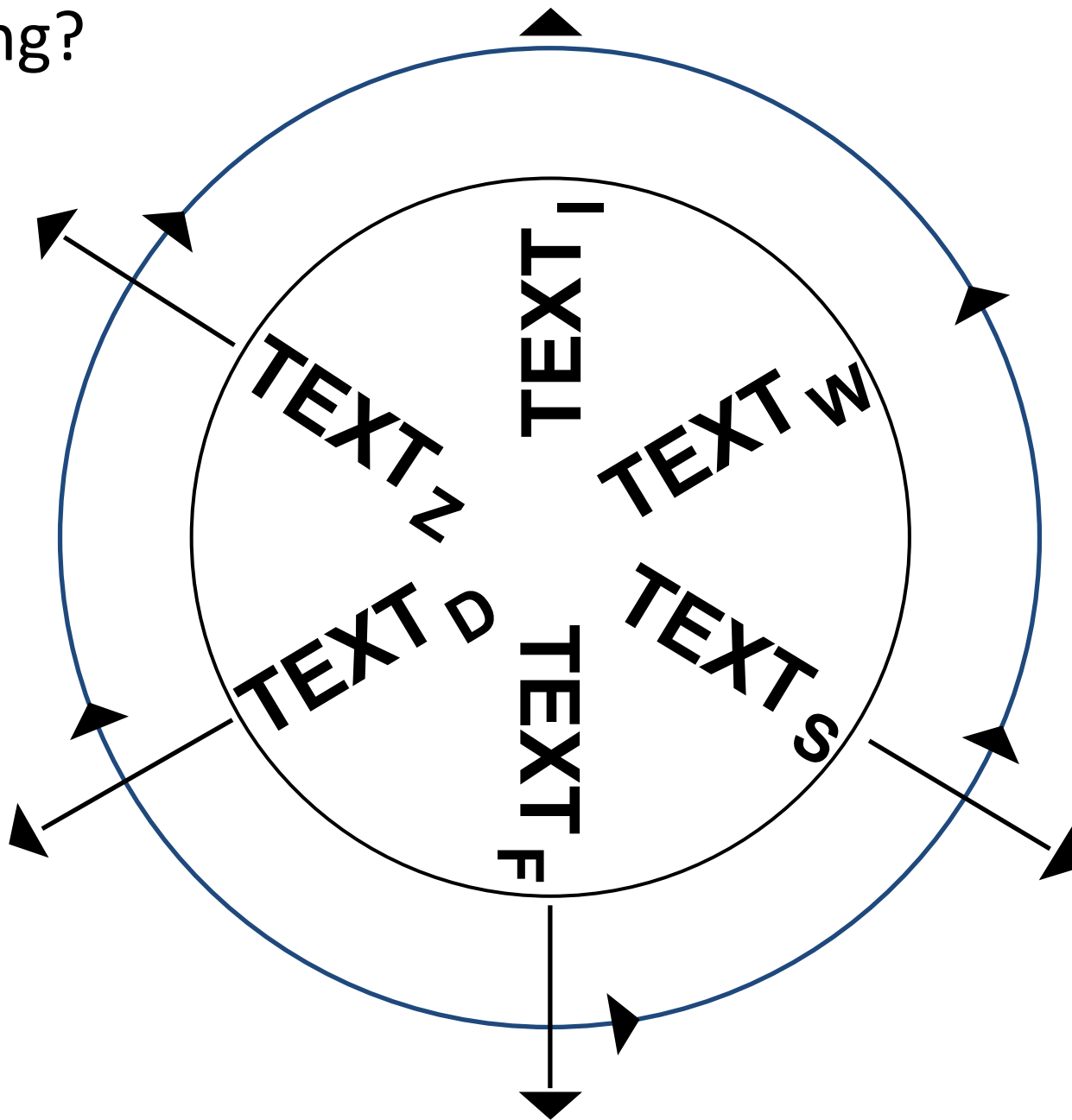
online: <http://kups.ub.uni-koeln.de/5056/>



*„What is text?“ – What a stupid question!
Everybody knows what text is!*

- the super-naive approach: text is a stream of characters
- the limited approach: textual features can be named and listed, thus distinguished from non textual features

Meaning?



*„What is text?“ – What a stupid question!
Everybody knows what text is!*

*McGann: „What is text? I am not so naïve as to
imagine that question could ever be finally settled.
Asking such a question is like asking ‘How long is
the coast of England?’.“*

Jerome McGann, Dialogue and Interpretation at the Interface of Man and Machine. Reflections on Textuality and a Proposal for an Experiment in Machine Reading, Computers and the Humanities 36/1 (2002), p. 96

*Me: „Text is what you look at
and how you look at it“*

digital editions and the media shift

- “a scholarly edition can not be expressed in print without a significant loss of content or functionality”
- “a digitized edition is not a digital edition”

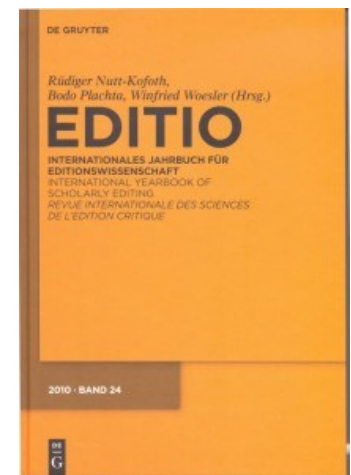
“A scholarly digital edition follows a digital paradigm”

1. within our current media and technology
2. beyond particular media and technology

elements for a theory of digital editions

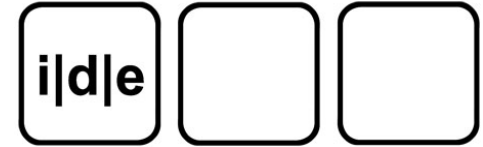
transmedialization

Zwischen Mediengebundenheit und Transmedialisierung.
Anmerkungen zum Verhältnis von Edition und Medien.
In: editio 24 (2010), S. 23-36.





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transmedia

the media shift is not about a change of media, not about a translation or extension but about a step towards metamedia or transmedia

digital editing is oriented towards ...

abstract modelling

subject orientation – not media orientation

data instead of media

single source principle

multiple publications

(over time – over media)

... tl;dr ...

Traditions of Scholarly Editing and the Media Shift?

1. stick to the tradition
2. question their assumptions
3. the media shift allows for a new understanding of text
4. the media shift is not about the change of media but about transmedialization

