Marjorie Burghart
L'École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Lyon

Getting critical with the apparatus:
how to re-think the TEI encoding of critical editions?

The Critical Apparatus module/chapter of the TEI is both a central and controversial one: central because it is mandatory for each critical editor to master and use it; controversial because most editors complain about its features. The module has not been revised since TEI P3, and is therefore in need of a rehauling keeping in mind the expectations and needs of users in a continuously evolving digital environment. The possibilities in terms of processing, displaying or even printing have to be balanced with the need for an encoding scheme manageable «manually» by scholars, without having to rely on third-party tools to handle the tagging process.

In this paper we will discuss the current state of the Critical Apparatus module/chapter, with its strengths and shortcomings. We will also explain the steps that have been taken so far towards a revision of the module, and the difficulties we have met. Finally, we will set out the aim we are willing to reach: a module that would answer the various and varied needs of a wide range of users, whether they are encoding a print-based apparatus, a born-digital one, or working on automatic collation.