A Framework for TEI-Based Scholarly Text Editions

Sebastian Pape
Dept. for Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

Christof Schöch
Dept. of Modern Languages and Literatures

Lutz Wegner
Dept. for Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

1. Bringing Bérardier de Bataut's *Essai sur le récit* to the Web

This framework was developed for Christof Schöch's electronic edition [1] of Bérardier de Bataut's *Essai sur le récit, ou Entretiens sur la manière de raconter* first published in 1776 [2], a book which has received renewed attention in French literary studies, and of which only a dozen original copies are accessible in libraries worldwide. The electronic edition allows for alternative text views with user-friendly annotations and navigation. It uses the Text Encoding Initiative's XML-based encoding scheme (TEI P5, subset TEI-Lite) which is by now the de facto standard for machine-readable texts in the humanities and social sciences.

2. Functionalities and Implementation

Precious archival materials call for contemporary forms of distribution and must include appropriate renderings of the *apparatus criticus* for literary, linguistic or historical research, possibly in different styles and varying degrees of detail for all types of readers.

Figure 1. Web-page with function bar

The challenge is then to devise a user-friendly visualization of the textual variants (TEI-element <choice>), in our case the reg/corr-Version (regularized, texte de lecture) and the orig/sic-Version (original, transcription linéaire). Some editions with translations employ multi-column modes which scroll synchronously both texts. In this edition, variants concern mostly spellings and single errors limited to individual words and typography either detected by the original publisher (included errata), or corrections and regularizations suggested by the scholar responsible for the electronic edition. For this type of work, a one-column presentation with the option to toggle between alternating reading modes seems preferable.

Regarding suitable implementations, the three main goals for serious electronic editions are *accessibility*, *longevity*, and *intellectual integrity* [3]. One consequence is not to tie scholarly editions around a par-
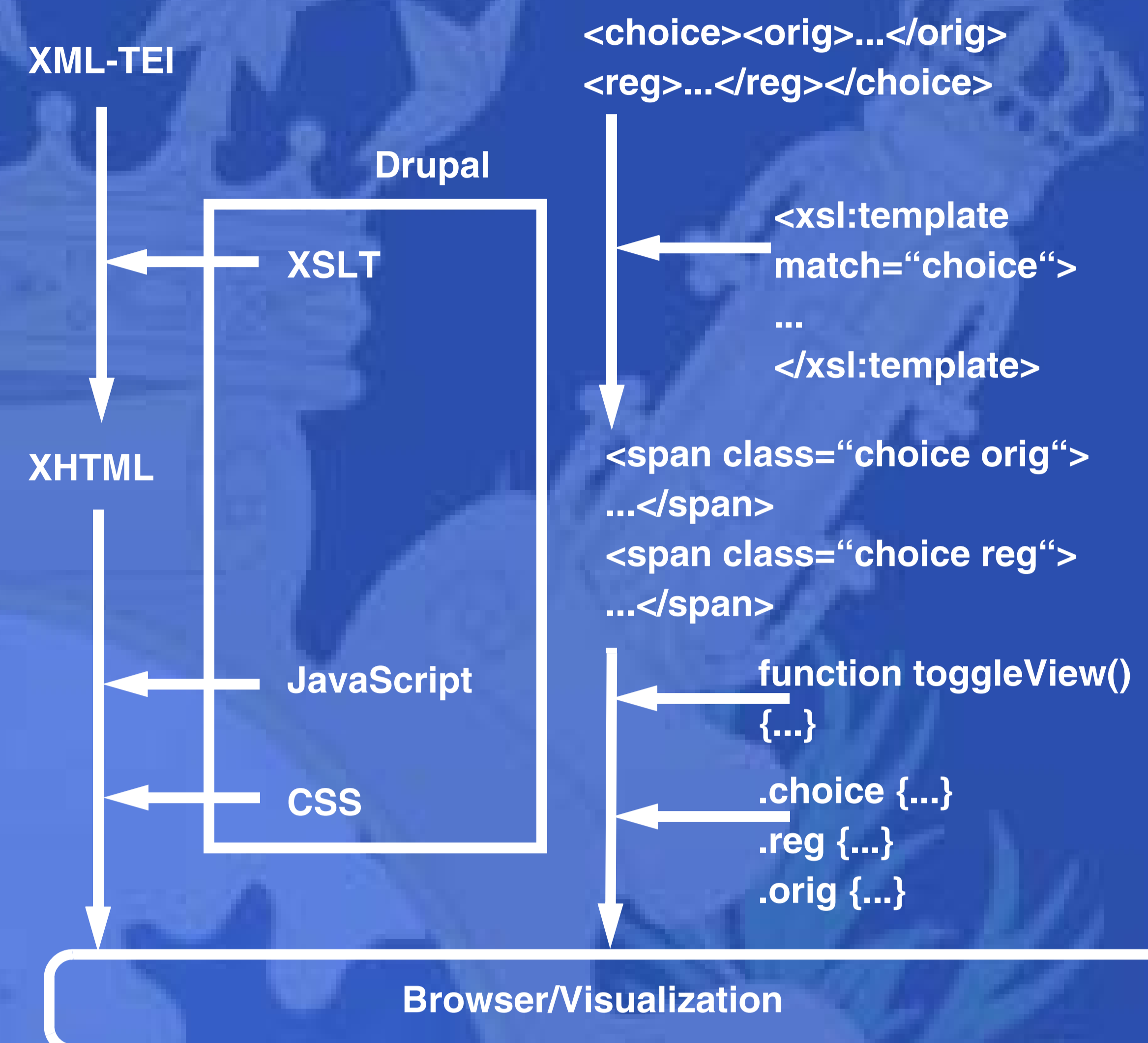

Figure 2. The transformation process

ticular piece of software. We adhere to this and offer a light-weight framework developed from public domain tools, namely the open source CMS Drupal and a generic XSLT stylesheet with only about 20 templates to match, including one rule for dealing with four renderings of <quote> (inline with quotes, italic, separate as block or verse). Finally, JavaScript is needed for navigational purposes.

3. Conclusion and Future Work

Readers are invited to visit our site www.berardier.org and to ask for copies of our framework for their own editions. Current developments include advanced search and indexing functionalities, an alternate stylesheet for transformation into the EPUB-format, and the production of a generic "TEI-for-Drupal"-module, ideally for the complete TEI-Lite set, yielding a standards-compliant, light-weight, sustainable and accessible public-domain framework.

[1]   Christof Schöch. Édition électronique de Bérardier de Bataut, *Essai sur le récit* (1776), 2008–2010, http://www.berardier.org

[2]   François-Joseph Bérardier de Bataut. *Essai sur le récit, ou Entretiens sur la manière de raconter*, Paris: Charles-Pierre Berton, 1776

[3]   C. M. Sperberg-McQueen. Textual Criticism and the Text Encoding Initiative. December 1994, MLA '94, San Diego

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