Parzival Project

www.parzival.unibe.ch

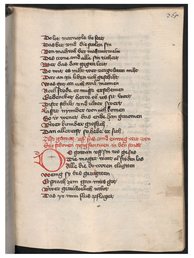
berlin-brandenburgische AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN

FAU FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER UNIVERSITÄT ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG

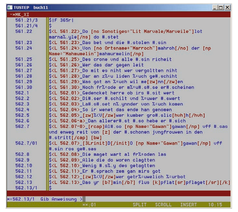
UNIVERSITÄT BERN

A Digital Multi-Text Edition from Scratch to Electronic Performance

This poster demonstrates the preparatory steps of a digital multi-text edition that are abstracted from the experiences made in the *Parzival Project*, based at the University of Bern, the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and the University of Erlangen. The digital edition of Wolfram von Eschenbach's German Grail novel, written shortly after 1200 and transmitted during several centuries in about a hundred witnesses, has now been completed by more than a half of the textual corpus.



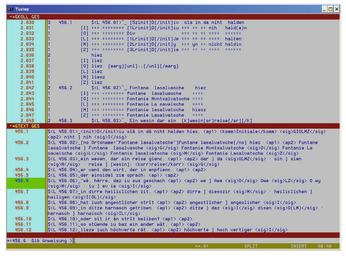
Manuscript transcriptions



At the outset of the project, transcription rules that consider particular manuscript features as well as the compatibility with the international standard of TEI were established. The manuscripts are transcribed according to these rules.

Collation of the manuscript texts

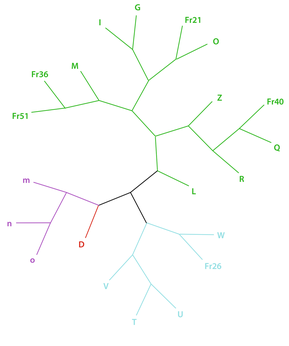
Then, the transcribed manuscript texts are collated. This decisive stage in the editing process of Wolfram's *Parzival* has to cope with different textual versions ('Fassungen') created in the author's context (caused by the oral delivery of texts in the Middle Ages). Not only different manuscript texts (on a first level), but also the textual versions (based on different manuscript groups, on a second level) have to be collated to each other. For this purpose the editors use an electronic interface created with *TuStep* (Tübinger System von Textverarbeitungsprogrammen). It allows them to handle the complex transmission of the *Parzival* text according to their philological skills.



The first part of the interface presents a lineated apparatus showing the variants of the manuscripts attributed to version *G of the *Parzival* transmission. The second part displays the application, in which the conventional apparatus containing lemmata and significant variants is registered by hand.

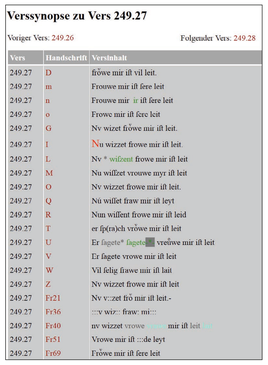
Stemmatic analysis

The process of collation is supported by stemmatic analysis using phylogenetic methods borrowed from evolutionary biology. The diagram on the right shows an unrooted tree representing the relationships of the witnesses occurring in section 249–255 of the *Parzival* poem. In this diagram manuscript groups corresponding to the textual versions *G (green), *T (turquoise), *D (red) and *m (pink) can be discerned.

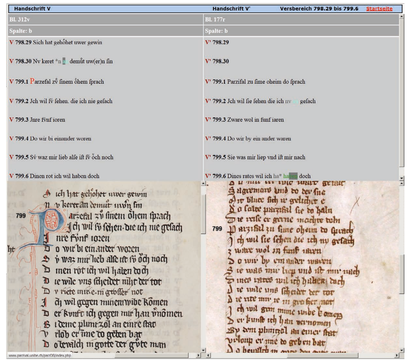


Components of the digital edition

Recently, the project has set up a database that answers to its specific needs. This editorial tool enables the users to find their way through a complex textual tradition. They can browse through both single manuscripts and different textual versions, and they can edit the text in different formats, including printout.

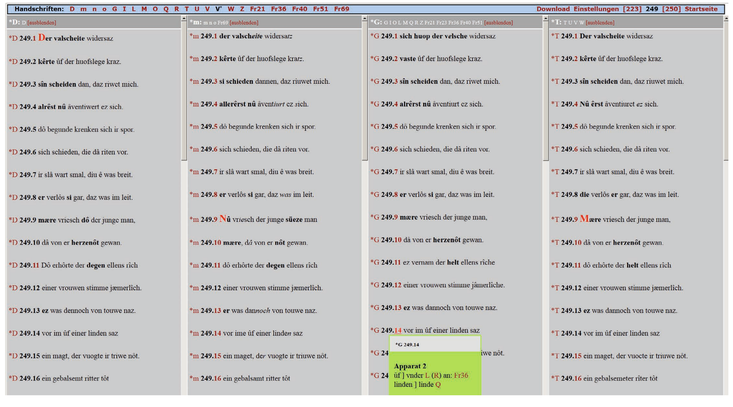


The users have access to synoptic listings of single verses rendering the variant wordings of the different manuscripts, here for example verse 249.27.

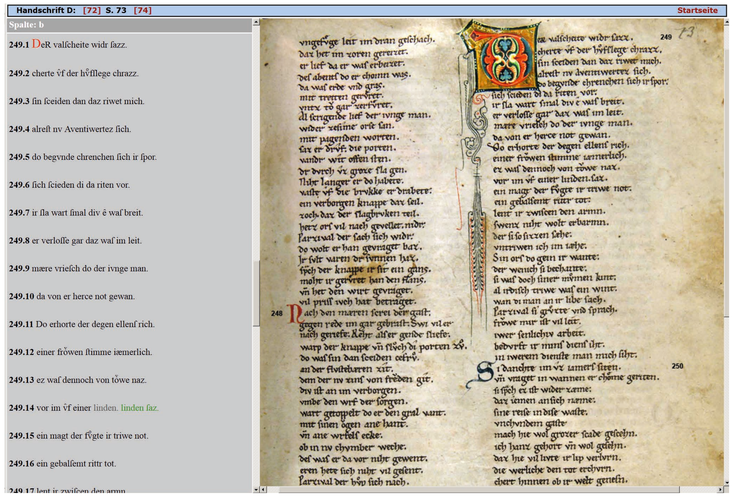


They are invited to compare the transcriptions and digitized images of singular manuscripts, e.g., V and V′ being an exemplar and its copy (with V′ omitting a substantial passage before 799.1).

The critical electronic edition presents the *Parzival* text in the four versions *D *m *G and *T. Variants separating the different versions are set in bold type; variants existing within the singular versions appear when the cursor hovers over a specific verse number (here verse 249.14 in version *G).



The relevant manuscripts, on which the versions are based, can be accessed by hypertext-links (here an example of manuscript D with transcription and digitized image).



Long-term sustainability

In collaboration with the recently established national "Daten- und Dienstleistungszentrum für geisteswissenschaftliche Forschungsdaten" (DDZ), funded by the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences the project is currently working on the long-term sustainability of its database.

Further reading

Christopher J. Howe – Adrian C. Barbrook – Linne R. Mooney – Peter Robinson, Parallels between Stemmatology and Phylogenetics, in: Studies in Stemmatology II, ed. by Pieter van Reenen/ August den Hollander/ Margot van Mulken, Amsterdam / Philadelphia 2004, pp. 3–11

Robert Schöller – Michael Stolz – Gabriel Viehhauser, Transkriptionsrichtlinien des Parzival-Projekts, in: Edition und Sprachgeschichte. Baseler Fachtagung 2005, ed. by Michael Stolz/ Robert Schöller / Gabriel Viehhauser, Tübingen 2007 (Beihefte zu editio 26), pp. 295–328

Michael Stolz, Benutzerführung in digitalen Editionen. Erfahrungen aus dem Parzival-Projekt, in: Digitale Edition und Forschungsbibliothek. Beiträge der Fachtagung im Philosophicum der Universität Mainz am 13. und 14. Januar 2011, ed. by Christiane Fritze et al., Wiesbaden 2011 (Bibliothek und Wissenschaft 44), pp. 49–80

Michael Stolz, Early versions in medieval textual traditions. Wolfram's *Parzival* as a test case, in: Dating Egyptian Literary Texts, vol. 1, ed. by Gerald Moers et al., Hamburg 2013 (Lingua Aegyptia – Studia monographica 11), pp. 561–587

Gabriel Viehhauser, On the Margins of the Canon – Editions, the 'Whole' Text and the 'Whole' Codex, in: Variants 7 (2008 [recte 2010]), pp. 57–74

© Parzival Project July 2, 2014