

# Standards & Technology 2003

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# Overview

- Standards
  - OSIS
  - Topic Maps
  - Published Subjects
  - TEI (revision, new work groups)
  - Cuneiform (Unicode proposal)
- Technology
  - Scholarly markup with “<“ or “>”
  - Overlapping markup
  - Custom publishing
  - SBL Font Foundation

# OSIS

- Open Scriptural Information Standard
  - Joint project of SBL, ABS, UBS, SIL and others
  - Standard for Bibles, Commentaries, related works
  - Now at 2.0 release, draft users manual
- Open work items:
  - Linguistic markup
  - Original mss. markup
- Demo: <http://www.thebibletool.com>

# Topic Maps

- ISO 13250
  - Originally in HyTime syntax (few implementations)
  - XTM: XML syntax, topic maps take off
  - Standard being revised to provide a data model, constraint and query language
- Why do we care?
  - Ability to find all information about a subject, including related information, at one place
  - Ability to merge information about subjects reliably from different sources

# Topic Maps II

- Demo: <http://localhost:8080/omnigator>
- First Generation Topic Map software
- Uses in Biblical Studies?
  - Hebrew/Greek Lexicons
  - Bibliographies
  - Subject Catalogs
  - Web/Educational Resources
- Next Generation:  
<http://www.gooseworks.org/cgi-bin/allMaps.cgi/>

# Published Subjects

- Topic Maps related standard
- How do you and I agree that we mean the same thing by a subject?
  - Call each other on the phone
  - Send email
  - Read a paper or monograph
  - All private agreement
- Published Subjects – Public Agreement
  - Each represents a single subject
  - Published/Pubic
  - Warranted to be stable

# TEI: Text Encoding Initiative

- Guidelines are being revised
- New special interest groups on mss. encoding and image annotation
- Interest is high in user contributions on use cases and needs
- Opportunities to lead working groups on issues of interest to biblical scholars.
- <http://www.tei-c.org>

# Cuneiform (Unicode)

- Proposal submitted to Unicode Technical Committee (UTC) for cuneiform
- Work supported by: SBL, Scripts Encoding Initiative: <http://www.linguistics.berkeley.edu/~dwanders/>
- Contributors currently include, Deborah Anderson, Steve Tinney, Michael Everson, Karljürgen G. Feuerherm, Lloyd Anderson, Rick McGowan, and others



# Cuneiform (Unicode) II

- Everson/Feuerherm/Tinney proposal: 952 characters and complete glyph repertoire
- Proposal:  
<http://www.evertype.com/standards/iso106>
- General Information:  
<http://www.cuneiformsigns.org/>

# Scholarly Markup (without pain)

- Markup is easy/hard – disagreement

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
```

```
<text>
```

```
<verse id="Matt.3.8">
```

```
  <sentence>
```

```
    Bear fruit that befits repentance,
```

```
  </verse>
```

```
<verse="Matt.3.9">
```

```
  and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as  
  our father'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up  
  children of Abraham.
```

```
</verse>
```

```
  </sentence>
```

```
</text>
```

# Scholarly Markup II

- But everyone agrees it is ugly!
- What does a user need to know and when should they know it?
- Compare to using Word to produce an RTF file: user just types, then save-as
- That level of use is what it will take
- Is that possible? Thinkable? (Priesthood of markup specialists tremble with fear.)

# Scholarly Markup III

- What if:
  - Worked with manuscript image
  - Worked with electronic text
  - Image and text linked together
  - Markup inserted by menu and not seen by user?
- Can you say: Electronic Boethius Project?
- <http://beowulf.engl.uky.edu/~kiernan/eBoethius/i>

# Scholarly Markup IV

- Hides markup from scholar
- Allows markup down to character level
- Works directly with manuscript images
- Being developed as free software!
- SBL has provided portion of NT fragment and transcription for testing
- Look for updates on the SBL website

# Overlapping Markup

- Remember the ugly markup slide?

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```
</verse>
```

```
  </sentence>
```

```
</text>
```

# Overlapping Markup II

- That simple case confuses computers
- Problem is linear processing of the text
- TEI has formed a Special Interest Group
- Matt O'Donnell and I have developed a solution that will be considered by the TEI
- Insight: Text (whether word or phrase) is a member of various markup constructs
- All at the same time!

# Overlapping Markup III

- It is membership in overlapping markup constructs that confuses computers
- Solution:
  - Current: have simple texts
  - Proposed: have smarter programs
- Need texts that need overlapping markup to make the case to standards bodies



# Custom Publishing

- 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Semeia in 2006!
- How many people have a complete set?
- Would custom readers be useful?
- Would updated bibliographies (you enter) or your own notes on an article be useful?
- Interfaces now under development to allow both!
- Custom publishing of what you want to buy, not what we want to sell!

# SBL Font Foundation

- Free Unicode/OpenType:  
Hebrew/Greek/Western font
- Use in commercial publishing requires  
Font Foundation membership
- Means:
  - All scholars can interchange documents
  - All publishers can have one conversion for  
documents submitted

# SBL Font Foundation II

- Public Beta of Hebrew begins this year
- Public Beta of Greek early next year
- One step towards making biblical scholarship a matter of choice and not finances.

# Conclusion

- Only some of the standards and technology in which the SBL is involved
- Part of the return on your membership fees and donations
- SBL is interested in your projects and possible collaborations on technology and fund raising(☺).
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