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How to detect institutional and regional feature clusters in late mediaeval charters?

Collaboration between more and less digital humanists in the project BeCoRe

Project: Between Composition and Reception: the Authority of Medieval Charters (BeCoRe, ANR-19-CE27-0021 / FWF I 4502 Internationale Projekte)

Objectives: A study of the expression of power in late mediaeval charters through their graphical (primarily) and textual components

- Challenges:**
- Definition and identification of the relevant, historical objects and questions
 - Modelisation of this information for data ingest and reuse
 - Exchanges at the scholarly and technical levels
 - Efficient workflow between persons of very different backgrounds and expertise
 - Learning from each other!

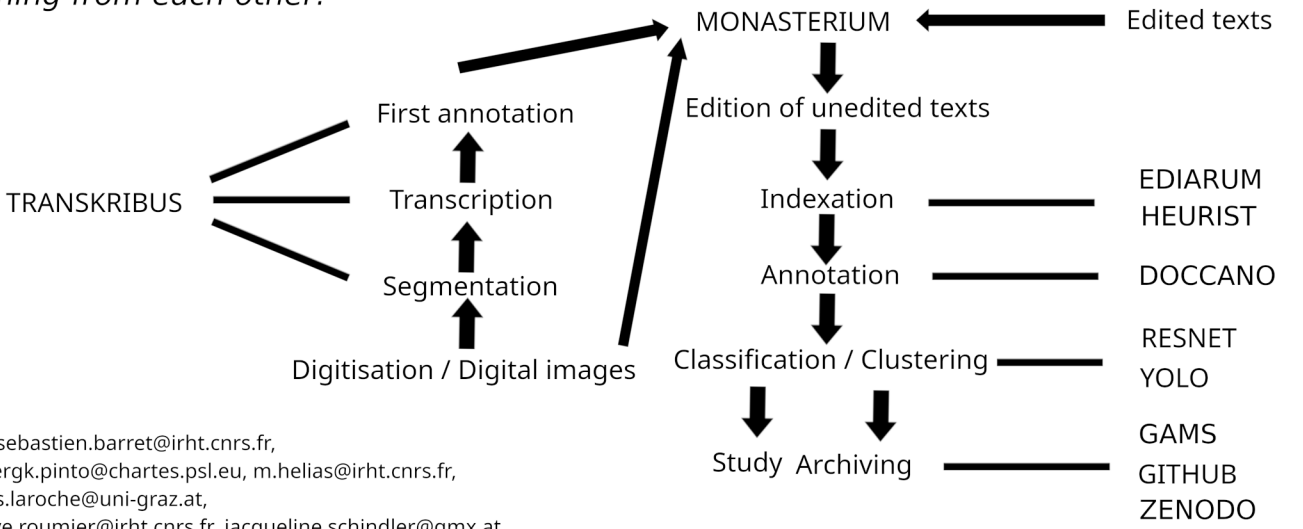
Hypotheses: use of sets and subsets of graphical features as markers of power (large spaces and margins, ornatation of script, esp. initials and first lines...) and possible regional/graphical "vocabularies", forming recurring patterns

Data: A selection of monastic archives in France (Cluny, Fontenay) and Austria (Lambach, Göttweig, Lilienfeld)

Methods: A combination of traditional diplomatics (analysis of charters), palaeography (study of scripts and materiality) and text edition with image detection and classification, unsupervised clustering in order to work with large, digitised corpora

Tools: transcription platform (Transkribus), edition platform (Monasterium.net...), edition and indexation tools and modules (Ediarum...), databases and -repositories (Heurist, GitLab); classification and clustering models and algorithms (ResNet, YOLO...); and traditional bibliographies and books!

Formats and conversions: TEI XML and its charter specific dialect CEI, XSLT, XQuery, png, txt, CSV, JSON, coco, Python



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