TEI BY EXAMPLE



MODULE 8: CUSTOMISING TEI, ODD, ROMA

Ron Van den Branden

Edward Vanhoutte

Melissa Terras

Centre for Scholarly Editing and Document Studies (CTB) , Royal Academy of Dutch Language and Literature, Belgium, Gent, 9 July 2010

Last updated September 2020

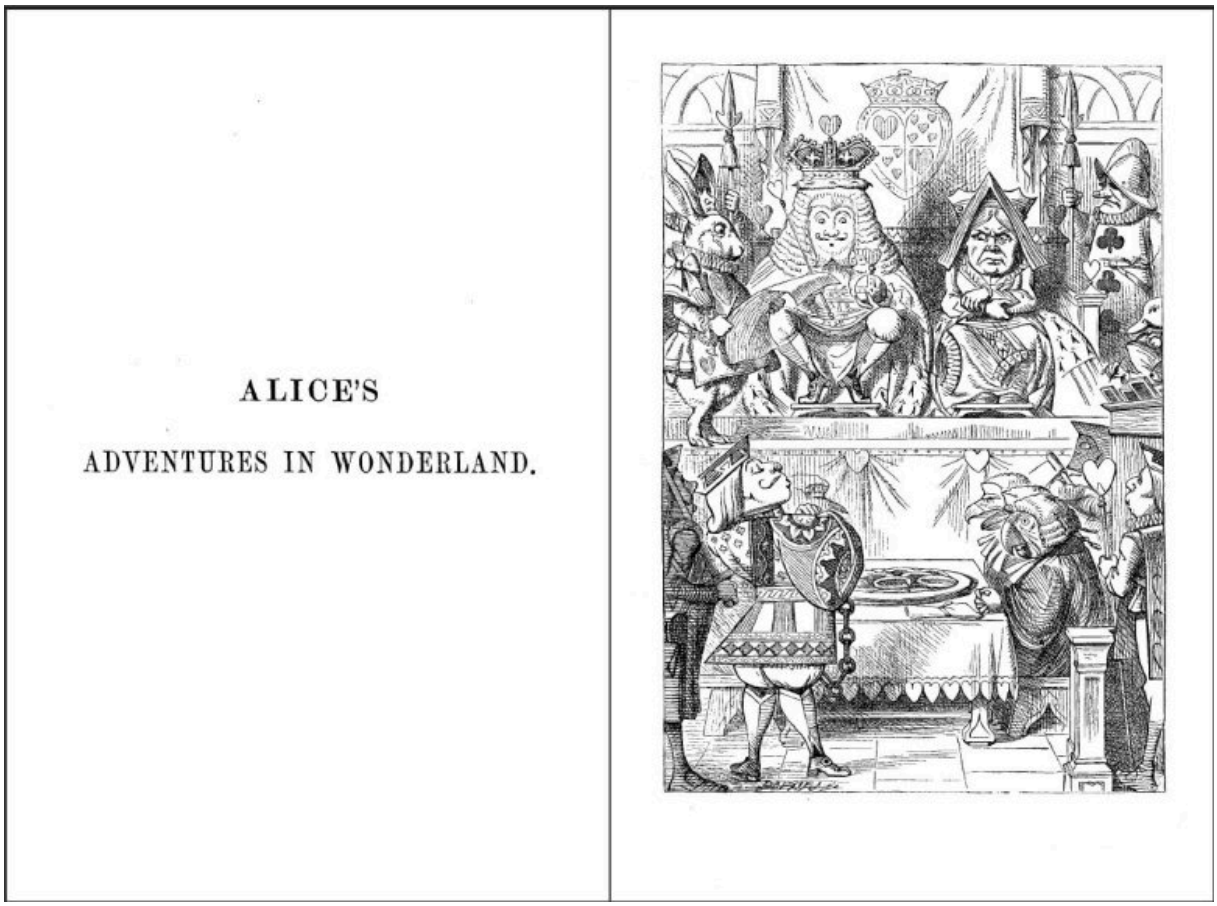
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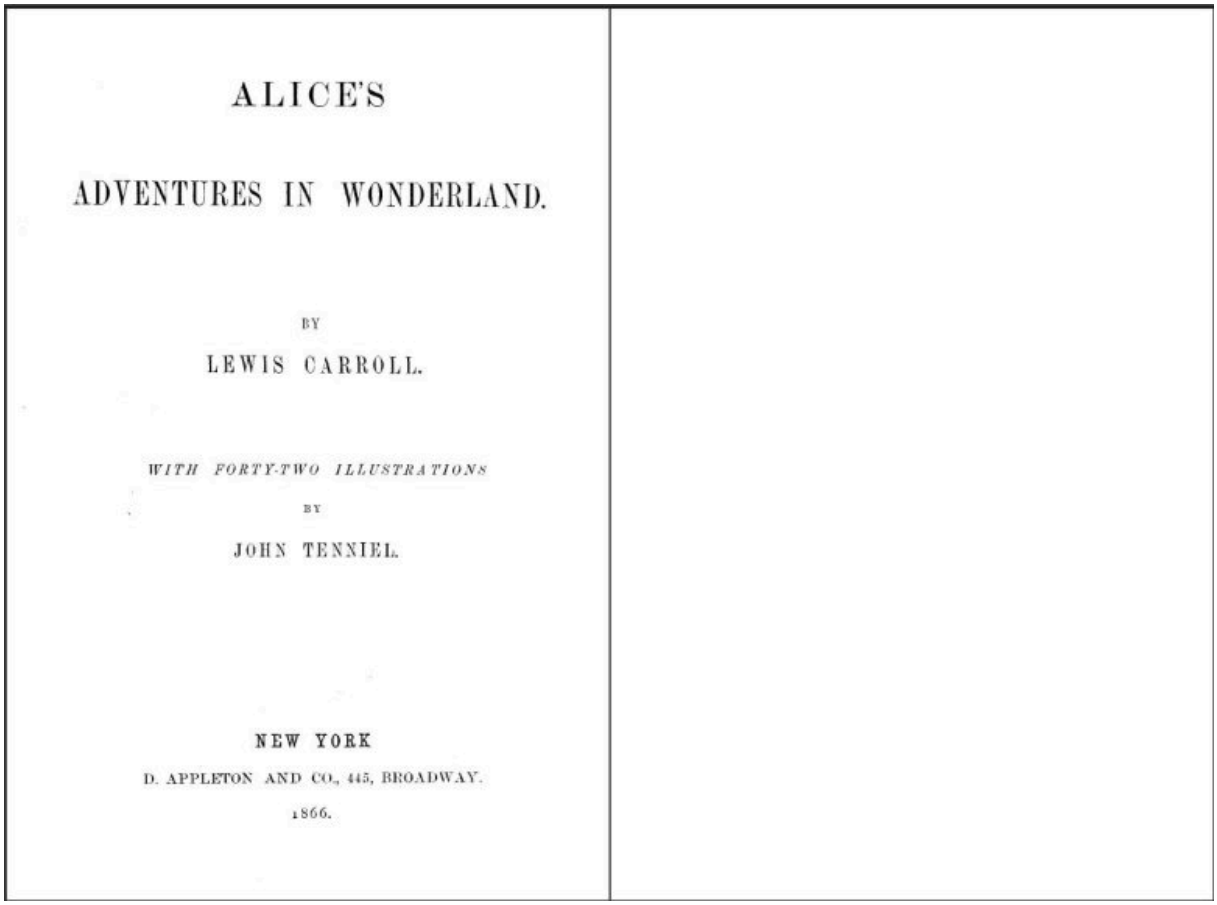
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3. Customising TEI: Why and How?

As with all other TBE tutorial modules, we'll start from a concrete text example. This time, we'll consider Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. Suppose we're at the start of a project that will encode this text. To get a sense of the structure of the document, here are the first pages:





ALICE'S

ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND.

BY

LEWIS CARROLL.

WITH FORTY-TWO ILLUSTRATIONS

BY

JOHN TENNIEL.

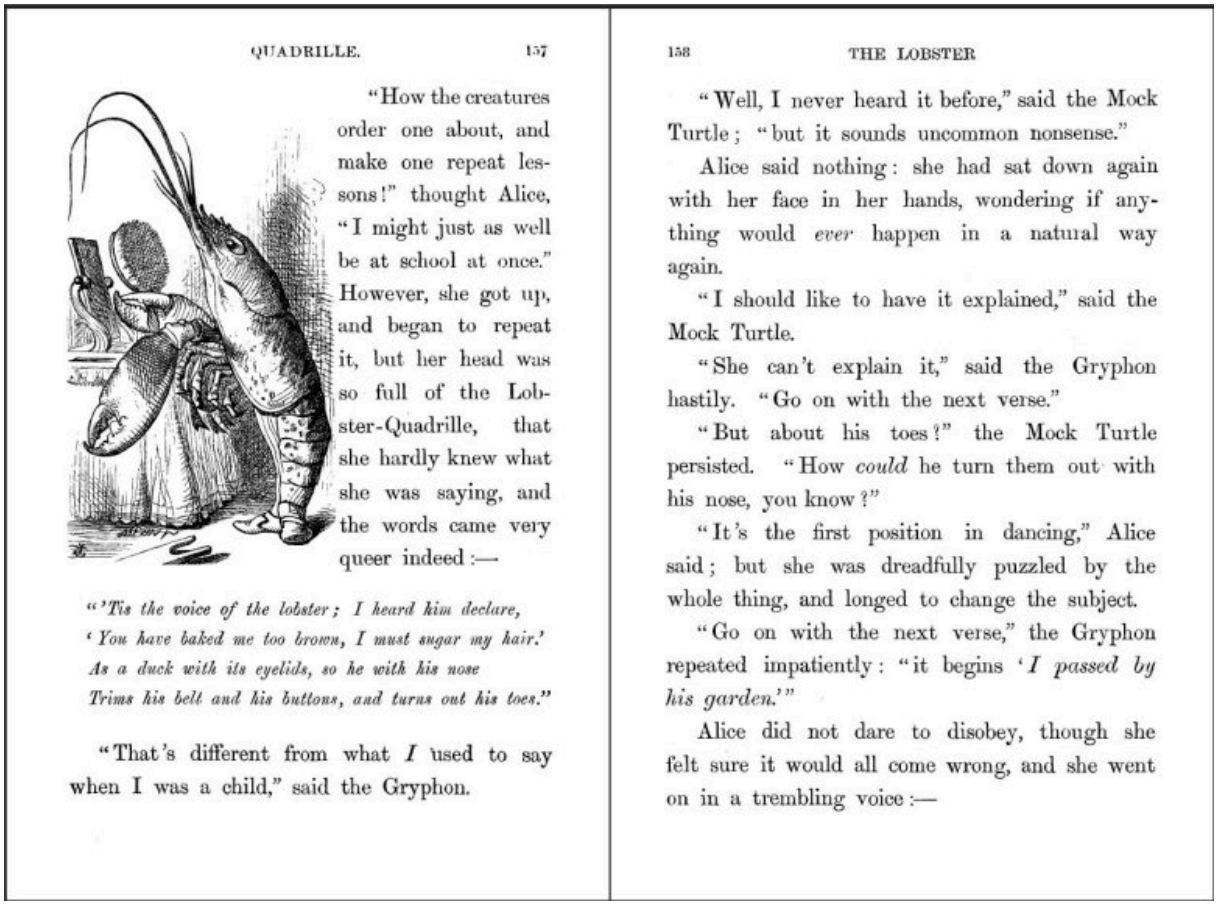
NEW YORK

D. APPLETON AND CO., 445, BROADWAY.

1866.

Figure 1. First pages of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

A typical page looks like this:



QUADRILLE. 157

"How the creatures order one about, and make one repeat lessons!" thought Alice, "I might just as well be at school at once." However, she got up, and began to repeat it, but her head was so full of the Lobster-Quadrille, that she hardly knew what she was saying, and the words came very queer indeed:—

"'Tis the voice of the lobster; I heard him declare,
'You have baked me too brown, I must sugar my hair.'
As a duck with its eyelids, so he with his nose
Trims his belt and his buttons, and turns out his toes."

"That's different from what *I* used to say when I was a child," said the Gryphon.

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"Well, I never heard it before," said the Mock Turtle; "but it sounds uncommon nonsense."

Alice said nothing: she had sat down again with her face in her hands, wondering if anything would *ever* happen in a natural way again.

"I should like to have it explained," said the Mock Turtle.

"She can't explain it," said the Gryphon hastily. "Go on with the next verse."

"But about his toes?" the Mock Turtle persisted. "How *could* he turn them out with his nose, you know?"

"It's the first position in dancing," Alice said; but she was dreadfully puzzled by the whole thing, and longed to change the subject.

"Go on with the next verse," the Gryphon repeated impatiently: "it begins '*I passed by his garden.*'"

Alice did not dare to disobey, though she felt sure it would all come wrong, and she went on in a trembling voice:—

Figure 2. A typical page of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

As always, the first step in approaching the encoding of a text is a document analysis, considering this is a prose work consisting of chapters.

CHALLENGE

Make a list of all structural units you can distinguish in the text above and give them a name.

SOLUTION

Some of the significant structural elements to be distinguished are these:

- The document
- The title page
- Document title
- Chapters
- Headings
- (Sub)Divisions
- Paragraphs
- Quotations
- Citations
- Page breaks
- Figures
- Line groups

In addition, we are especially interested in the semantic encoding of the names of the different characters and places.

This document analysis allows us to get an idea of the phenomena we want to encode and how to express them in TEI; for a suggestion of the corresponding TEI elements we refer you to the other TBE tutorial modules or the full TEI Guidelines.

However, after completion of this document analysis, we're not quite ready to start encoding our TEI version of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Unless you know TEI by heart, it will be very hard to produce a valid TEI transcription, without a TEI schema.

There are two options to get a TEI schema:

1. Pick one of the sample TEI customisations, available at https://tei-c.org/Guidelines/Customization/, in the format of your choice. TEI provides a number of basic customisations, each with their own focus on different aspects of the TEI model. Depending on your needs, these may provide the elements and attributes you need, or you may want to build on them.
2. Create your own schema with the Roma web tool.

Although the existing TEI customisations in many cases provide all that's needed for the encoding of common textual phenomena, and the study of these customisations provides an excellent source of information on customising and modifying TEI, in this tutorial we'll start from scratch. This way, all concepts can be introduced one at a time, and you will get to learn how to actually interpret existing customisations. Alongside the Roma tool itself, the most important concepts of TEI customisation will be treated, split in two strands:

- selection and restriction of existing TEI elements and attributes
- extension of the TEI model with new elements and attributes

SUMMARY

Encoding TEI texts with a TEI schema involves customising the TEI. Either you use one of the pre-cooked TEI customisations, or start creating your own with the Roma web tool. Customisation can be roughly divided into selection and restriction of the existing TEI model, and extension of the TEI model.