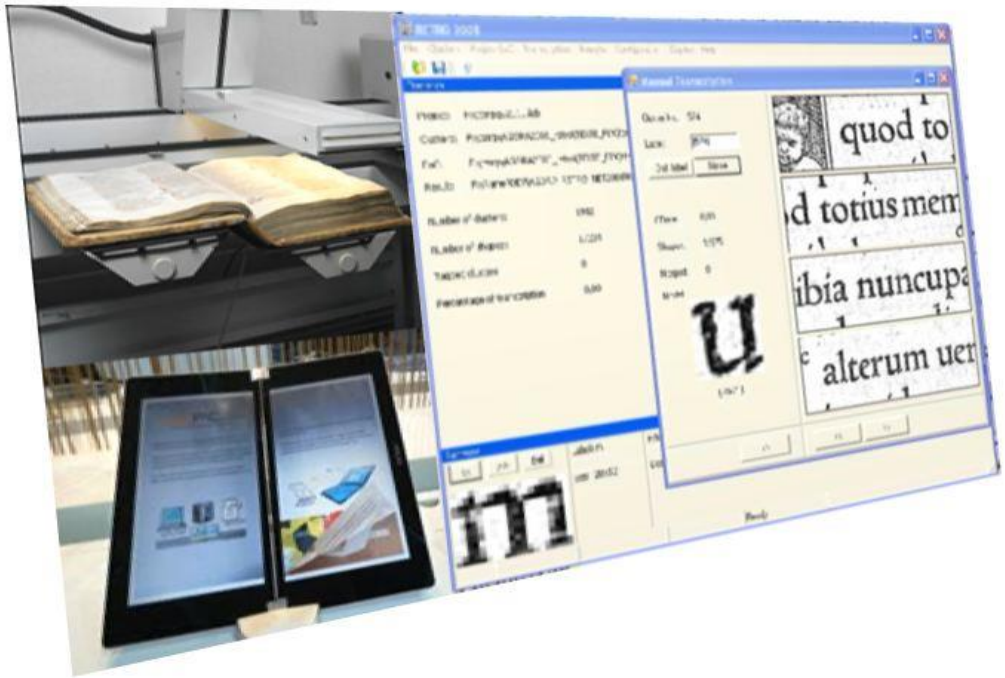
POLYTECH TOURS

UNIVERSITÉ FRANÇOIS - RABELAIS TOURS

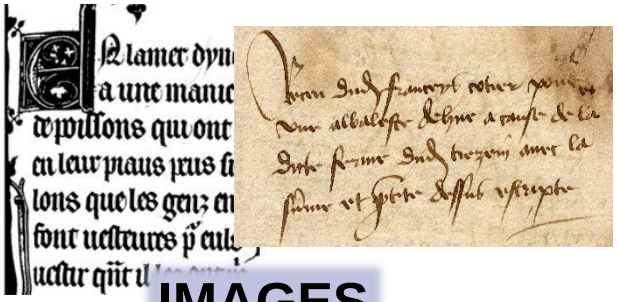
From pixels to content: An overview of the main techniques used in DIA

Jean-Yves RAMEL



LI
Laboratoire d'Informatique
EA 6300

From Pixels to Contents
Introduction



IMAGES

Meta-Data?

CONTENTS

Document Image Analysis
Machine Learning
Content based images Retrieval

Tools to automatically **extract information** inside the images / documents

Generation and utilization of meta data

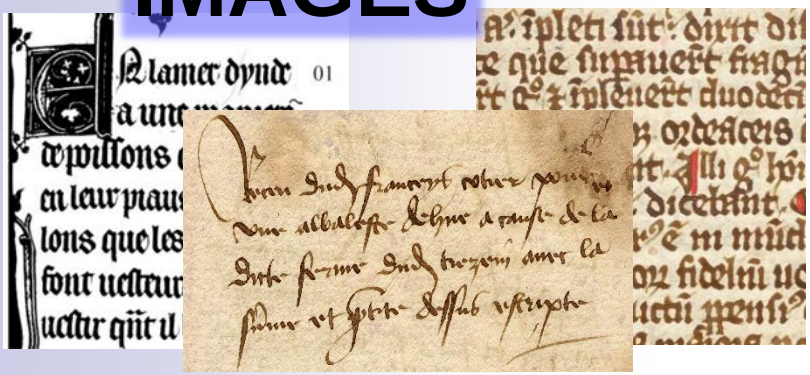
From Pixels … to contents

Outline

- From pixels…
  - What is an image?
  - Image (pre-)processing
- … to Text
  - Transcription and Layout analysis
  - Segmentation and content extraction
  - An overview of Pattern Recognition
- … but also to non-Text
  - Content characterization and signatures
  - Content retrieval and spotting
- Back to meta-data?
  - From descriptive to perceptual meta-data
  - Is there adequate encoding formats?
- Conclusions and perspectives

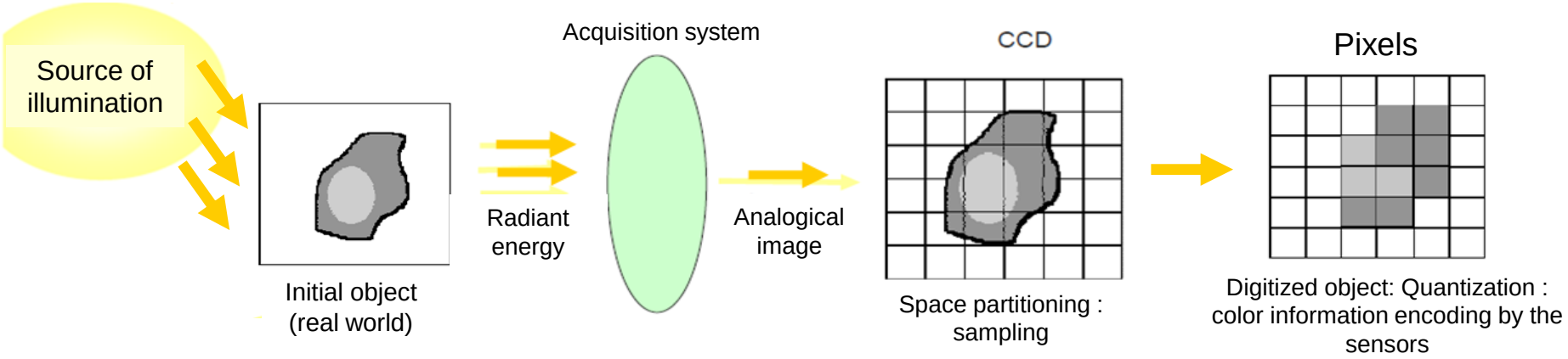
From Pixels...

IMAGES



From Pixels…
Digitization ➔ Set of pixels ?

- Images come from a grid of microscopic photosensitive cells called **PIXELS**
- **Sampling**



- **Quantization**
  - Assignment of a numerical value drawn from the received lighting energy / pixel (grid unit)
  - Continuous value (xi,yi) → Discrete value (xi,yi) → Pixels
  - The range of colors that each pixel can take

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From Pixels…

What is an image?

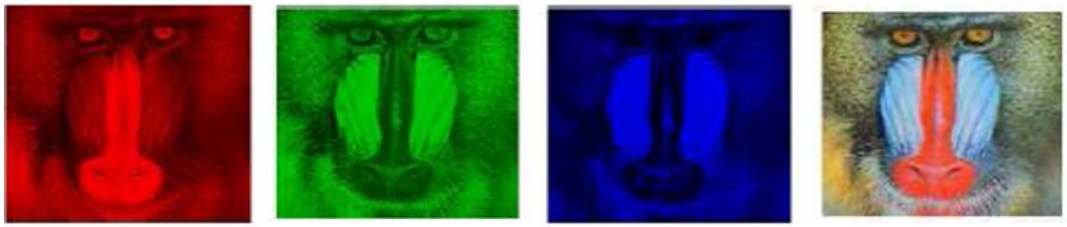
Image Quantization

Binary images: *I(i,j)* = 0 black or *I(i,j)* = 1 white

Gray level (8 bits/pixel) images:
I(i,j) = 0…..255 from the lighter to the darker.

Color images (24 bits/pixel):
3 values of lighting intensity Red, Green, Blue

$I_1(i,j)$ = 0…..255 – $I_2(i,j)$ = 0…..255 – $I_3(i,j)$ = 0…..255



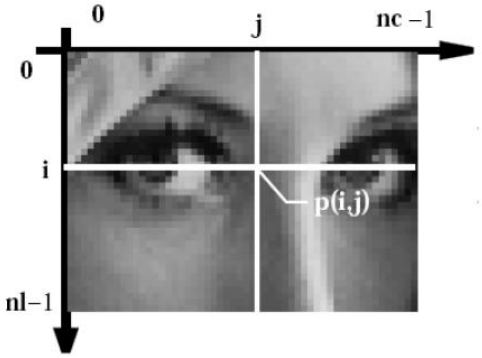
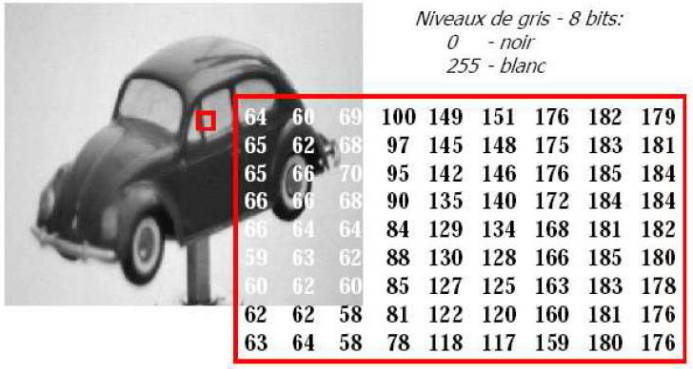


Image Representation & Processing

Image = Array(s) of pixels = Matrices of values
1 pixel = A position inside the image (i,j) + 1 color (1 to 3 values)

The values *I(i,j)* associated to each pixel *s(i,j)* represent their brightness intensity



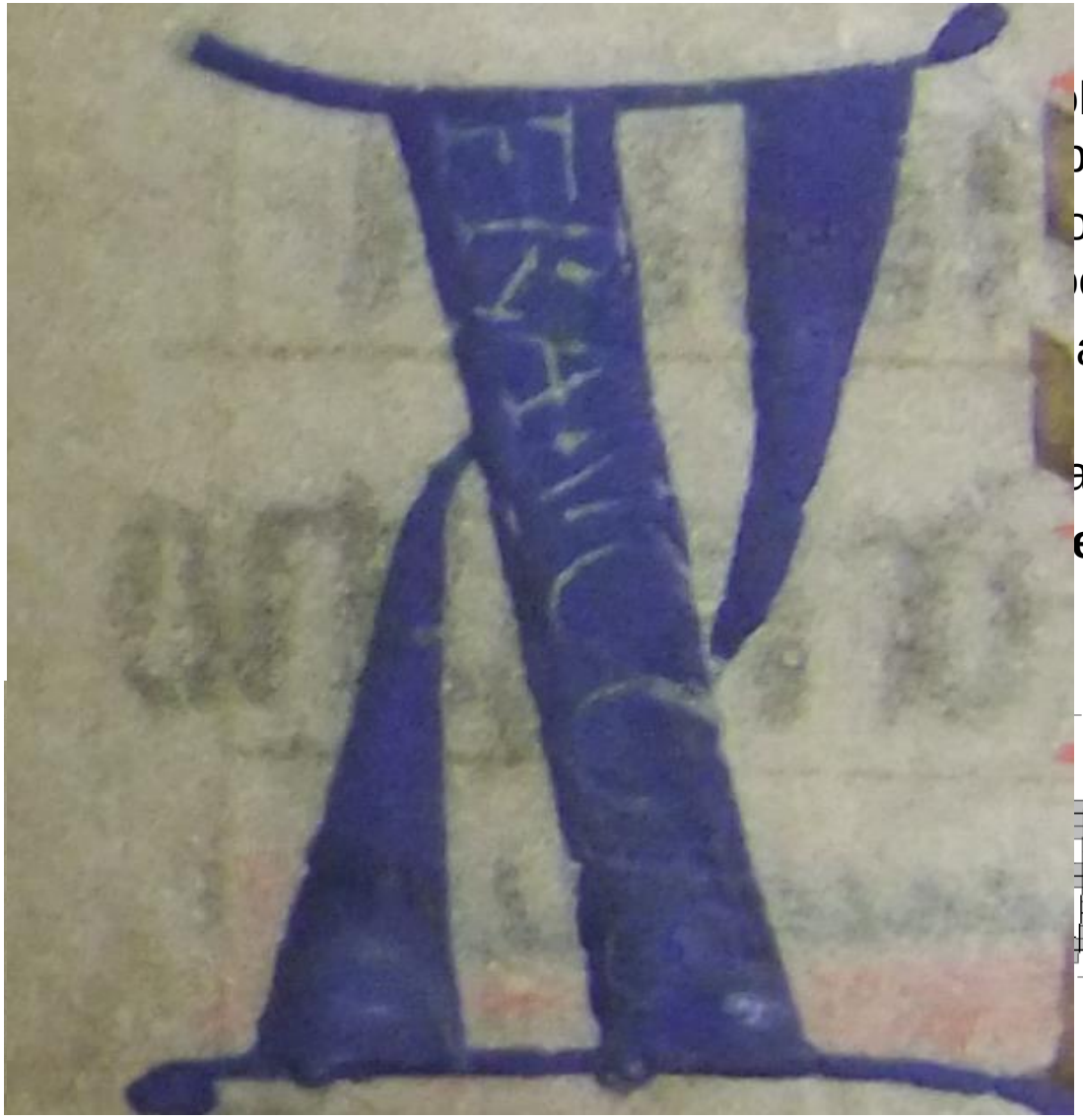
From Pixels…
What is an image?

- **Sampling ➔ Image resolution**
  - Number of pixels per lenght unit
  - In dpi (dots per inches) or ppp (points par pouce)
  - When the resolution decrease, the precision decrease

- **VF Image processing**
  - Page A4 = 21x29.7 cm
  - 200 dpi : 1650 x 2340 pixels = 3 861 000 pixels
  - 300 dpi : 3500 x 2480 pixels = 8 680 000 pixels
  - 16M colors, 1 pixel = 3 octets ➔ 10 à 25 Mo/page !
  - **A trade-off between quality-quantity/time is mandatory**
  - Fidelity of the numerical version
  - Mass of storage size – Transmission / Processing time

From Pixels…

Why few pixels are so important?



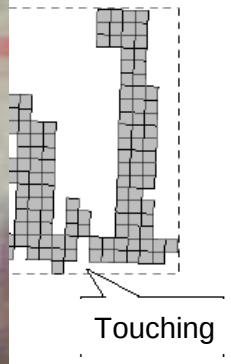
lated patterns can correspond
ixels) !

n the boundaries of the shapes
cess

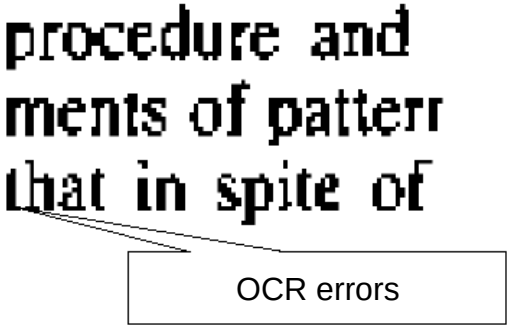
arance of characters until the

acters or touching characters

e resolution



Touching

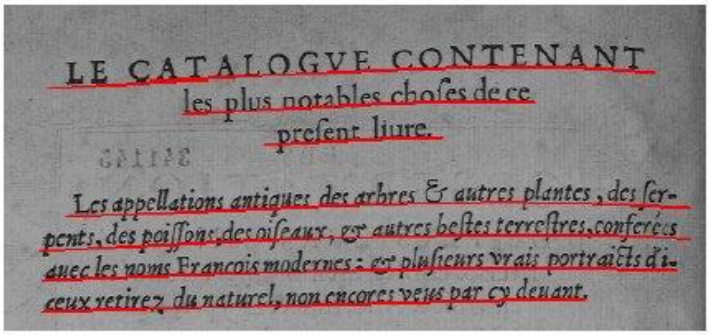


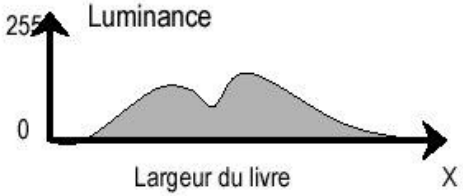
From Pixels…

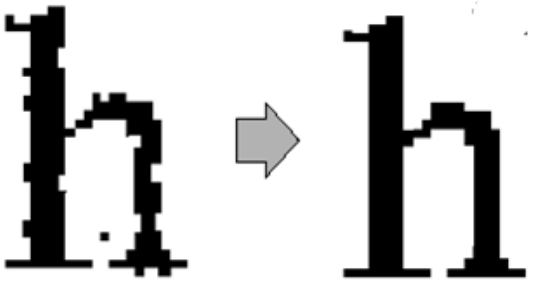
What is Image (pre-)processing?

After the digitization, the images usually still have a lot of defaults

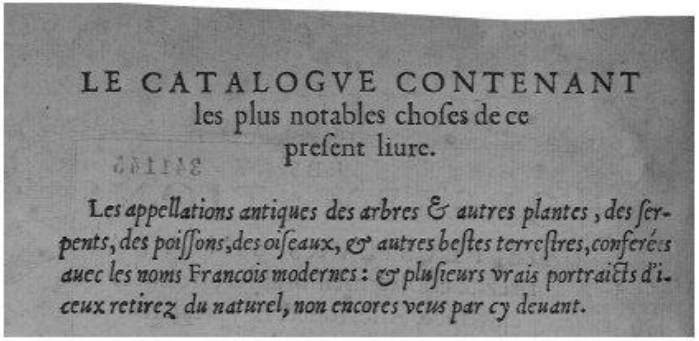
- Curvature and skew due to scanning
- Noise on boundaries, dots, blur, …

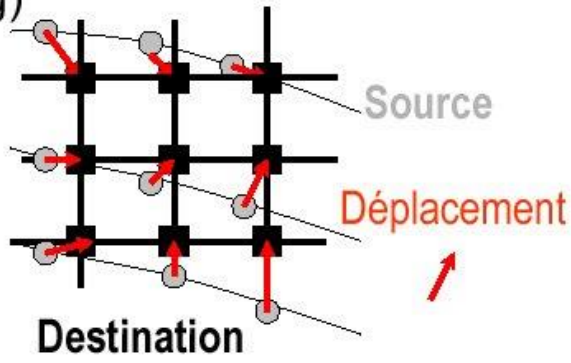


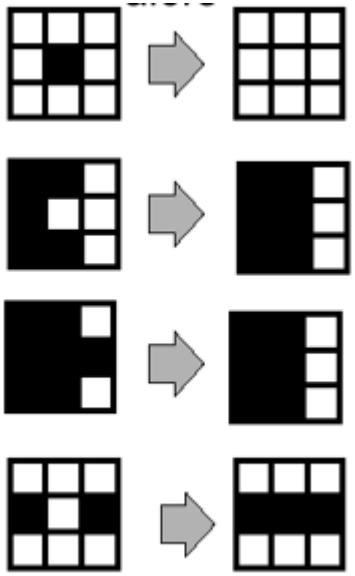




Corriger l'image (rotation, wrapping)



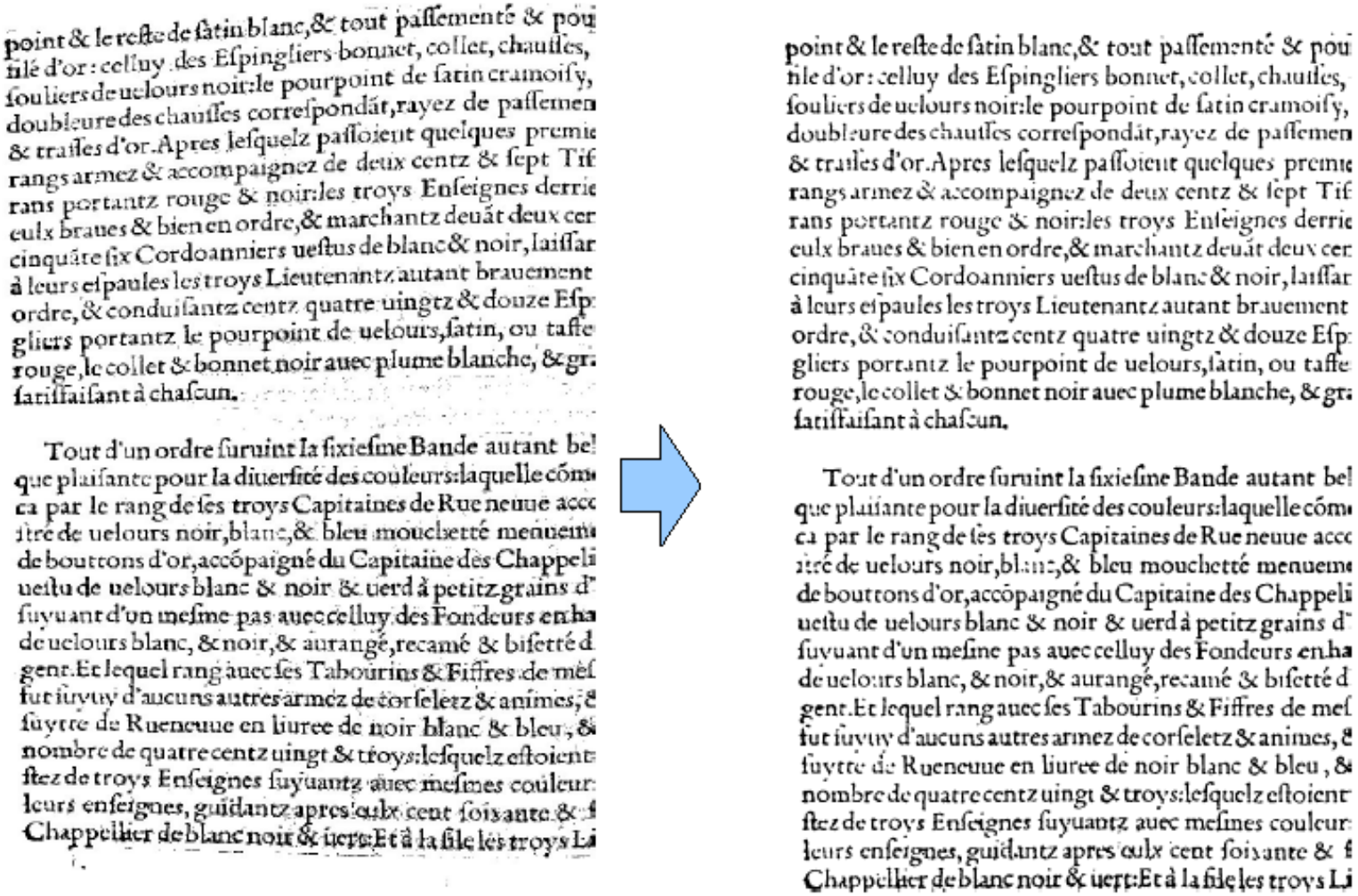




From Pixels…

Image (pre-)processing

Curvature and skew correction is possible on text images



point & le reſte de ſatin blanc,& tout paſſementé & pou
filé d'or: celluy des Eſpingliers bonnet, collet, chauſſes,
ſouliers de uelours noir:le pourpoint de ſatin cramoiſy,
doubleure des chauſſes correſpondãt,rayez de paſſemen
& trailles d'or.Apres leſquelz paſſoient quelques premie
rangs armez & accompaignez de deux centz & ſept Tif
rans portantz rouge & noir:les troys Enſeignes derrie
eulx braues & bien en ordre,& marchantz deuãt deux cer
cinquãte ſix Cordoanniers ueſtus de blanc & noir, laiſſar
à leurs eſpaules les troys Lieutenantz autant brauement
ordre, & conduiſantz centz quatre uingtz & douze Eſp
gliers portantz le pourpoint de uelours,ſatin, ou taffe
rouge,le collet & bonnet noir auec plume blanche, & gr
ſatiſfaiſant à chaſcun.

Tout d'un ordre ſuruint la ſixieſme Bande autant bel
que plaiſante pour la diuerſité des couleurs:laquelle cõm
ca par le rang de ſes troys Capitaines de Rue neuue acc
ſtré de uelours noir,blanc,& bleu mouchetté menuem
de bouttons d'or,accõpaigné du Capitaine des Chappeli
ueſtu de uelours blanc & noir & uerd à petitz grains d'
ſuyuant d'un meſme pas auec celluy des Fondeurs en ha
de uelours blanc, & noir,& aurangé,recamé & biſetté d
gent.Et lequel rang auec ſes Tabourins & Fiffres de meſ
fut ſuyuy d'aucuns autres armez de corſeletz & animes,&
ſuyte de Rueneuue en liuree de noir blanc & bleu, &
nombre de quatre centz uingt & troys:leſquelz eſtoient
ſtez de troys Enſeignes ſuyuantz auec meſmes couleur
leurs enſeignes, guidantz apres eulx cent ſoixante &
Chappellier de blanc noir & uert:Et à la file les troys Li

point & le reſte de ſatin blanc,& tout paſſementé & pou
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From Pixels…
Image (pre-)processing

The problem is more complicated in case of heterogeneous content

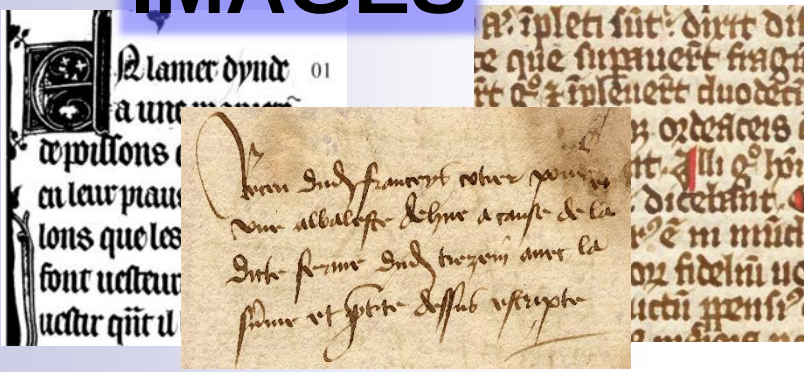
From Pixels…

Image (pre-)processing

The problem is more complicated in case of heterogeneous content

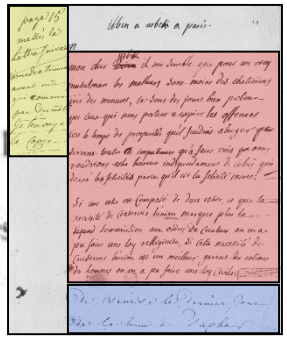
… to text and layout

IMAGES



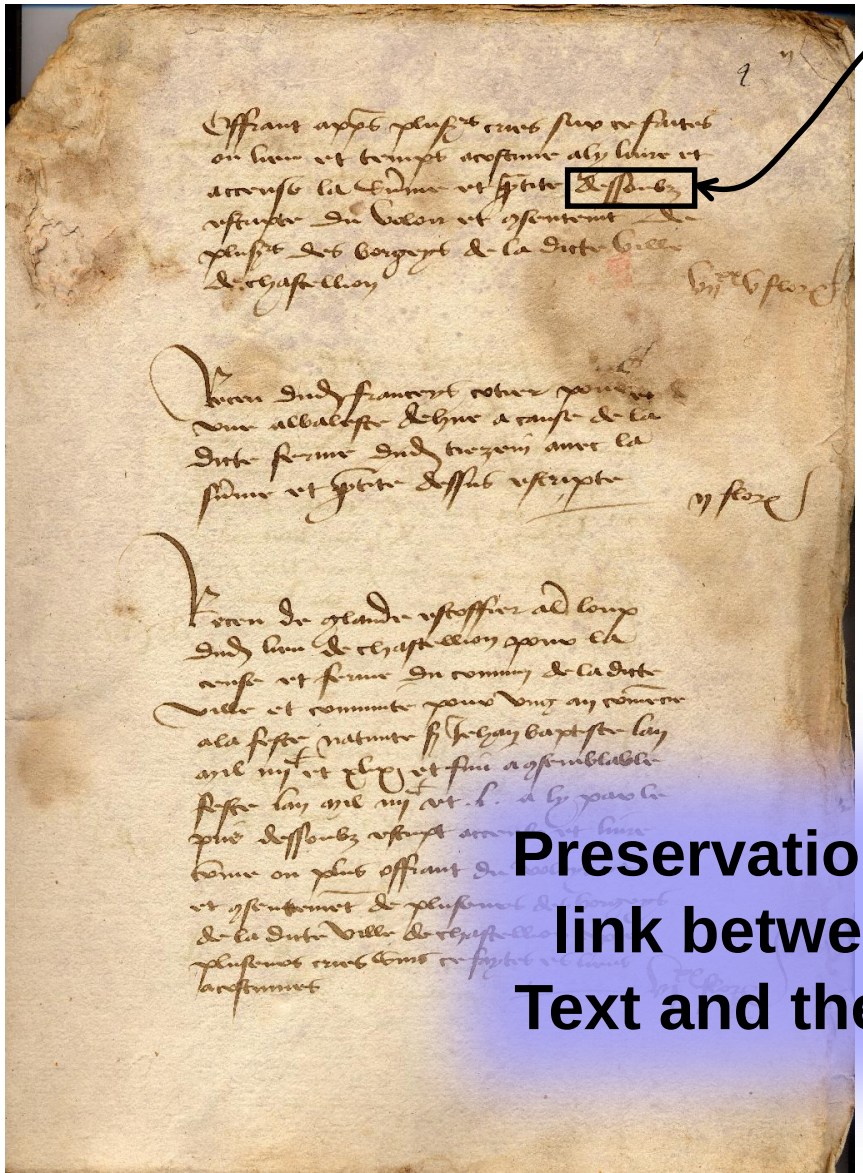
CONTENTS

Dans la Mer d'Inde
il y a une espèce
de poissons qui ont
dans leur peau des poi
longs que les gens,
quant il les ont attrapés
en font des vêtements
pour s'habiller.



From pixels … to text

Automatic transcription but also layout Analysis



1-Offrant appres plusieurs rues sur ce faites
2-au lieu et temps acostume aly livre et
3- accenste la somme et quantite dessoulz
4-estempte du voloir et consentement de
5-plusieurs des borgeys de la dite ville
6-de chastellion _____IIIIxXX V
flor(ins)

7-receu dudit franceys rotier pour
8-une albaleste dehue a cause de la
9-dite ferme dudit trezein avec la
10-somme et quantite dessus estempte ?
11- _____II flor(ins)

12-receu de Alexandre ? escoffier al loup ?
13- dudit lieu de chatellion pour la
14-rense et ferme du commun de la dite
15-ville et communaute ? pour ung an commettre ?
16-alaleste nativite fi jehan baptiste lan
17-mil quatre cent et cinquante? A ly par le
18-pris dessouls esempt accense et hure ?
19-[illegible] au plus offrant du voloyr et
20-et consentement de pluseures des bourgeys
21-de la dite ville de chastellion apres
22-pluseures rues ….refaytes es lieus ?

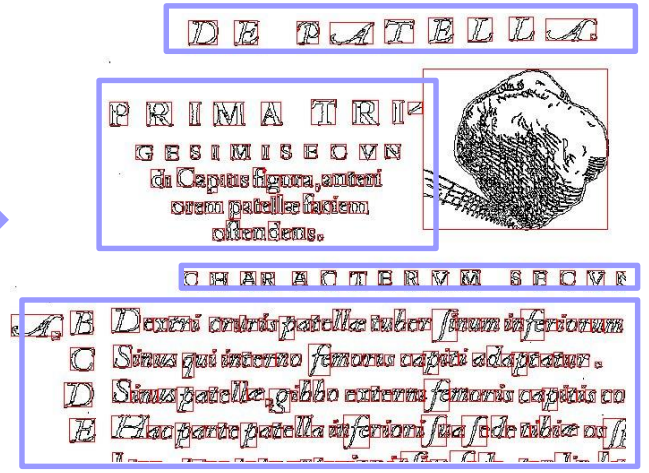
Preservation of the link between the Text and the Image

From pixels … to text

An overview of OCR mechanisms

First step : Image segmentation

- Transformation of the image (set of pixels) into patterns (regions of interest) of higher level **(EoC)**
- These EoC could be very simple (part of characters) or more sophisticated ones (paragraphs, illustrations, …)
- EoC extraction: Background (white) / Foreground (black) separation
- **Color Image ➔ Grayscale ➔ binarisation**

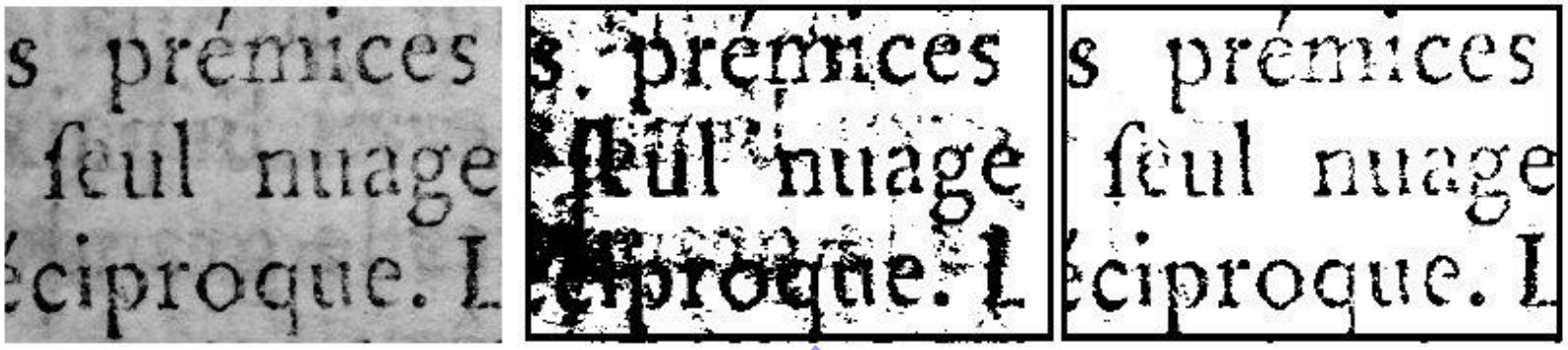


EoC

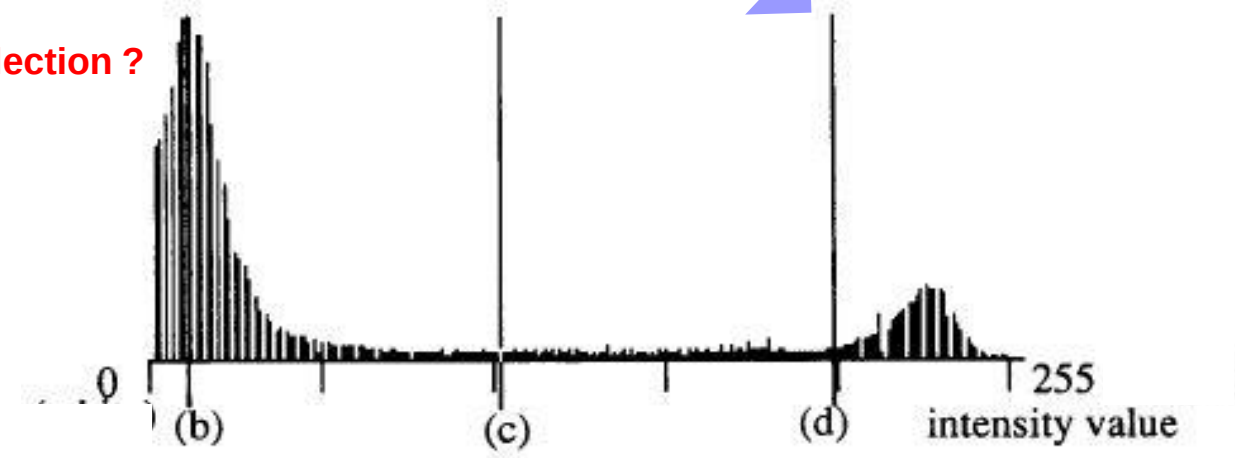
From pixels … to text
An overview of OCR mechanisms

Just to illustrate the difficulties…

- Most of the segmentation methods need a binarisation



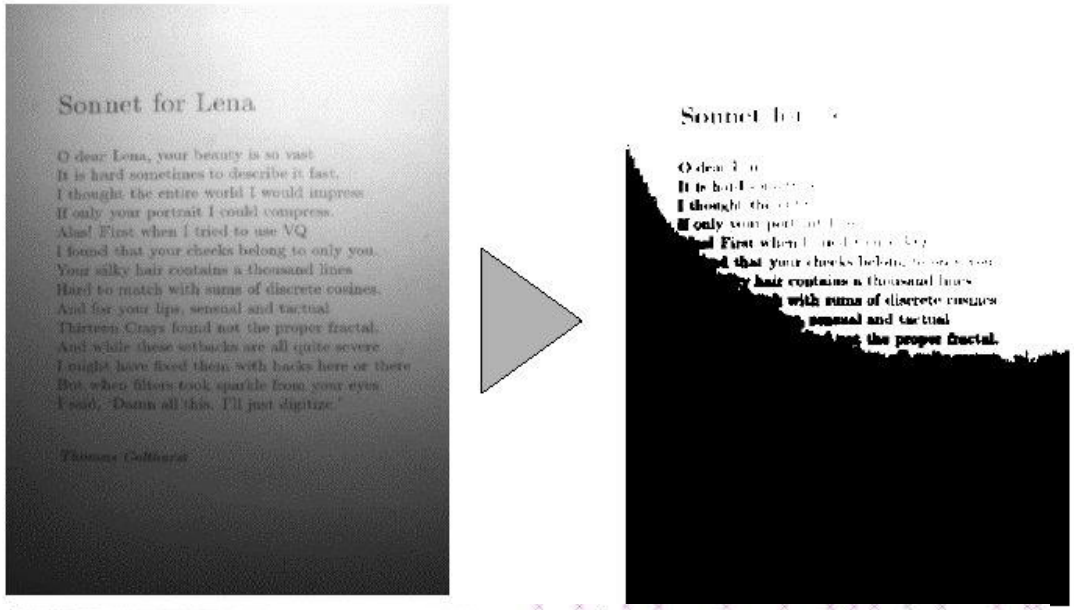
Threshold selection ?



From pixels … to text
An overview of OCR mechanisms

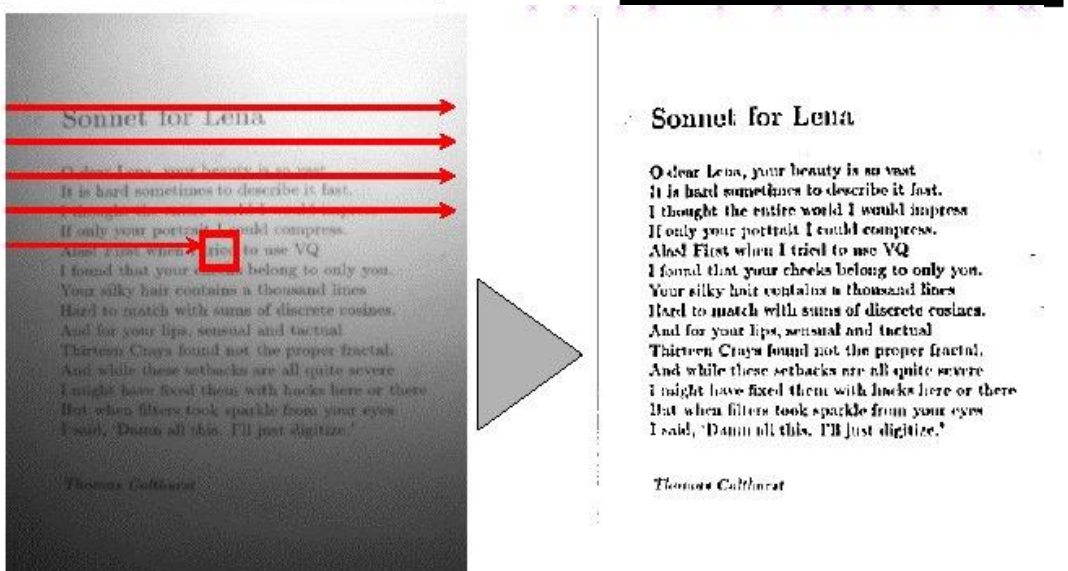
Just to illustrate the difficulties…

- Most of the segmentation methods need a binarisation
- Global threshold ➔



- Local thresholds ➔

  Niblack : $S = m + ks^2$ avec k= -0,2
  | *m* : mean et s : standard deviation

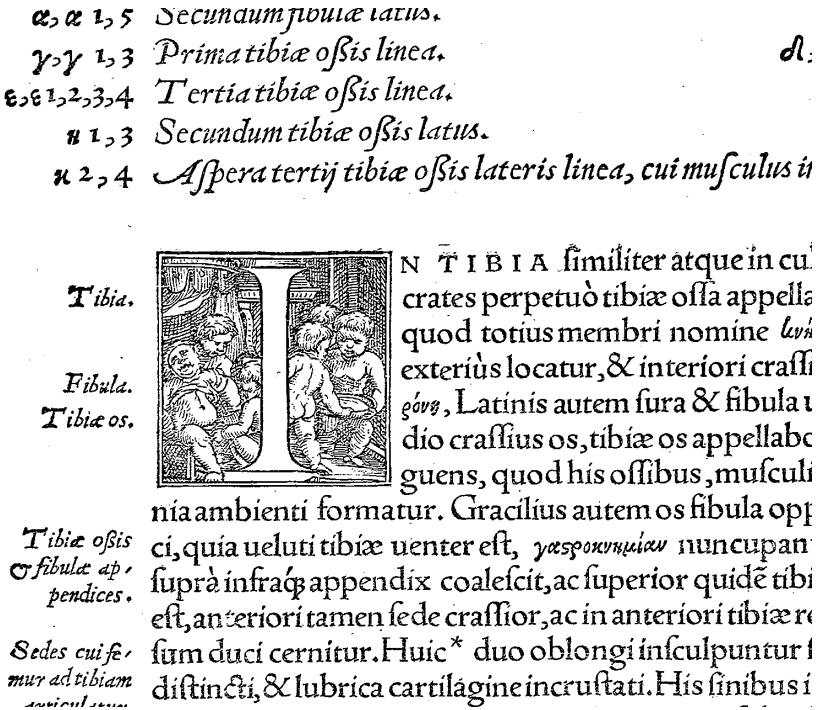


From pixels … to text

An overview of OCR mechanisms

First step: Image segmentation / Connected components

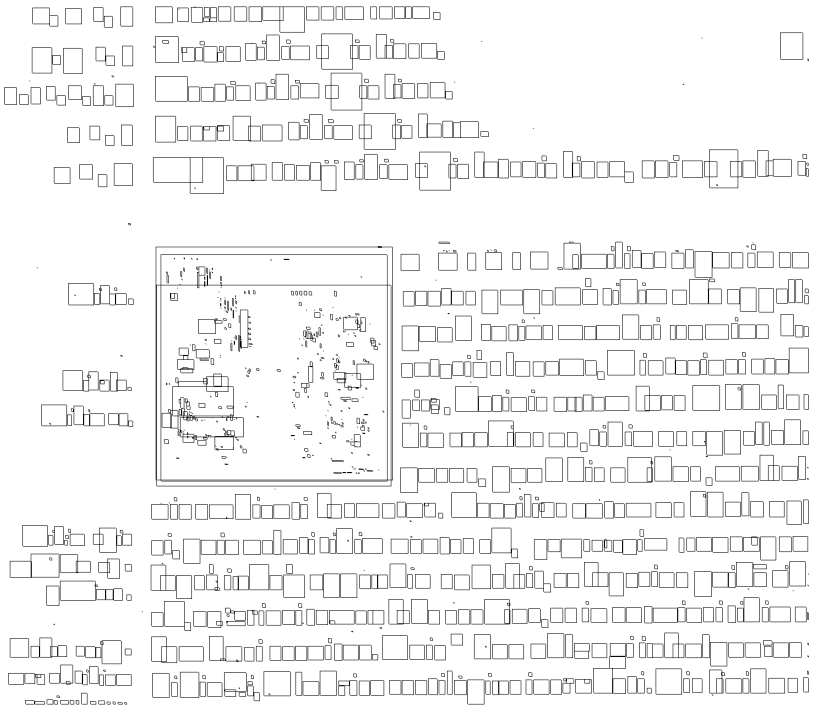
- Then, we can try to group black pixels together to **localize** and **recognize** higher level Element of Content **(EoC)**



α, α 1, 5 Secundum fibulæ latus.
γ, γ 1, 3 Prima tibiæ oſſis linea.
ε, ε 1, 2, 3, 4 Tertia tibiæ oſſis linea.
ϗ 1, 3 Secundum tibiæ oſſis latus.
ϗ 2, 4 Aſpera tertij tibiæ oſſis lateris linea, cui muſculus i

Tibia.
Fibula.
Tibiæ os.
Tibiæ oſſis & fibulæ appendices.
Sedes cui femur adtibiam

N TIBIA ſimiliter atque in cu
crates perpetuò tibiæ oſſa appella
quod totius membri nomine
exteriùs locatur, & interiori craſſi
, Latinis autem ſura & fibula
dio craſſius os, tibiæ os appellabo
guens, quod his oſſibus, muſculi
nia ambienti formatur. Gracilius autem os fibula opp
ci, quia ueluti tibiæ uenter eſt, nuncupan
ſuprà infraq; appendix coaleſcit, ac ſuperior quidē tibi
eſt, anteriori tamen ſede craſſior, ac in anteriori tibiæ r
ſum duci cernitur. Huic* duo oblongi inſculpuntur
diſtincti, & lubrica cartilagine incruſtati. His ſinibus i



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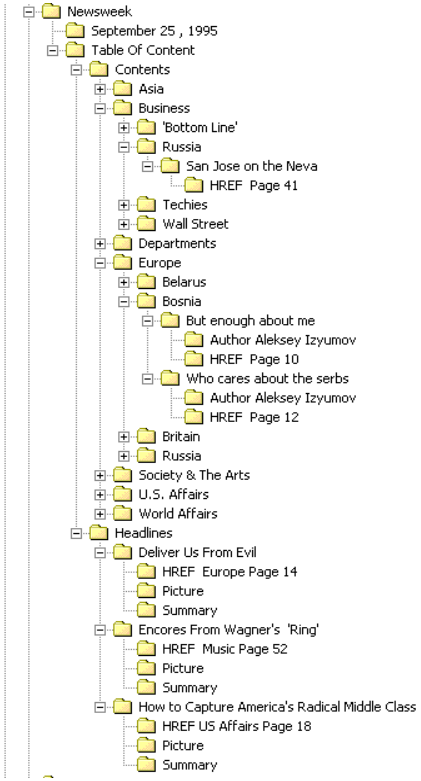
From pixels … to text
An overview of OCR mechanisms

Next step : Layout analysis

- Connected Components ➔ Words ➔ Lines ➔ Paragraphs ➔ Page
- The results have to be saved in XML format (Alto, …)
- Choosing how to organize the XML tree (physical / logical) is not so easy…



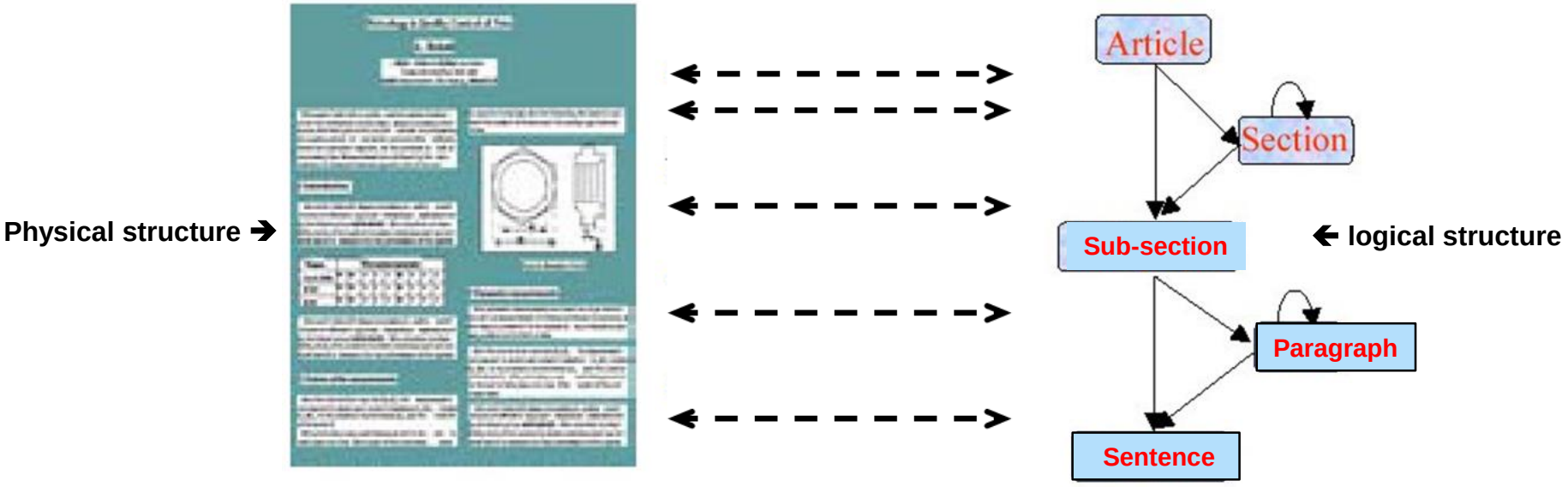
From pixels … to text

An overview of OCR mechanisms

Next step : Layout analysis

Two kind of structures have been identified by researchers in DIA:

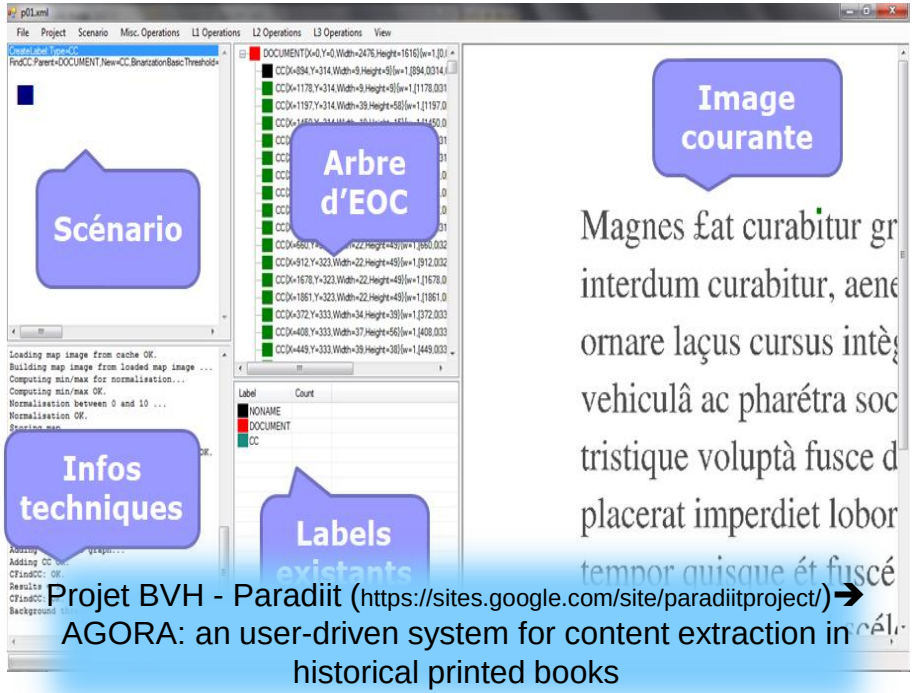
- The logical structure ➔ the generic one corresponding to a priori knowledge about the content of the document
- The physical structure ➔ the analysed instance corresponding to the extracted EoC inside the image, each one associated to descriptive features (size, position, number of sub-patterns, …)
- Layout analysis tries to recognize these 2 structures (EoC identification)



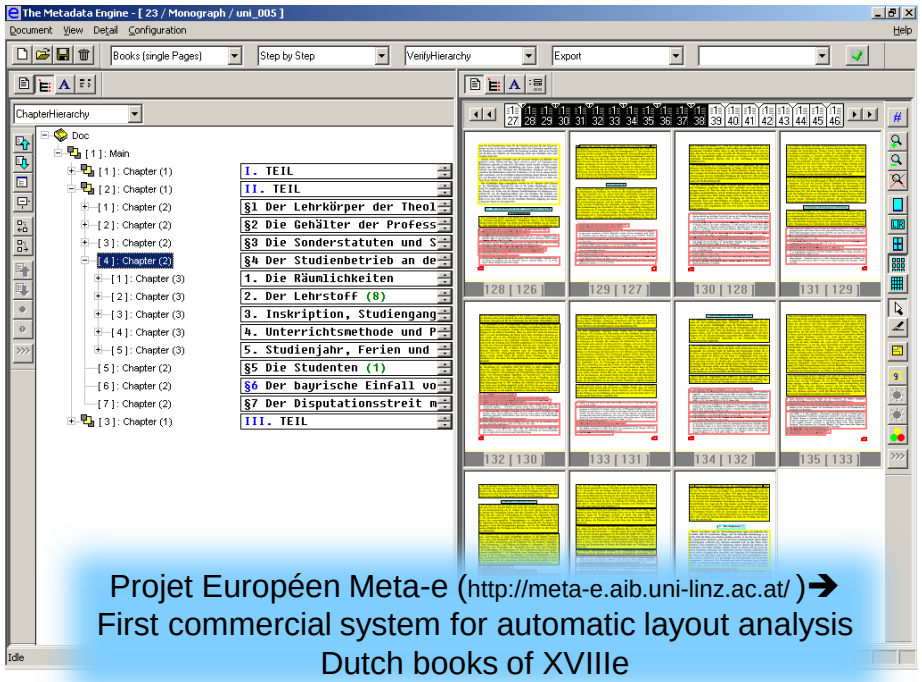
From pixels … to text
An overview of OCR mechanisms

Next step : Layout analysis

- The analysis / identification of the EoC is usually achieved based on a rule based system defined through a grammar (static one) or defined interactively by the users



Projet BVH - Paradiit (https://sites.google.com/site/paradiitproject/)➔
AGORA: an user-driven system for content extraction in historical printed books



Projet Européen Meta-e (http://meta-e.aib.uni-linz.ac.at/)➔
First commercial system for automatic layout analysis Dutch books of XVIIIe

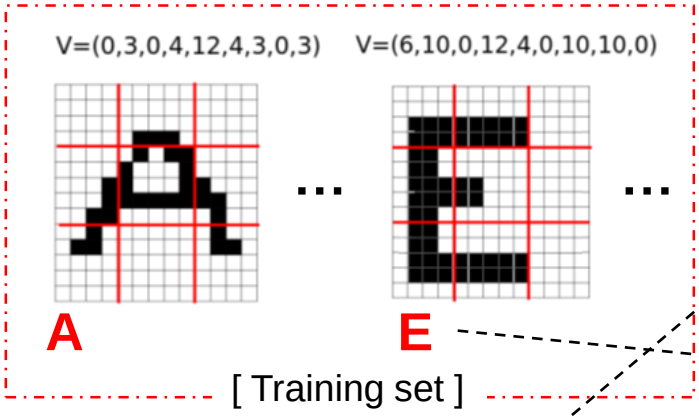
From pixels … to text

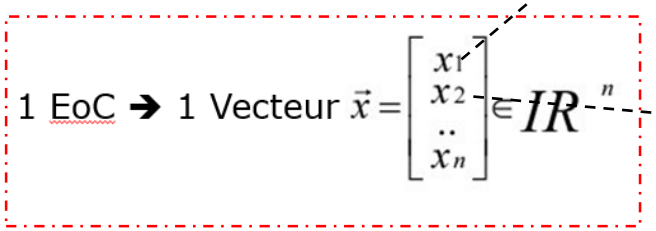
An overview of OCR mechanisms

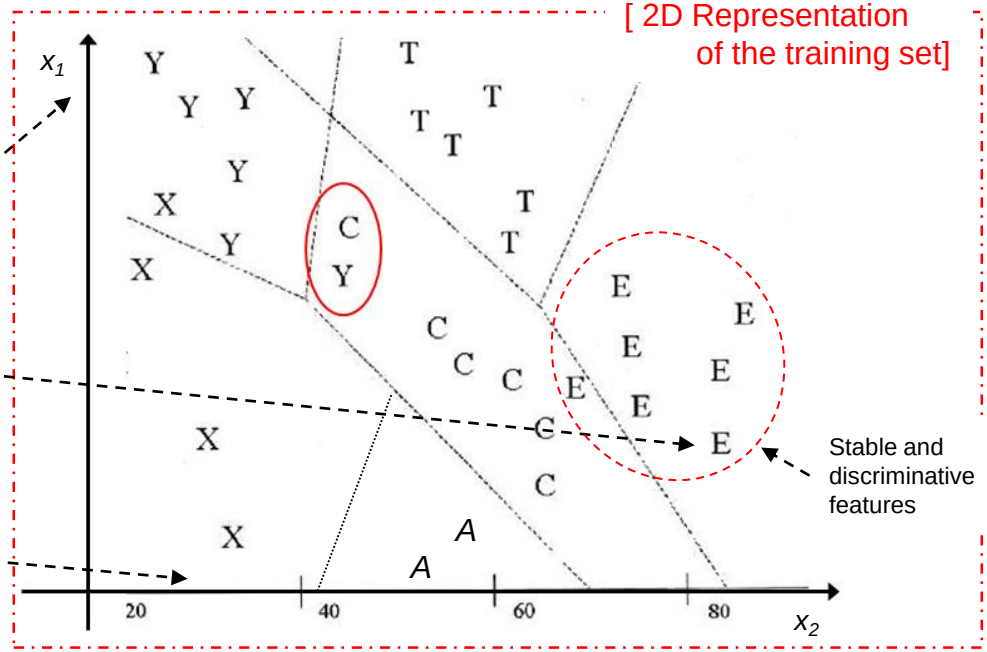
Next step : Pattern / EoC recognition (toward Machine Learning)

How computers can recognize objects?

- We need a large set of (labelled) examples similar to the patterns to be recognized ➔ **a training set**
- We need a list of stable and discriminative **features** (shape, color, size,…) used to describe the patterns (labelled ones and unknown one)







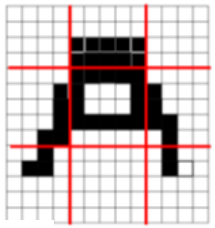
From pixels … to text

An overview of OCR mechanisms

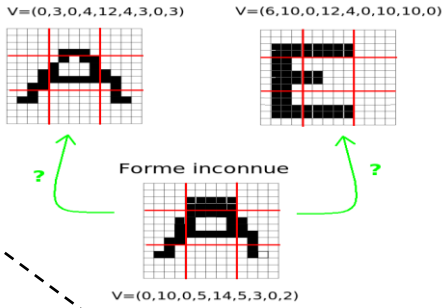
Next step : Pattern / EoC recognition (toward Machine Learning)

How computers can recognize objects?

- When an unknown EoC arrives, we compute its features and compare it with the content of the training set (associated built models)



V=(0,10,0,5,14,5,3,0,2)

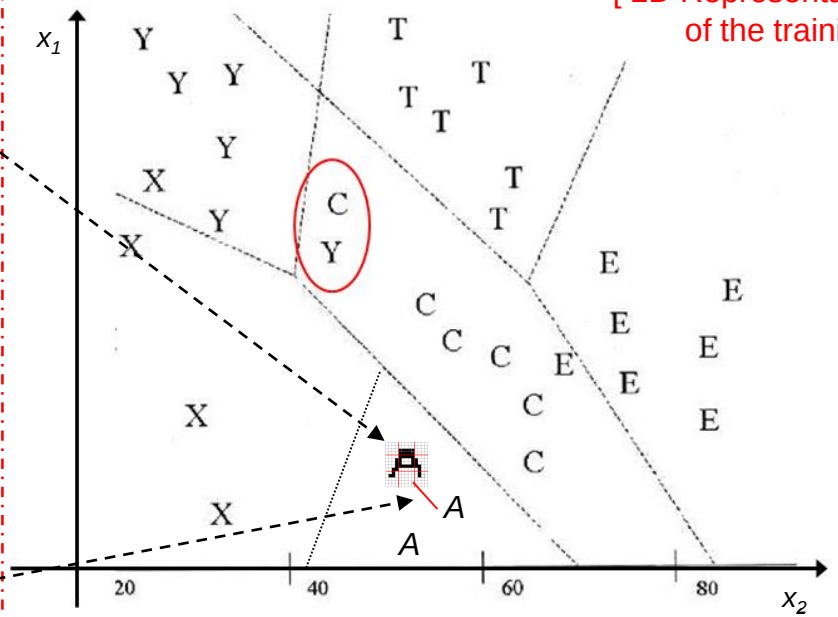


A

$$D(A,?) = \sqrt{(0-0)^2 + (3-10)^2 + (0-0)^2 + (4-5)^2 + \ldots + (3-2)^2}$$

$$D(A,?) = 7,48 \text{ et } D(B,?) = 19,05$$

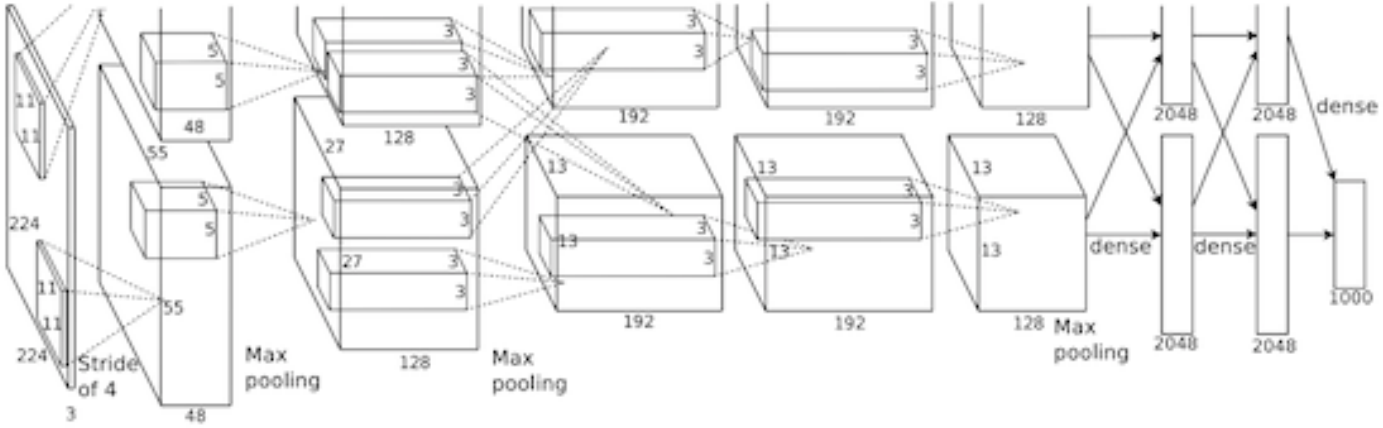
[2D Representation of the training set]

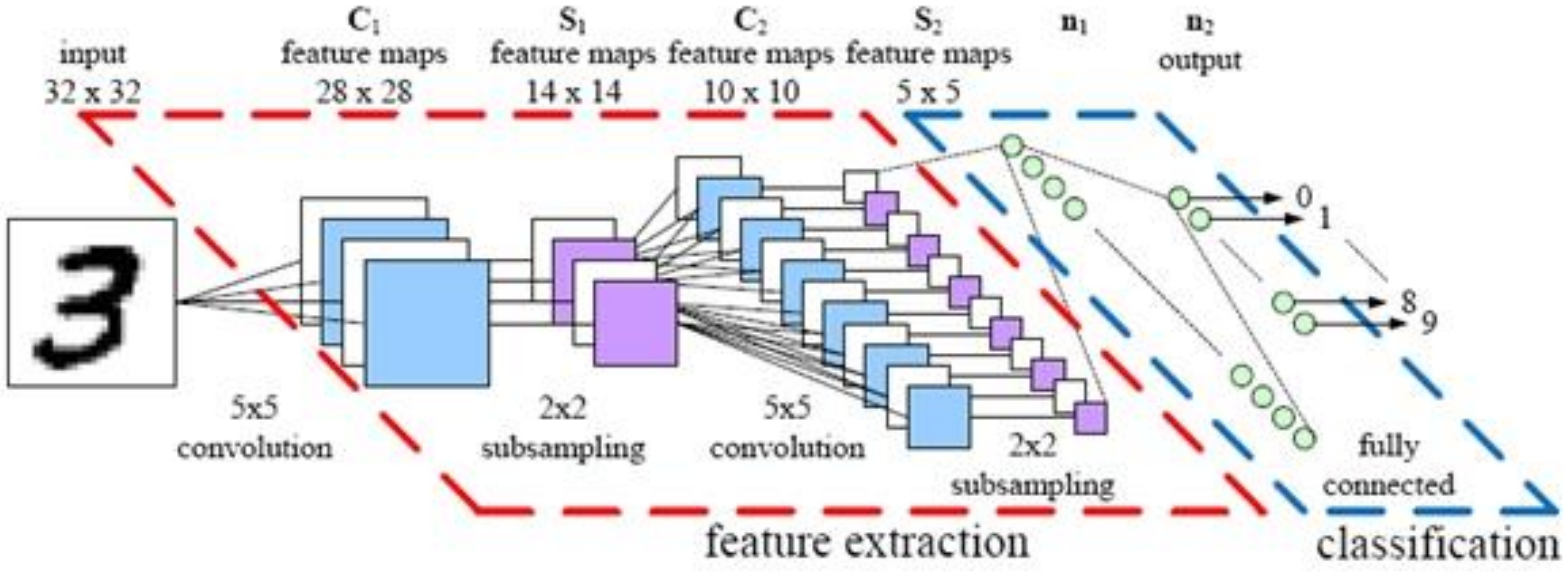


From pixels … to text

An overview of OCR mechanisms

Deep Learning (Conv. Neural Net)

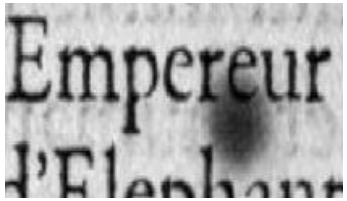


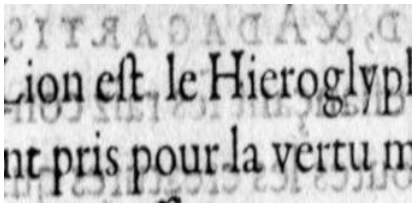


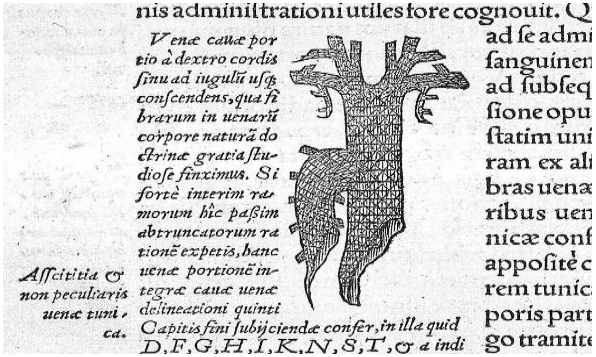
From pixels … to text

An overview of OCR mechanisms

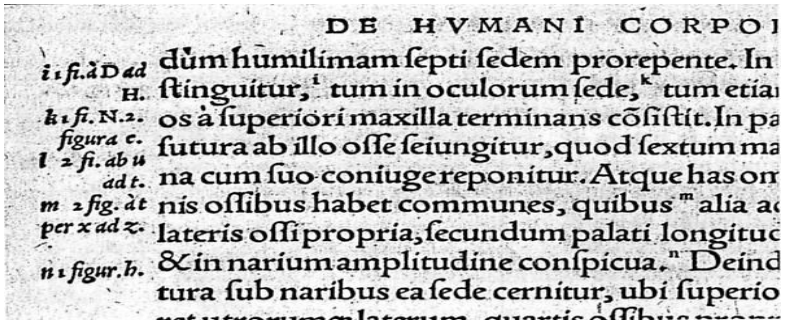
- **Why commercial OCR are not working well on historical documents?**
  - Noises and degradations
  - Unusual layout
  - Unsuited training set

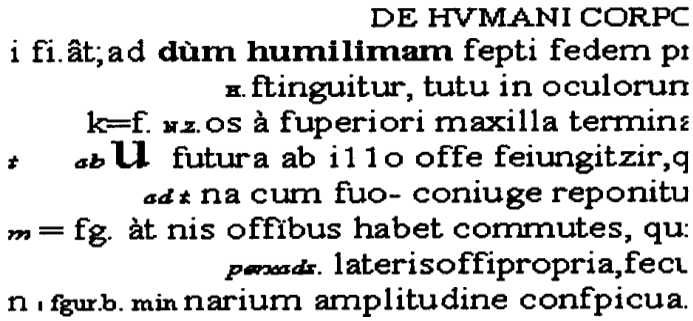






Fine Reader

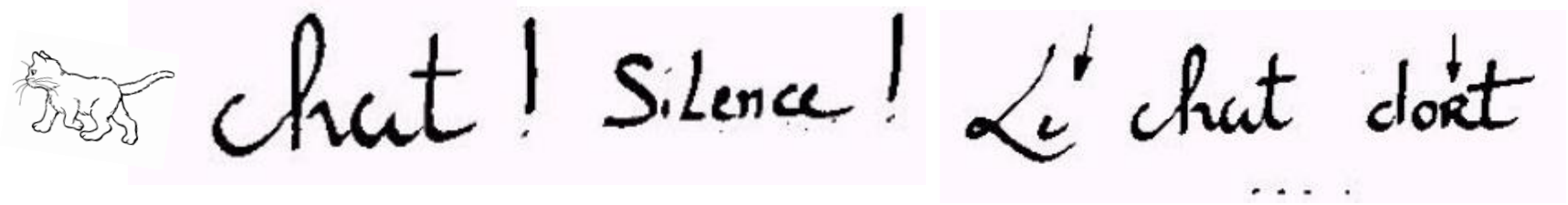




From pixels … to text
An overview of OCR mechanisms

- **Why commercial OCR are not working well on historical documents?**
- Lack of data, knowledge and experiences
  - Unusual fonts and characters ➔ training data needs to be created
  - Unusual languages➔ Lexicons, dictionaries and language models need to be created

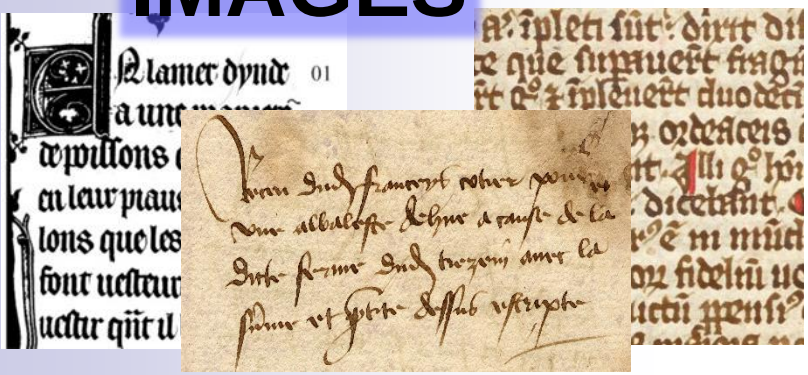
- Context often allows to modify our understanding of what is perceived by our senses
  - Until now, we tried to recognized EoC without using their context
  - The same EoC could be interpreted differently according to its surrounding context
  - Results of OCR are highly correlated to the adequacy of the used **word dictionary**



- Is there methods that need less a priori knowledge?
- Processing non-Textual parts can be good source of inspiration?

… to non-text

IMAGES



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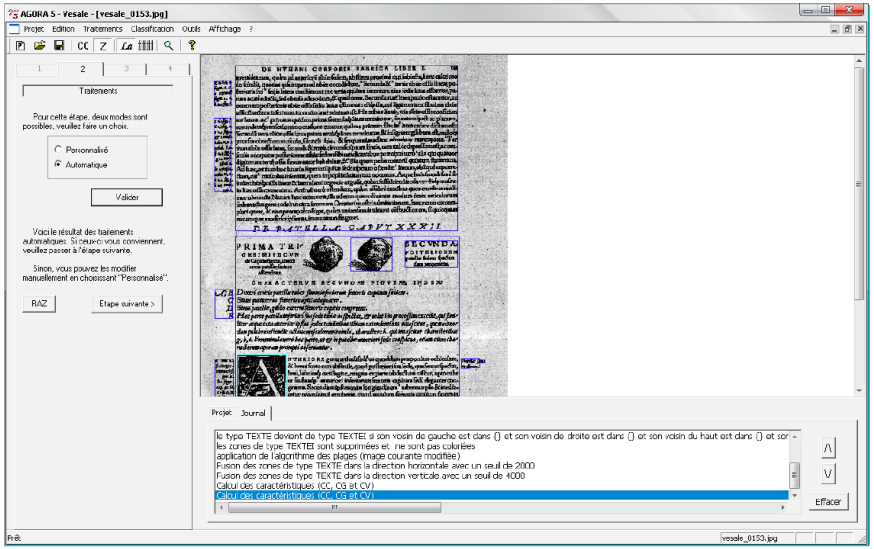
From pixels … to non-textual contents

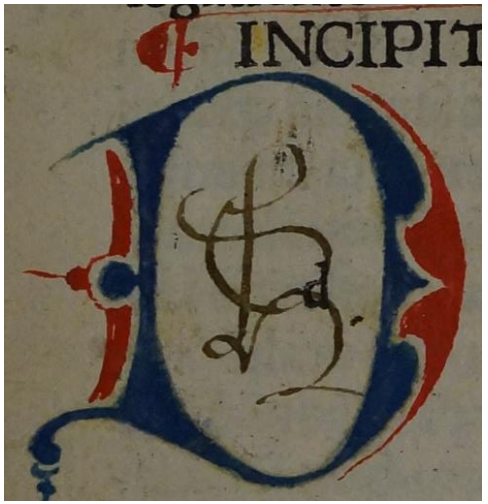
Pictorial Content is also of high interest



- **Ornamental letters (+of 20000)**

- **Figures (+ de 1500)**

BATYR: http://www.bvh.univ-tours.fr



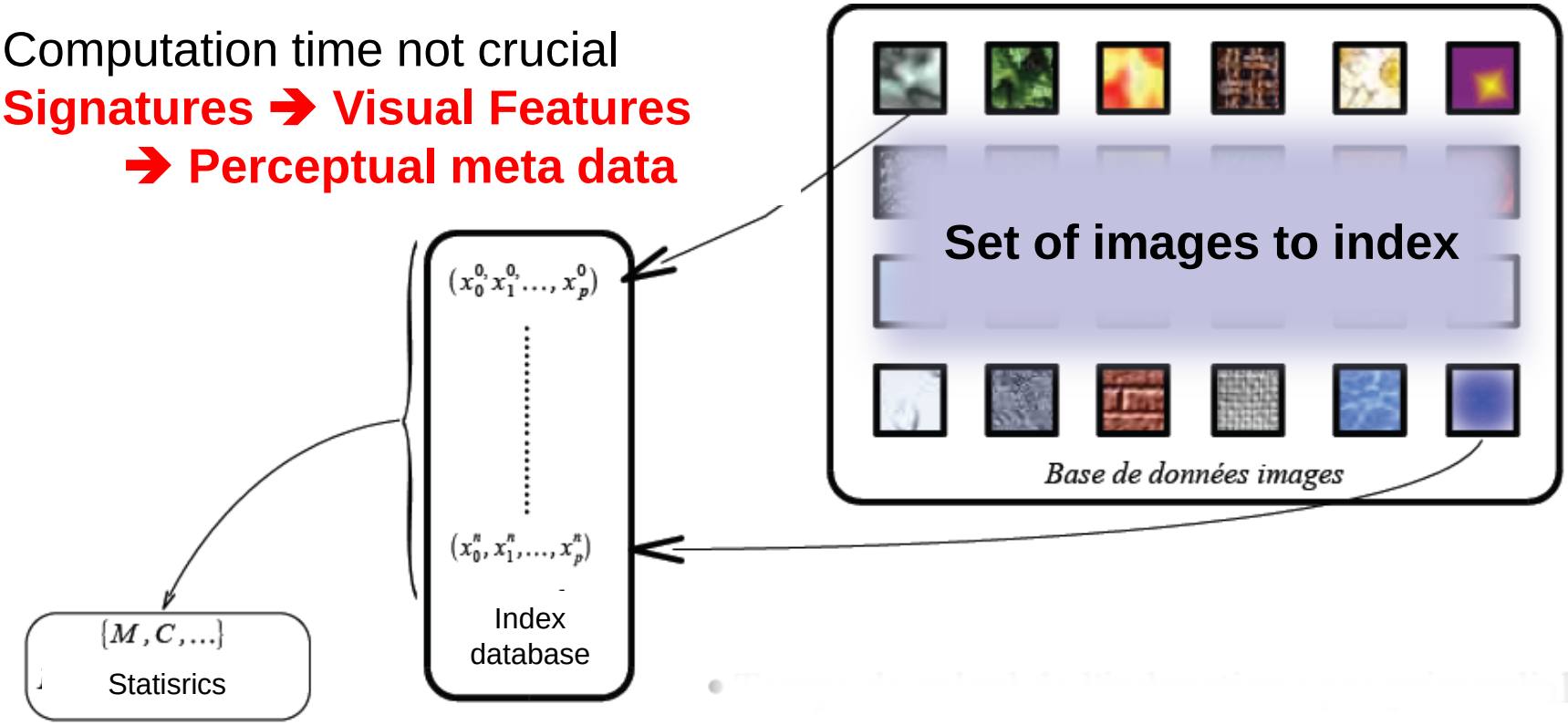
From pixels … to non-textual contents

An overview of Content Based Image Retrieval

Perceptual meta data instead of classical meta data

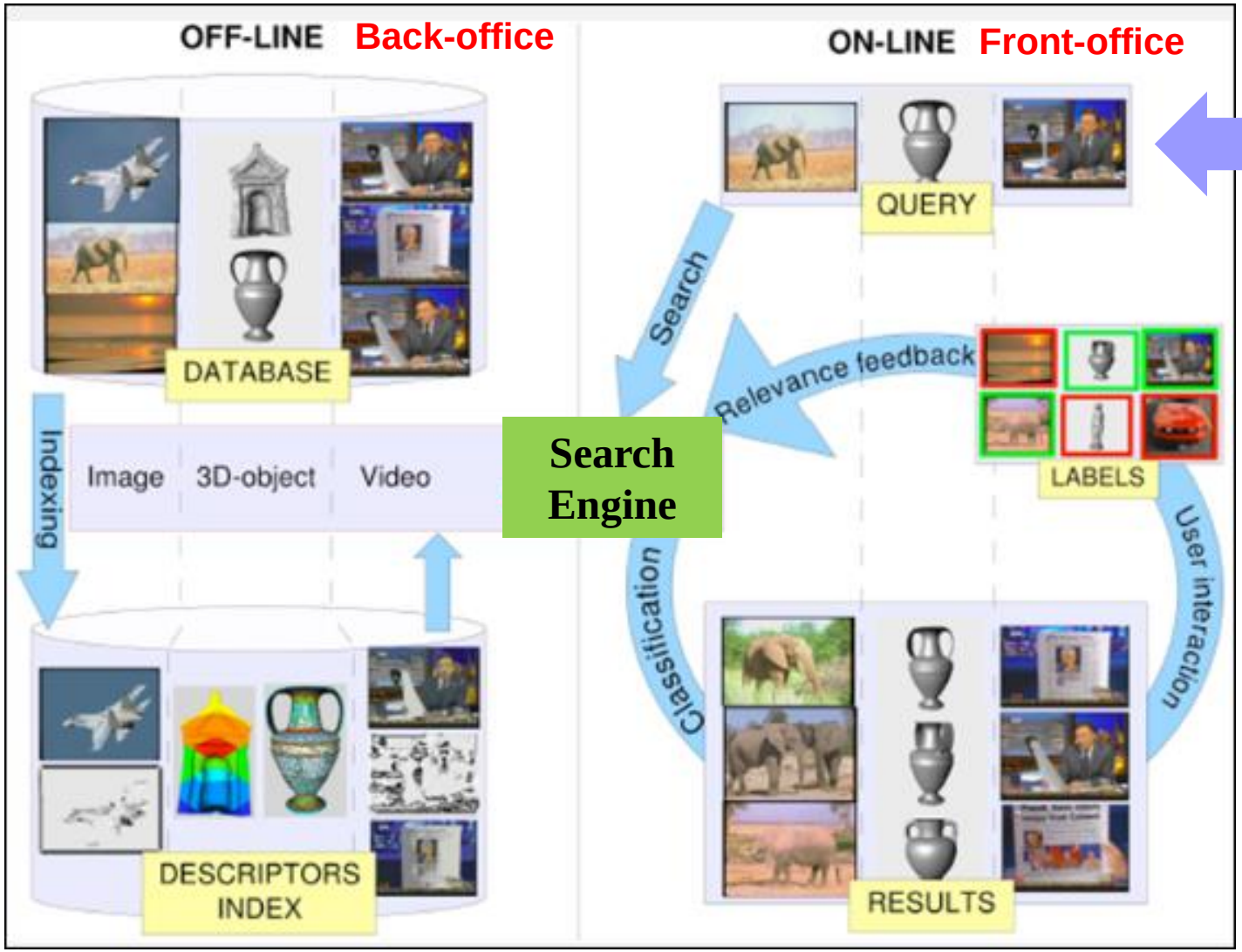
- Computation of signatures for all the images or even **sub-parts of the images (EoC)**

- Computation time not crucial
- **Signatures ➔ Visual Features**
  ➔ Perceptual meta data



From pixels … to non-textual contents

An overview of Content Based Image Retrieval



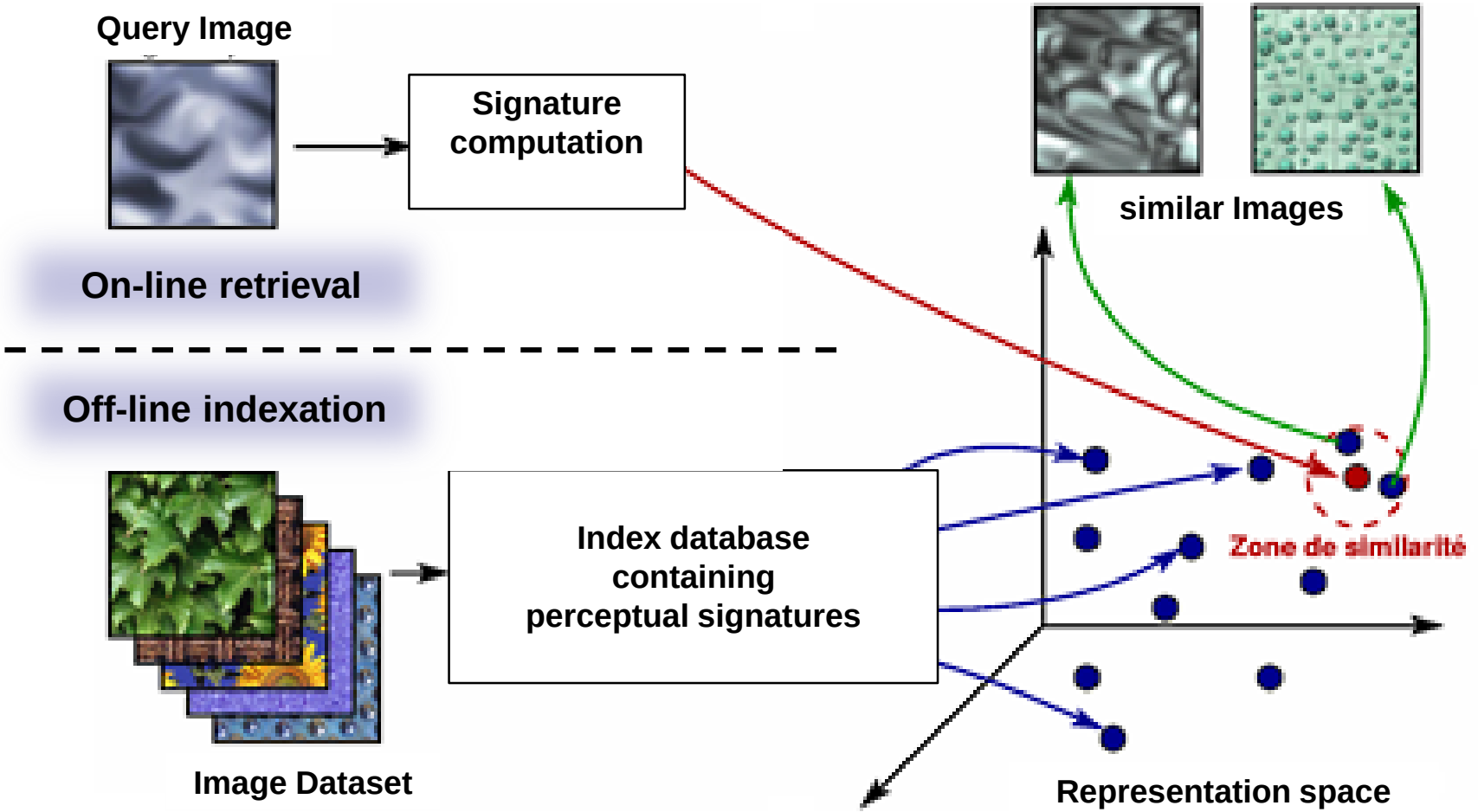
Using images as query instead of words

From pixels … to non-textual contents

An overview of Content Based Image Retrieval

It is again a question of features…

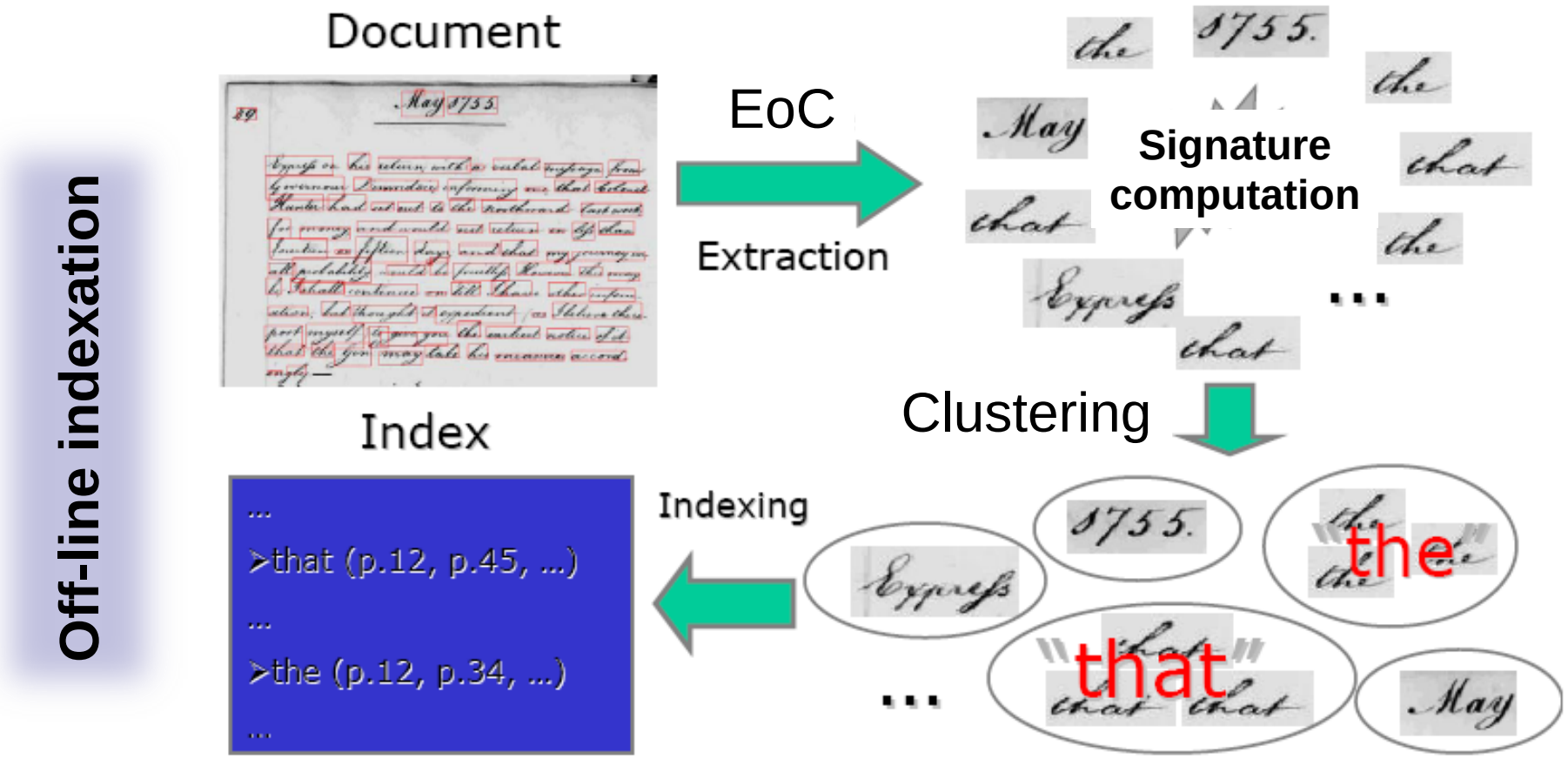
➔ We speak about signatures



From pixels … to non-textual contents

An overview of Content Based Image Retrieval

- From CBIR to Word spotting



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From pixels … to non-textual contents

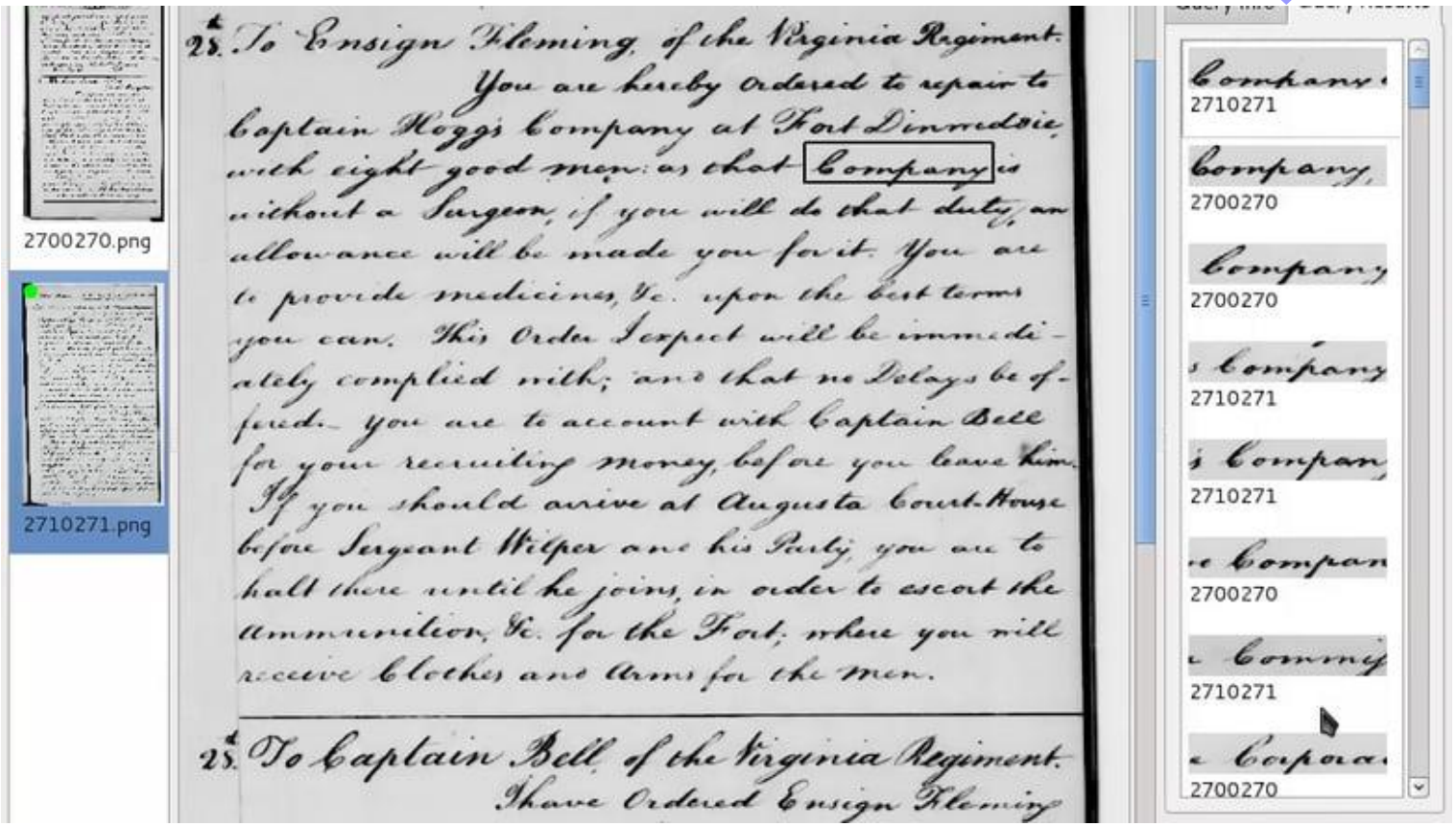
An overview of Content Based Image Retrieval

- From CBIR to Word spotting

On-line Retrieval

Query images

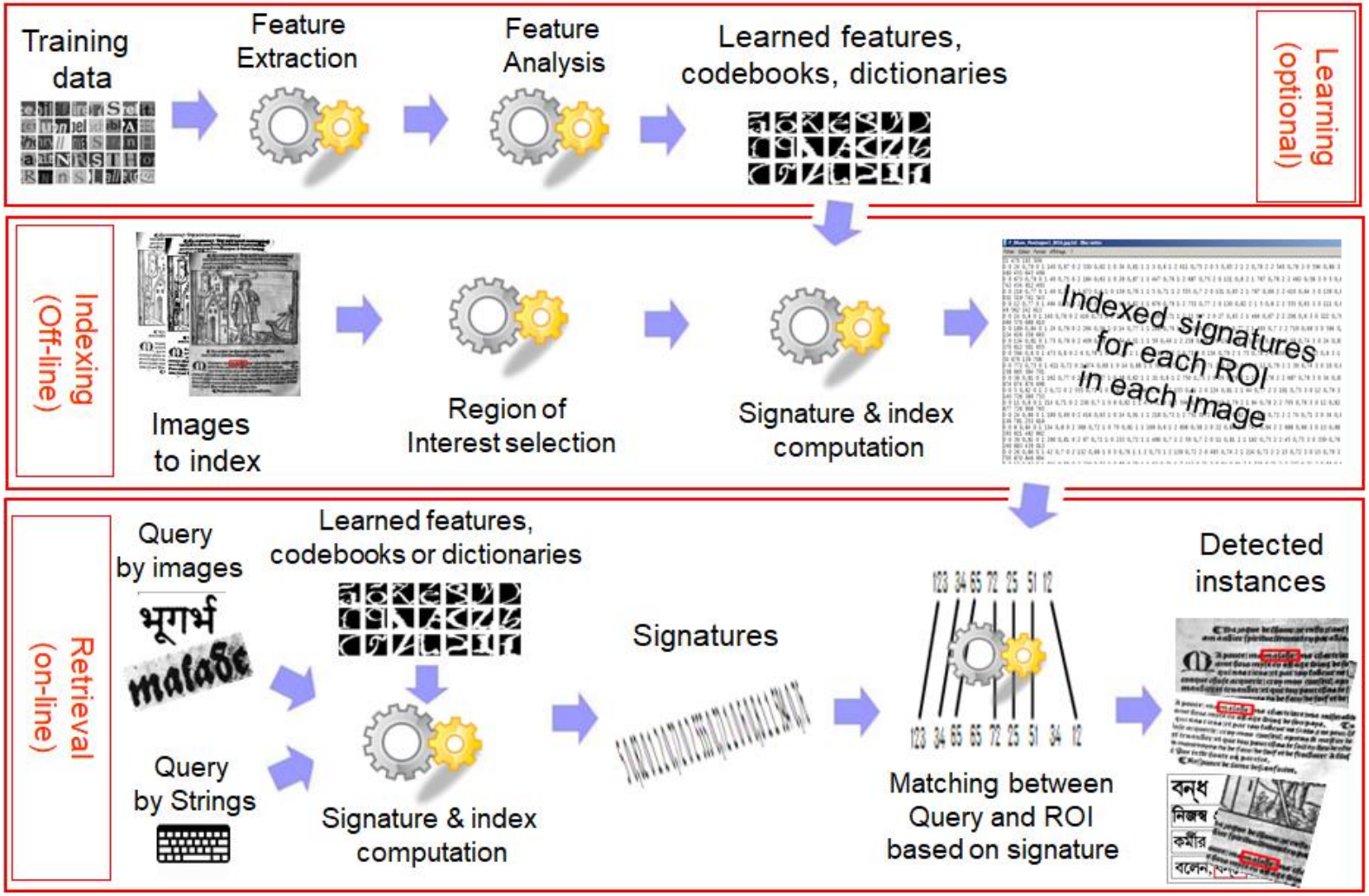
Results: retrieved images



From pixels … to non-textual contents

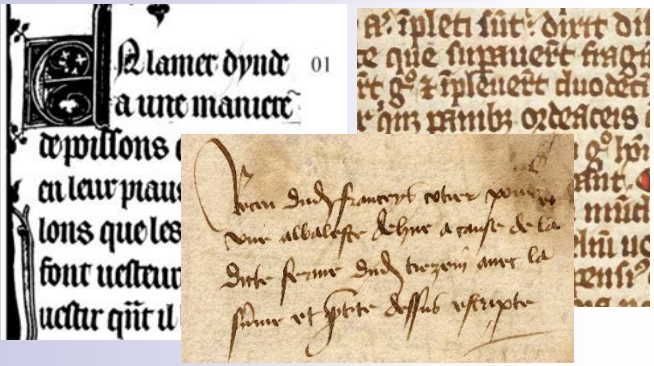
An overview of Content Based Image Retrieval

- From CBIR to Word spotting



Is it just a question of meta-data?

IMAGES



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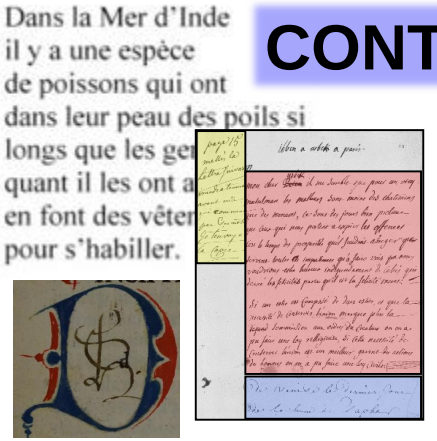
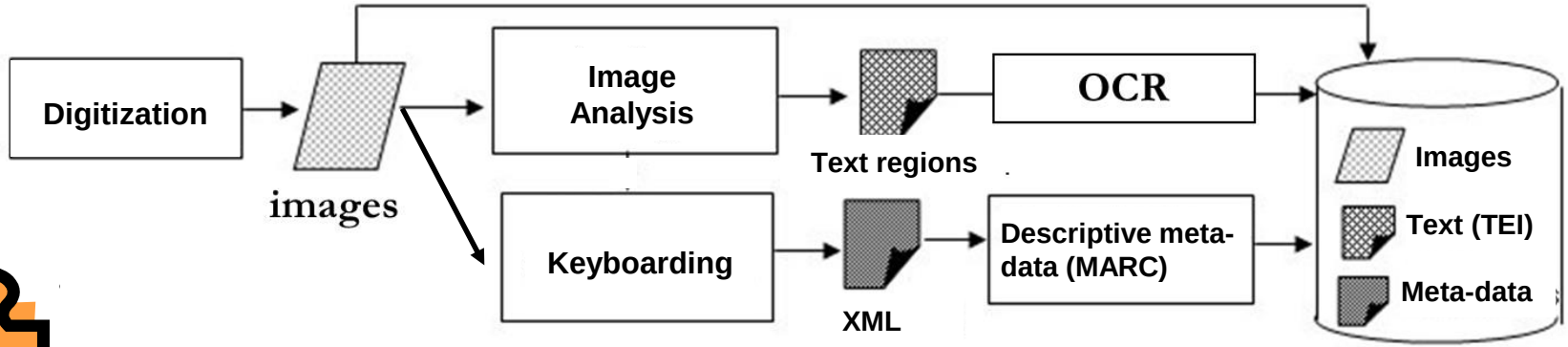
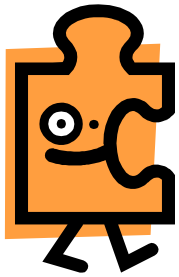

Dans la Mer d'Inde
il y a une espèce
de poissons qui ont
dans leur peau des poils si
longs que les ge
quant il les ont a
en font des vête
pour s'habiller.

The standard model
Descriptive meta-data + transcription

We have usually

- Descriptive meta-data in standard formats **(MARC, EAD, Dublin Core, MODS, …)**
  - Edited manually
  - “Semantical” information
- Text transcription associated to additional meta-data (TEI)
  - Semi-automatic transcription or manually edited
  - “Semantical” information

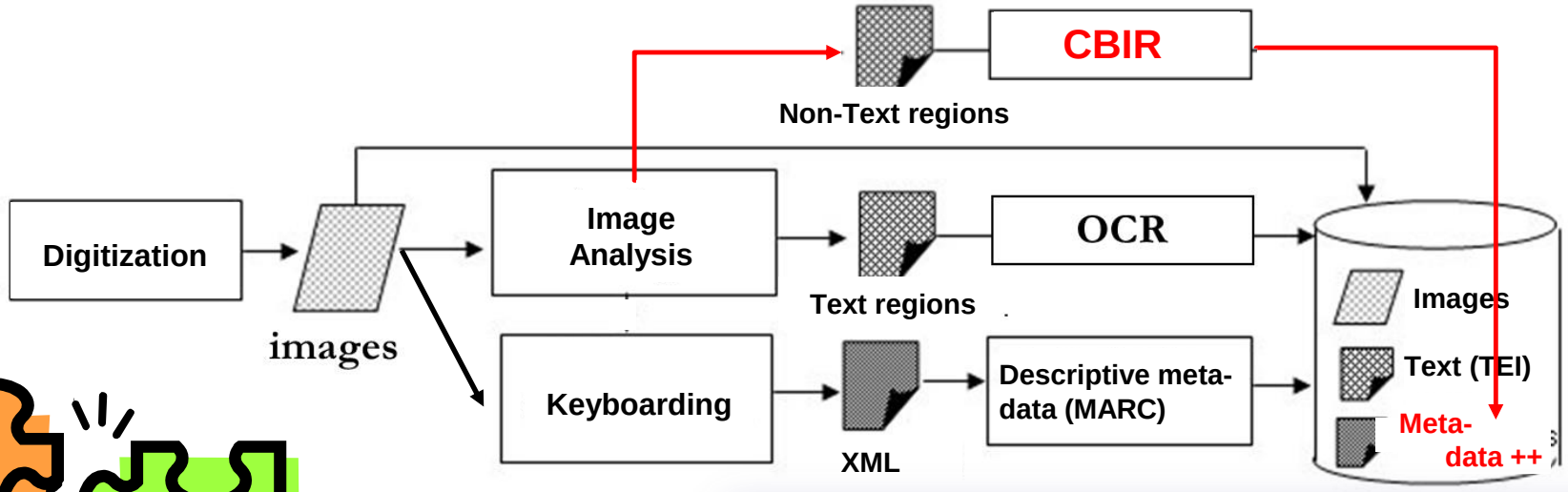


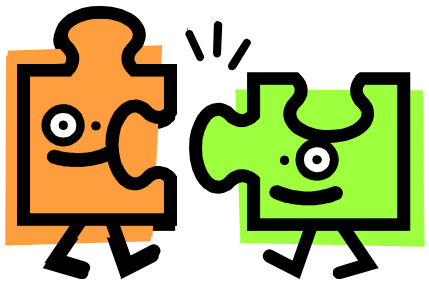


“Semantical” meta-data

The standard model
Perceptual meta-data

- It seems that **CBIR can help** to extract and save supplementary information about image content (EoC) without going to the semantical aspect (recognition)
  - Regions of interest
  - Visual features ➔ Perceptual **signatures and index**
  - Shapes, positions, colors, textures, … ➔ Numerical values (vectors)





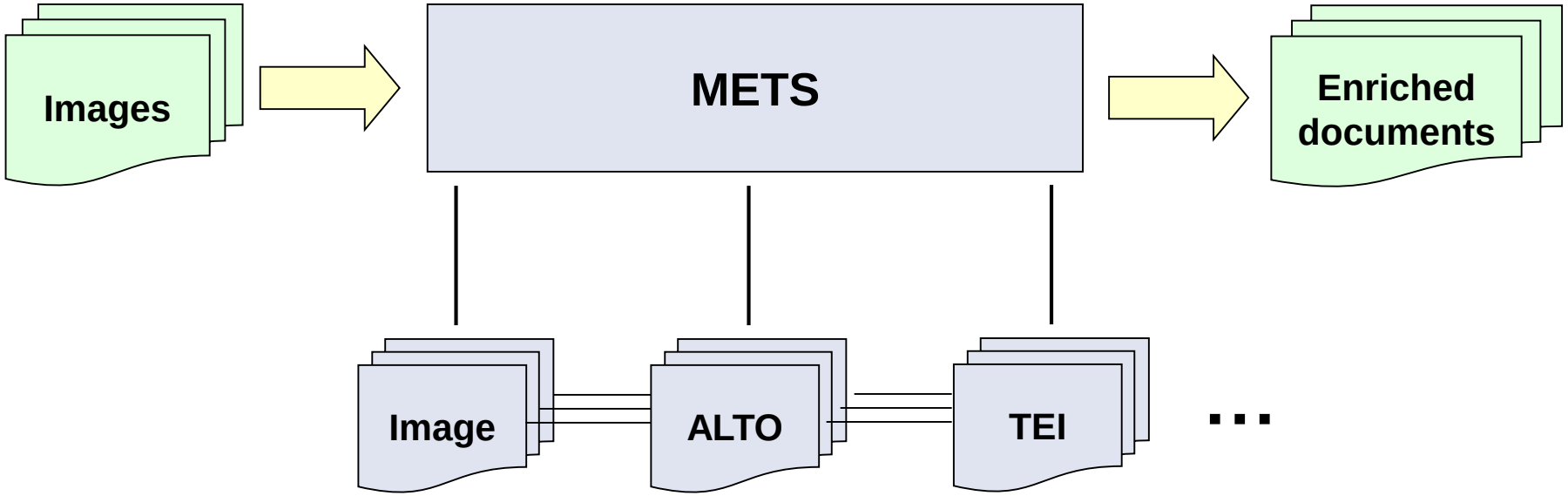
+ “Perceptual” meta-data

Is it just a problem of Meta-data?

What about the encoding formats?

Structuration of data and file formats is a difficult problem

- Data architects are needed
- Some interesting formats linked with previous discussions
  - **METS – Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard**
  - ALTO – Analyzed Layout and Text Object
  - TEI – Text Encoding Initiative

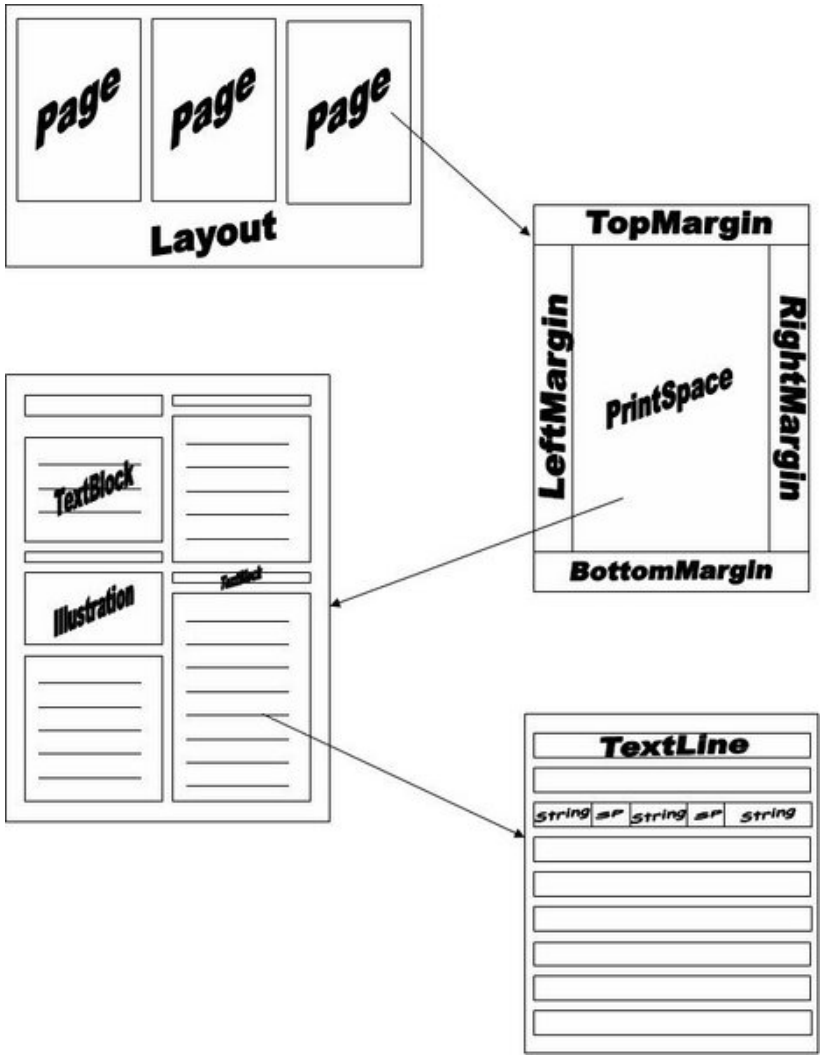


Is it just a problem of Meta-data?

ALTO for OCR

ALTO = Analyzed Layout and Text Object

- Standard XML
- Created in 2003 during METAe project
- Developed by Graz, Linz, Innsbruck universities
- **Description of the content and the physical layout of one page**
- Used by several OCR software
- Adapted and used by the BNF and other libraries
- Drawbacks: huge / static

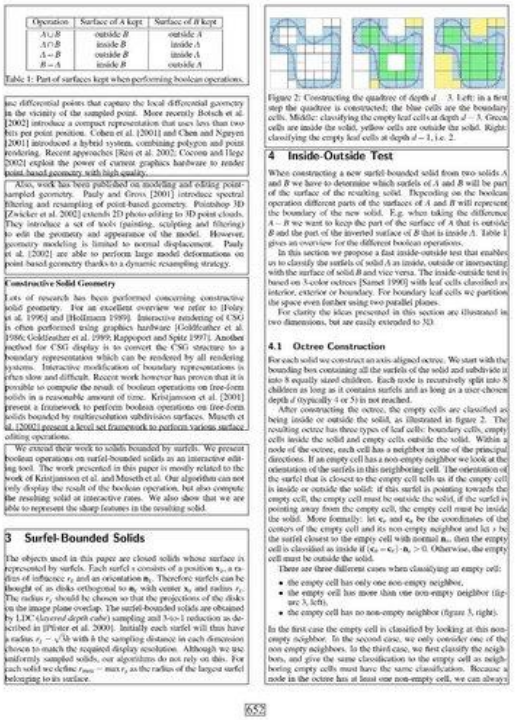


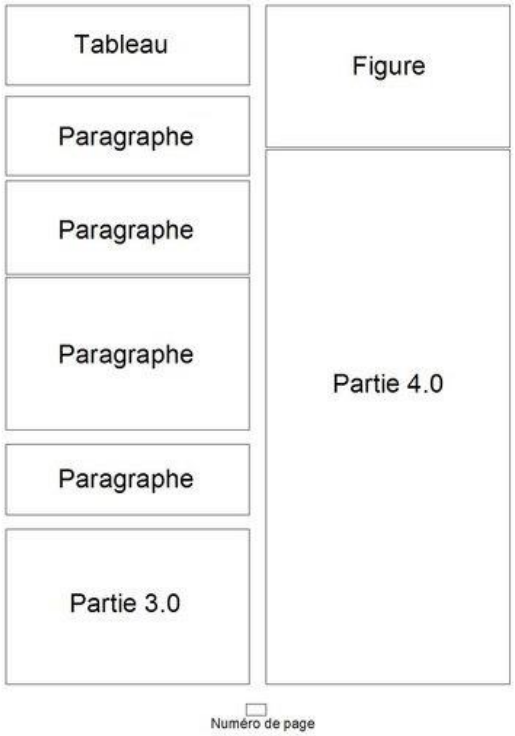
Is it just a problem of Meta-data?

TEI for transcription and enriched contents

- **TEI = Text Encoding Initiative - Standard XML**
  - Content tagging and logical structure encoding (full document)
  - Used a lot by libraries
  - Too much « open »? ➔ Quit « complex »

```
<TEI>
   <text>
      <body>
         <table rows="5" cols="3"/>
         <p xml:id="par0"/>
         <p xml:id="par1"/>
         <p xml:id="par2"/>
         <p xml:id="par3"/>
         <div n="3" type="partie"/>
         <figure/>
         <div n="4" type="partie"/>
      </body>
   </text>
</TEI>
```



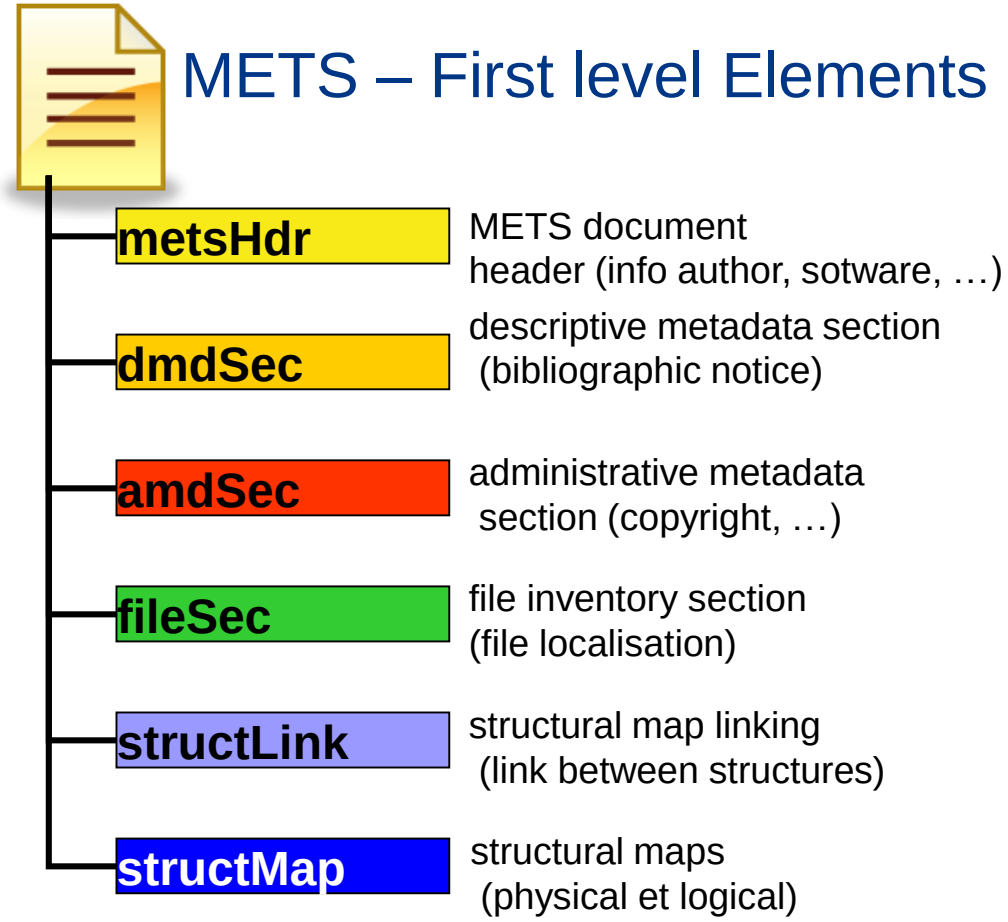


Is it just a problem of Meta-data?

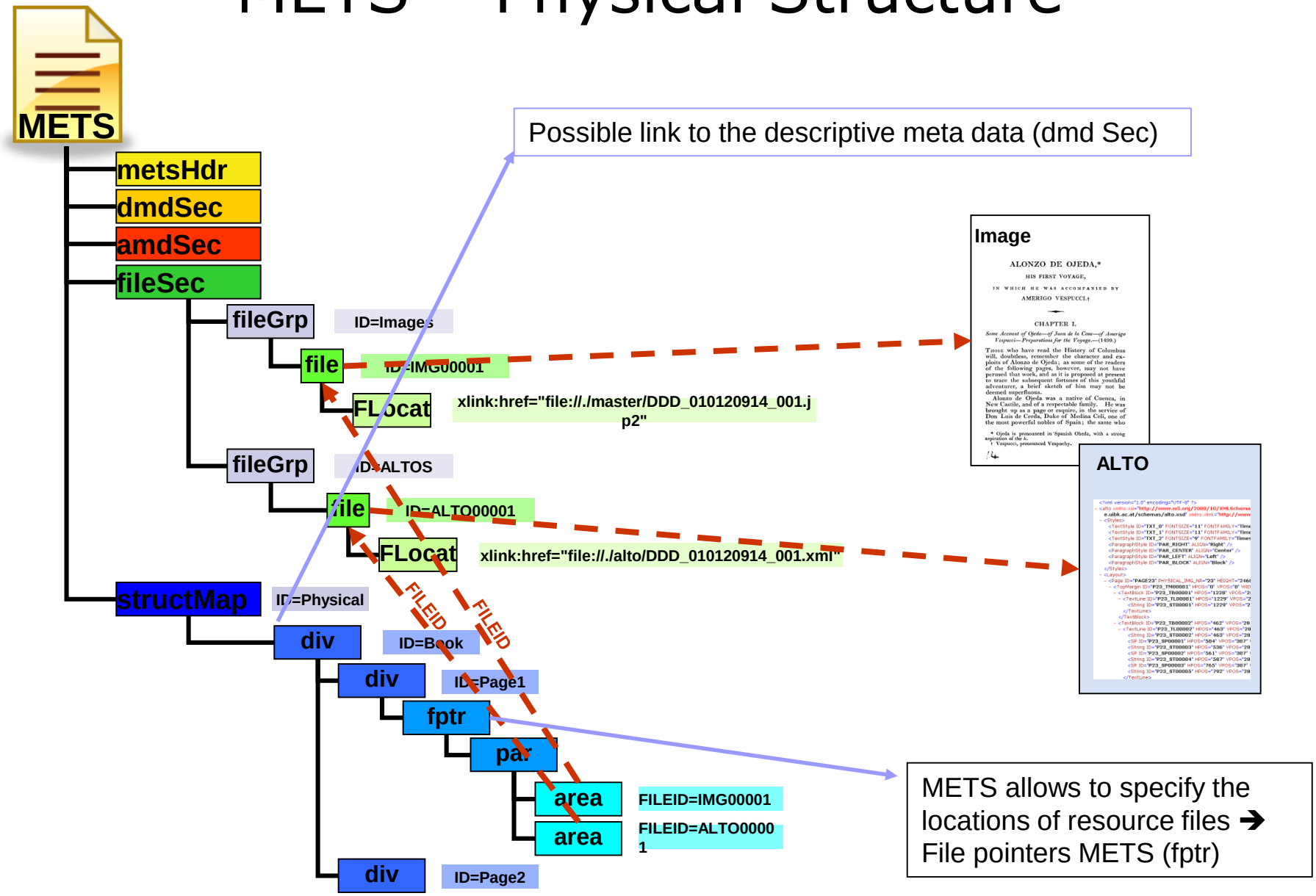
Link between meta data?

METS – Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard

- Open XML Standard created in 2001 by the Digital Library Federation maintained by METS Editorial Board
- XSD-Schema
- **Linking between multimedia objects**
- Complete Description of digitized content (images, texts, audio, sculptures, …)
- Physical / logical structures
- Descriptive Meta data (DC, MODS, MARC, …)
- …

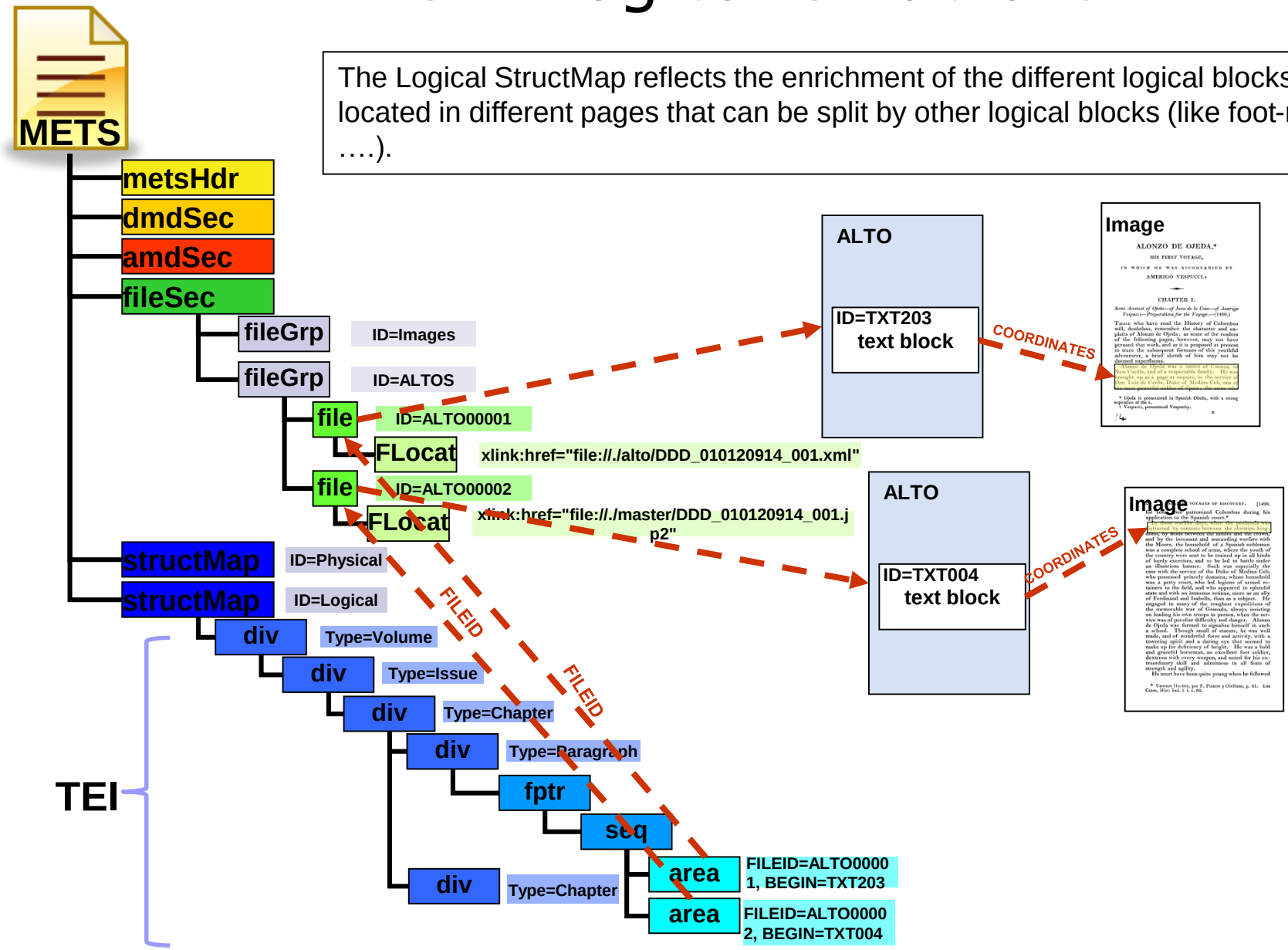


METS – Physical Structure



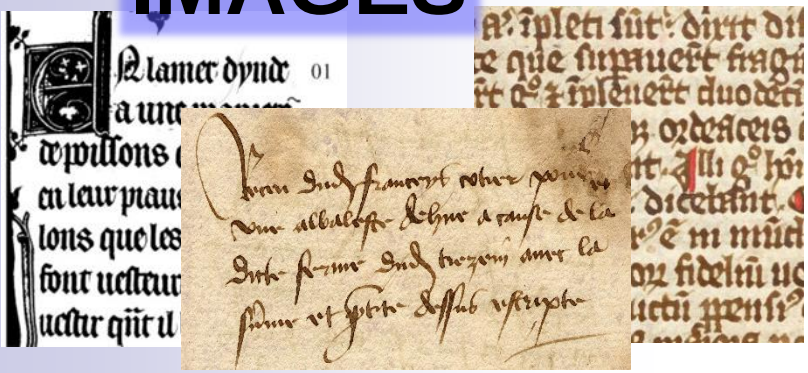
METS – Logical Structure

The Logical StructMap reflects the enrichment of the different logical blocks located in different pages that can be split by other logical blocks (like foot-notes, ….).



Conclusions

IMAGES



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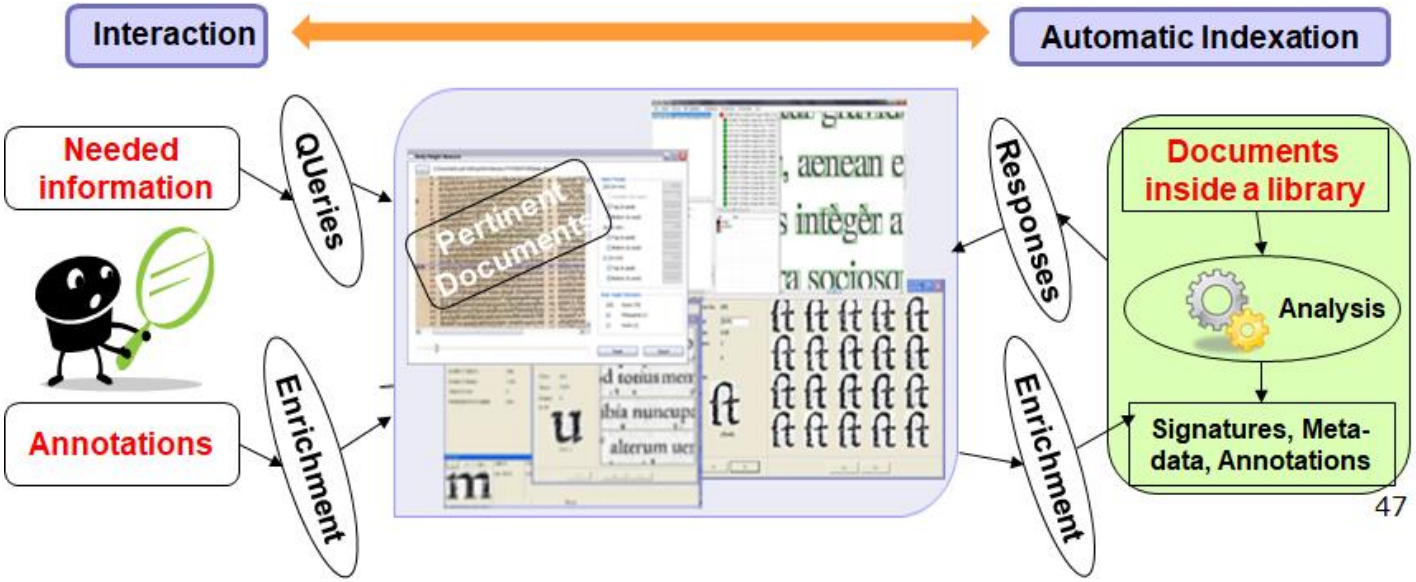
From Pixels to Contents
Conclusions

- **Building tools for the valorisation of digitized historical content is a pluri-disciplinary task**
  - Meta-data production ➔ Experts of the domains
  - Selection and verification of the data ➔ Experts + Data accuratist
  - Structuration of the data and system ➔ Data / system architect
  - Computer vision, Machine learning ➔ Data scientist
- **Manual indexing is needed**
  - Descriptive meta-data ➔ Semantical meta data
  - Standard formats for data encoding
  - Annotations could be seen as supplementary meta-data?
- **Operational methods and tools are available**
  - Acquisition devices
  - Automatic tools: low level image processing, OCR
  - Perceptual meta-data should be added : CBIR

From Pixels to contents
Conclusions - Perspectives

- **The actual context: big data and heterogeneous collections**
  - Connexion between data, mutual enrichment, interoperability
  - Introduction and management of additional knowledge
  - Facing the diversity of the types of contents and usages
- **Quality of the interaction instead of only the quantity**
  - Semantic Web : queries reformulation, smart crawlers, automatic categorisation



Thanks…

https://sites.google.com/site/paradiitproject/