

A Digital Edition and Possibilities of Its Connection with a Specialized Database

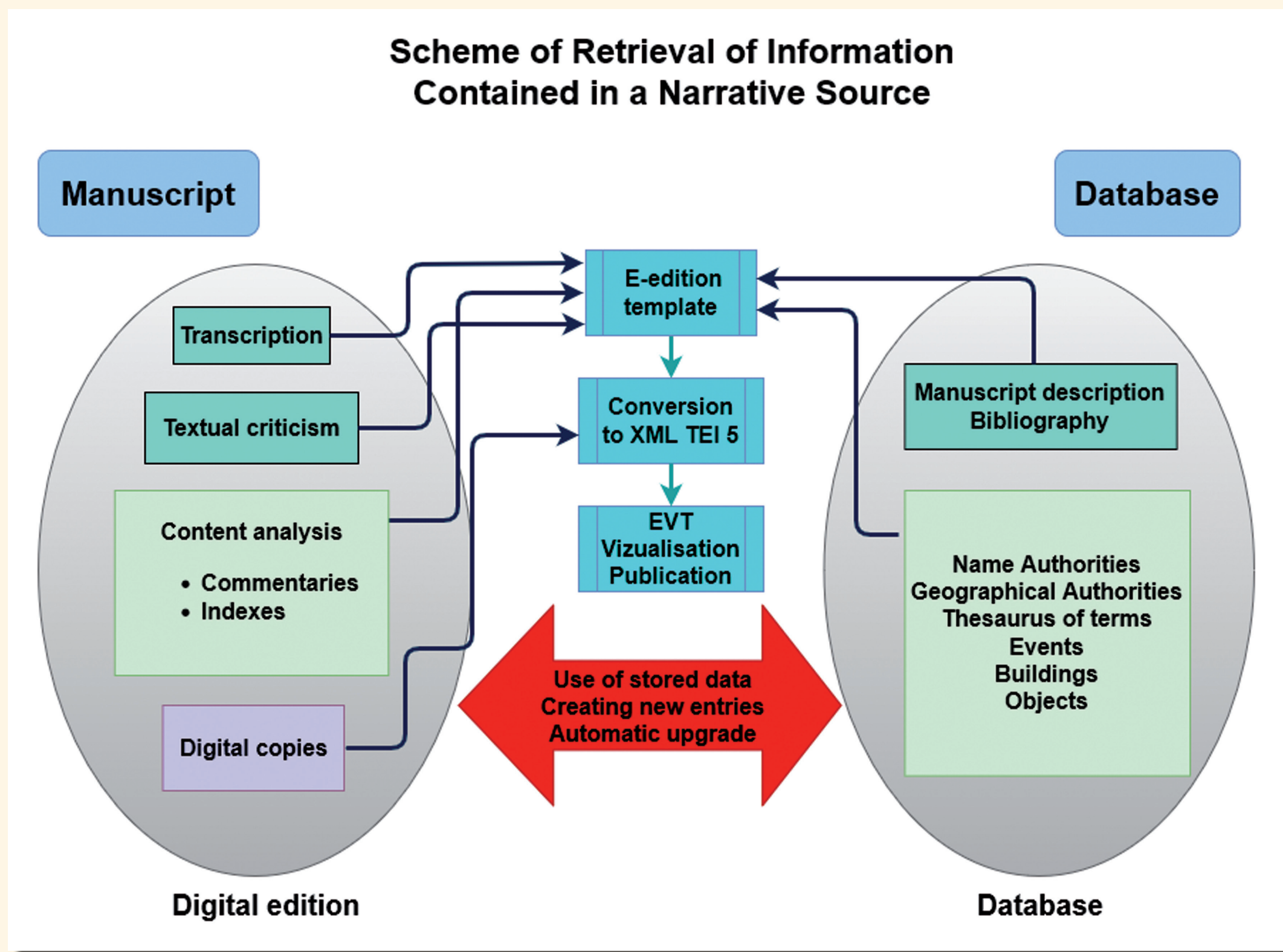
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Litterae annuae

Jesuit *litterae annuae* – that is annual reports – presented yearly results of activities of a house of the order and they are thus frequently used as a unique source of information on various aspects of life in a religious community. Yet at the same time, there is a recent growth of interest in their philological study as well as a stronger effort to make them accessible through a modern critical edition. Our project team processes annual reports of individual houses of the Bohemian Province via a digital edition in the XML TEI P5 format.

Methodological Bases

A digital edition makes digitized versions of an original manuscript available at one place, together with a scientific, textually critical and commented edition of a text. Thanks to the use of a standardized TEI markup, it is possible to mark necessary elements in the text according to their formal structure (folios, pages, paragraphs, titles) or to their information content (names, dates, places), and to add superstructural information (annotations, a connection with a database) and necessary metadata (a description of the manuscript, information pertaining to its storage, processing methods, etc.) to the text. Moreover, the resulting XML document can be fairly easily adapted to various output formats (web, paper, pdf), it enables a modular visualization of the processed elements and also contains effective searching tools. At the same time, the process of a preparation of an edition and the editing of the database records are interconnected in both directions. This means that database entries are created or extended within the process of an edition preparation and the other way around – information that is added to the database later from other sources is retroactively reflected in annotations.



Text Processing

While working with the texts, methods commonly used for a creation of editions are applied. As for the actual work, two forms of processing were defined: a **full textually critical edition** makes a text available based on a collation of all available manuscripts and creates a textually critical apparatus noting all types of differences (corrections, various wordings, annotations, orthographic variations). On the other hand, a **commented edition with a simplified textually critical apparatus** minimizes the textually critical apparatus and focuses on the creation of content commentaries, annotations and explanatory notes that make it easier for the users to navigate and search the text and add interpretative layers to the edition.

Content Commentaries

The content analysis of *litterae annuae* focuses on real names of people, institutions, geographical names, events, buildings, liturgical and artistic objects and on terms connected with a life of a religious community. For each such mention, a commentary interconnected with the corresponding entry in the database is created in the text of the digital edition. A suitable visualization then makes it possible to interactively display in the edition for instance detailed biographical data about the mentioned people, explanations of various functions within an order, descriptions of religious festivities or to search further fates of the mentioned buildings, acquired books or liturgical objects. The content commentaries also serve as a basis for indexes and search functions (Fig. 6).

TEI Encoding

In order to interconnect a transcription with a facsimile, the Parallel Transcription Method is used. A reference system of the critical apparatus is created through the Parallel Segmentation Method. For the full critical edition and an enlargement of options of collation and visualization of variant manuscripts, the typology of textual variants is defined using attributes *@type* and *@cause* of the given element *<rdg>* (Fig. 7). The interconnection of database entries and the text of the edition is secured through TEI elements for the so-called Named Entities (*<name>*, *<date>*, *<place>*, *<orgName>*, *<event>*, *<objectName>*, *<term>*) together with attributes *@xml:id*, *@source* and *@ef*. Corresponding index lists are then generated automatically from the database using the *<list>* elements, for instance *<listPerson>*, *<listOrg>* (Fig. 2).

E-edition

Since a direct encoding of texts in the XML editor seems difficult for the majority of colleagues, the tool E-edition (<https://vokabular.ujc.cas.cz/moduly/nastroje/e-edice/o-aplikaci>) is used for editorial work. It is an additionally programmed accessory and template in the MS Word editor which makes it possible to mark the needed parts of a text with a pre-defined styles of characters and paragraphs and thus create textually critical notes and content commentaries in the edition. In the following steps, the used styles are automatically converted to corresponding elements of the TEI P5 format. The prepared XML files subsequently undergo a final, manual revision in the XML editor. In order to serve our purposes, the original version of the template had to be adjusted to working with variant manuscripts and the interconnection with the database had to be programmed additionally (Fig. 3).

The BBDR Database

As for a database for storing data used in the E-edition, or rather data excerpted from edited texts, the BBDR Database is used (the Bio-Bibliographical Database of Members of the Religious Order Living in the Czech Lands in the Early Modern Age, <http://reholnici.hiu.cas.cz/katalog/>). The database is designed as a place for gathering information on life in monastic communities. Its basis is the modified Clavius library system respecting international librarian standards MARC21 and UNIMARC (Fig. 4).

Publication and Visualization

In order to publish a *litterae annuae* edition, an open-source visualization tool Edition Visualization Technology – EVT (<http://evt.labcd.unipi.it/>) is used. EVT is a simple and easily modifiable application for making digital editions created according to the XML TEI standard available online. It offers its users a comfortable research environment enabling them to easily perform content and index searches, as well as tools for a collation of individual manuscripts and for working with a textually critical apparatus (Fig. 5, 6, 7).

The digital E-edition of the annual reports was created within the project *Telč and Jesuits, the Order and its Patrons* (NAKI II, DG16P02M0, <https://jezuitetelc.cz/cz>) and its development was financially supported by the Institute of Ethnology of the Czech Academy of Sciences through the *Memory in the Digital Age* project within the Strategy AV21 (<https://www.mua.cas.cz/cs/pamet-v-digitalnim-veku-751>).

<http://reholnici.hiu.cas.cz/litteraeannue>



INSTITUTE OF HISTORY
Czech Academy of Sciences



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Fig. 2 | A processing of a *litterae annuae* text in the TEI format. An example of "Named Entities", notes and a critical apparatus encoding.

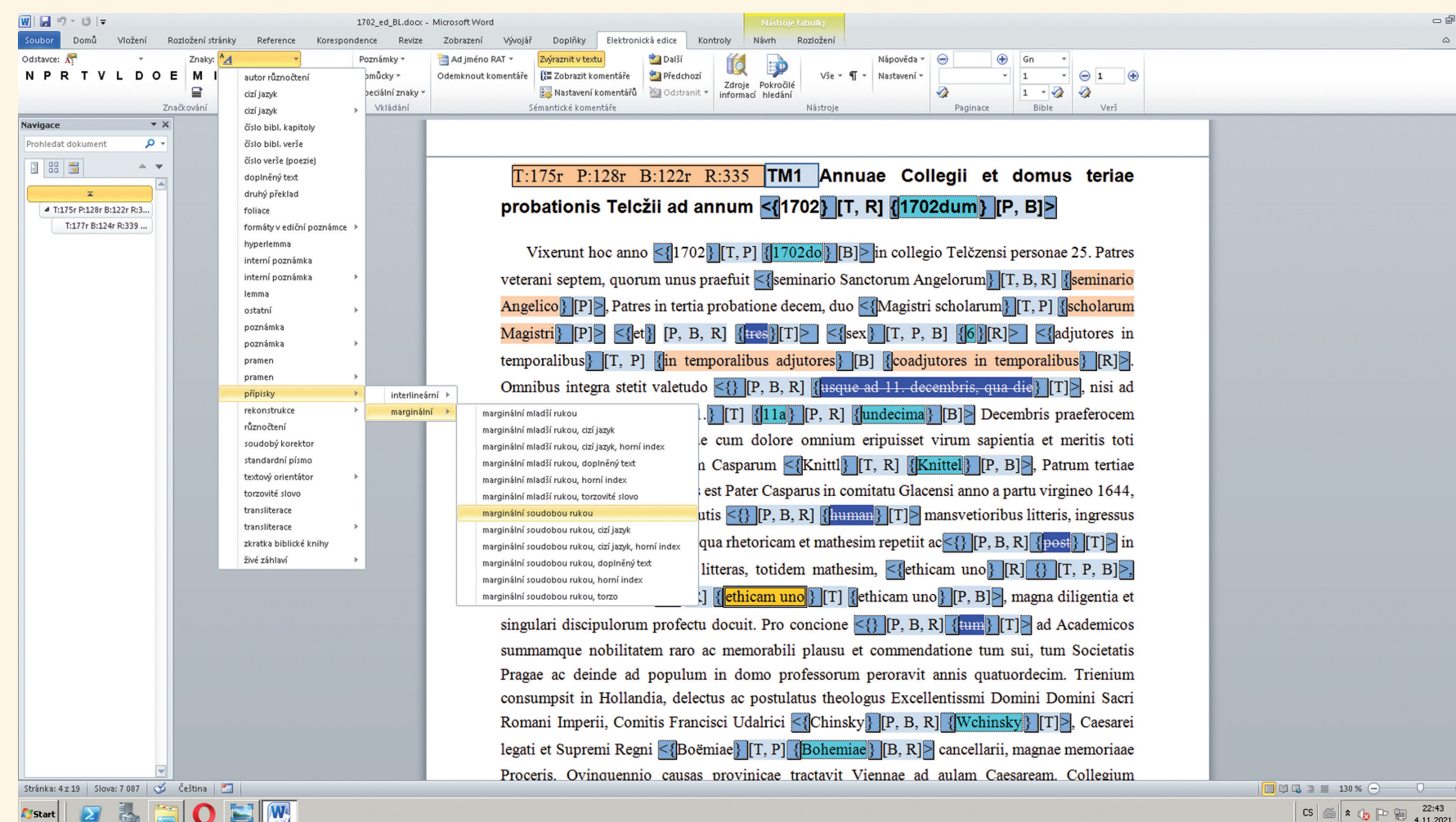


Fig. 3 | An example of an edition processing in the E-edition template.

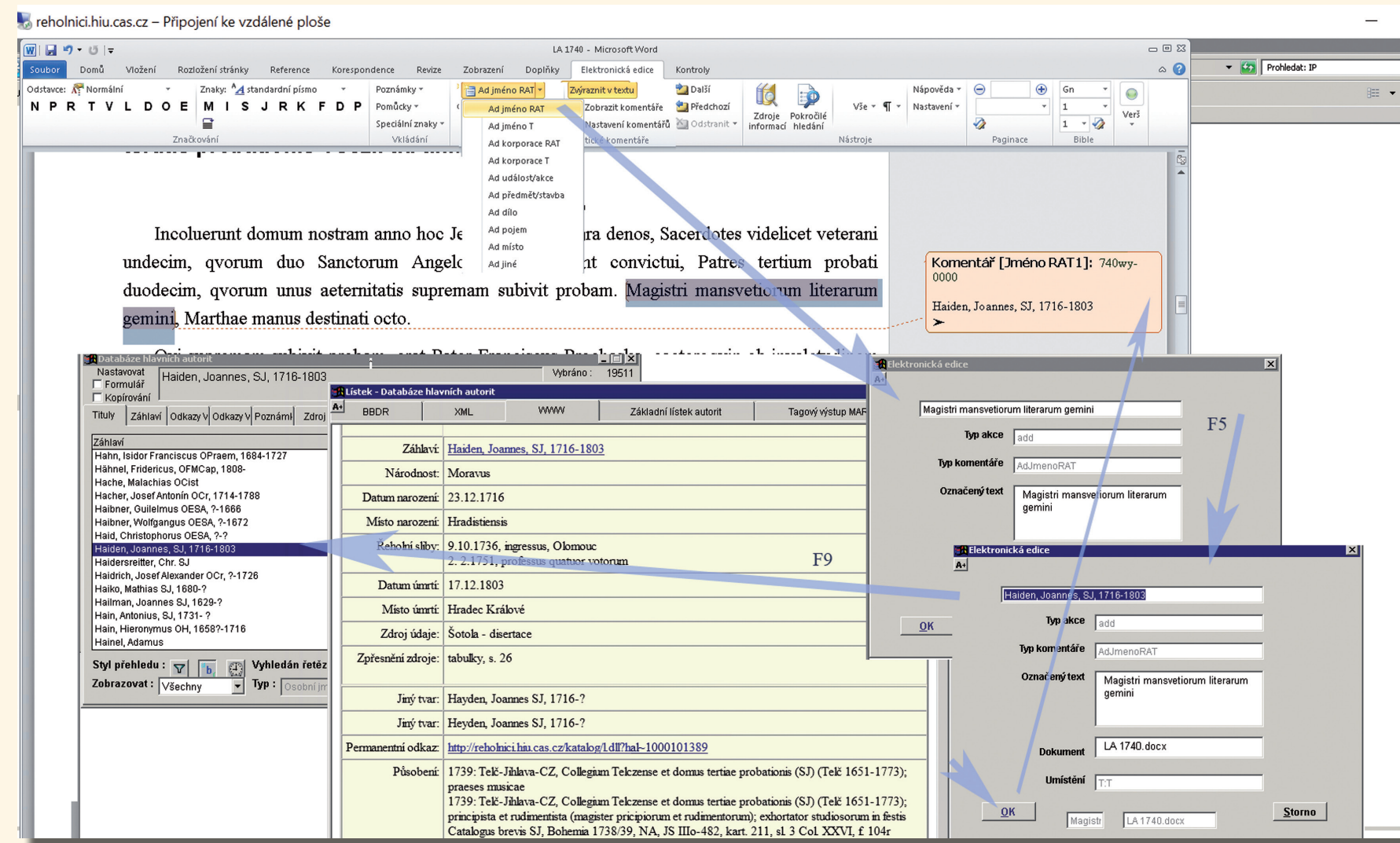


Fig. 4 | An example of working with commentaries and of the interconnection with the BBDR database.

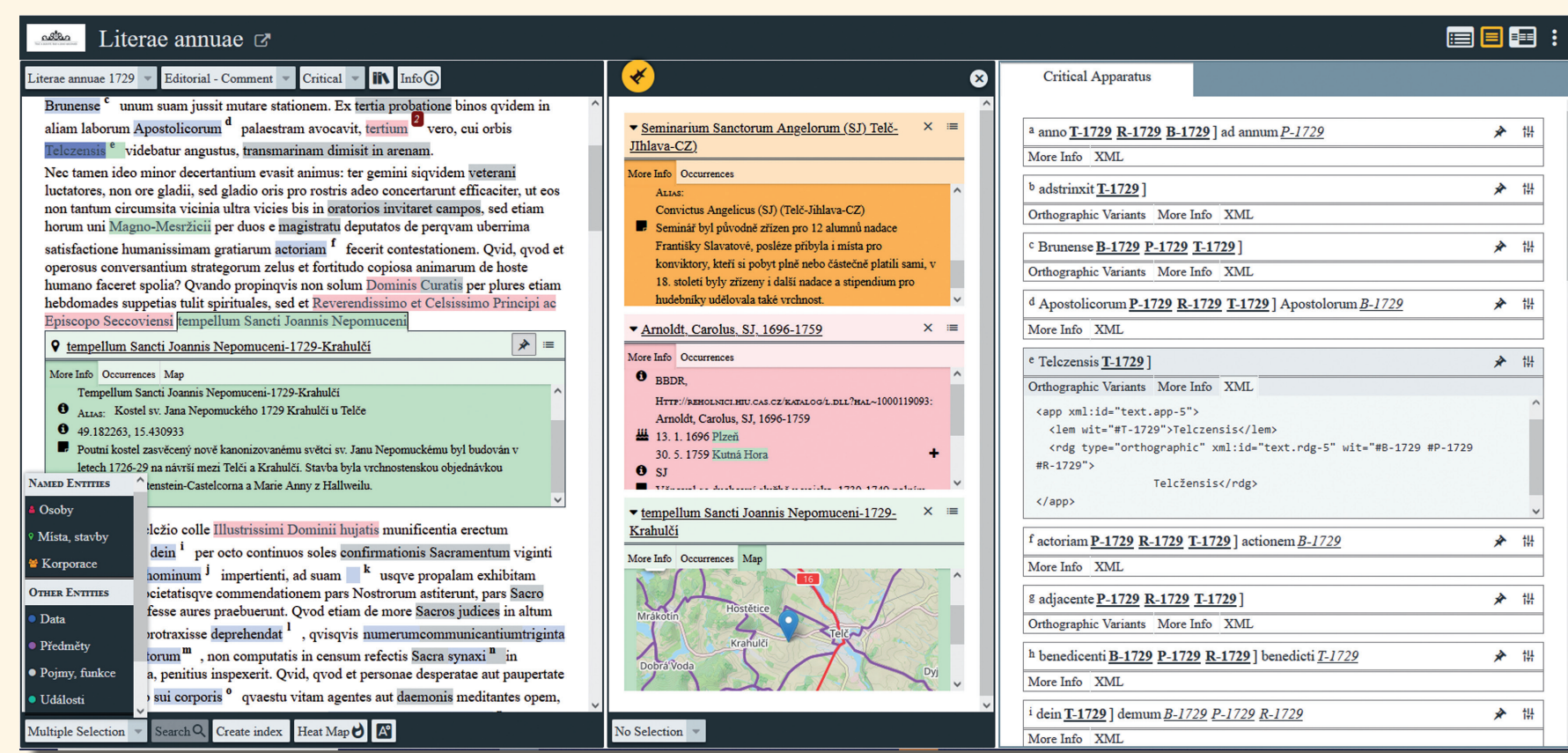


Fig. 5 | The year 1729, a commented edition published in the EVT. An example of a color visualization of content commentaries and a demonstration of an interactive use of indexes. The critical apparatus is displayed in an independent window.

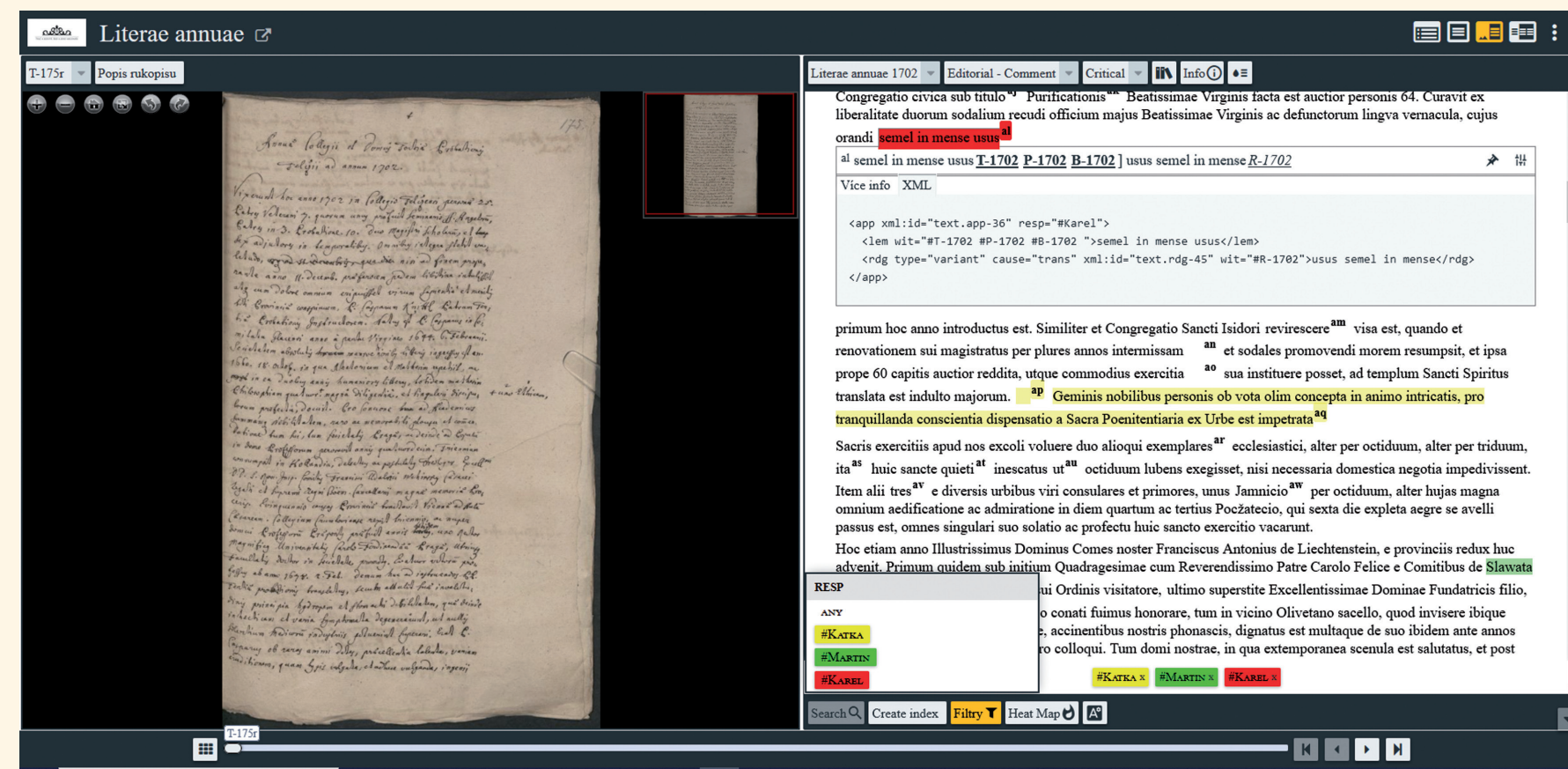


Fig. 6 | The year 1702, a full textually critical edition in the EVT. The Image-Text view linking the edition text with digital copies of original manuscripts. A visualization of textual variants according to editorial interventions of individual editors.

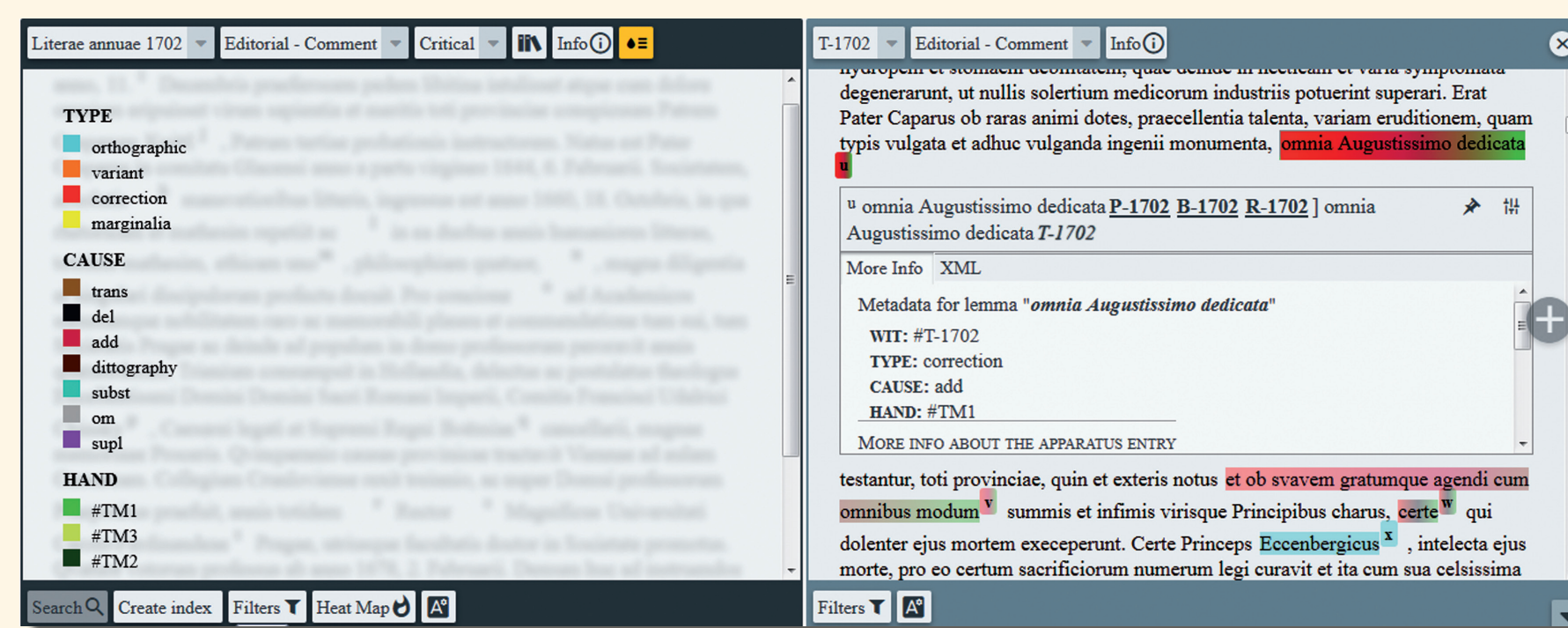


Fig. 7 | An example of a typology and color differentiation of textual variants in a visualization of a full textually critical edition. A detailed depiction of textual variants including authors' deletions serves not only as a source of 'philological' data, but it also contributes to the understanding of the context in which the given text was created.