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Digitizing theatre repertories: an example of crossing methodological and disciplinary borders

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Digitizing theater repertoires

an example of crossing methodological and disciplinary borders

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How to formally integrate the interpretational process in the DB creation ?

Method : analyze choices and adjustments to use the existing digital technologies for managing historical and literary objects.

Introduction

This poster concerns a French DH PhD project that has started this year (2022/23) : **"Comédie-Italienne of Paris: creation of database to study French and Italian repertory (1716-1792)"**, supervised by Andrea Fabiano, Glenn Roe et Emanuele De Luca.

This project aims to create a public database of the repertory of the Comédie-Italienne theatre company of Paris for the 18th century period. **Several repertoires of the Comédie-Italienne company already exist (in hard copy or pdf format); the goal is to digitize their content, as to facilitate quantitative analyses.**

In addition, the whole process involves an improvement in understanding the historical object, while formalizing this kind of object brings out ontological and relational questions that are often assumed implicitly or obscured by disciplinary frames.

We will consider the creation of a database for historical and literary objects as an interpretative work.

Repertory

Computer science

Classified and semi-structured information. A necessary step toward the creation of a database.

Literature/history

Ordered and homogeneous set of information concerning a particular topic, created to simplify the information retrieval.

Theater studies

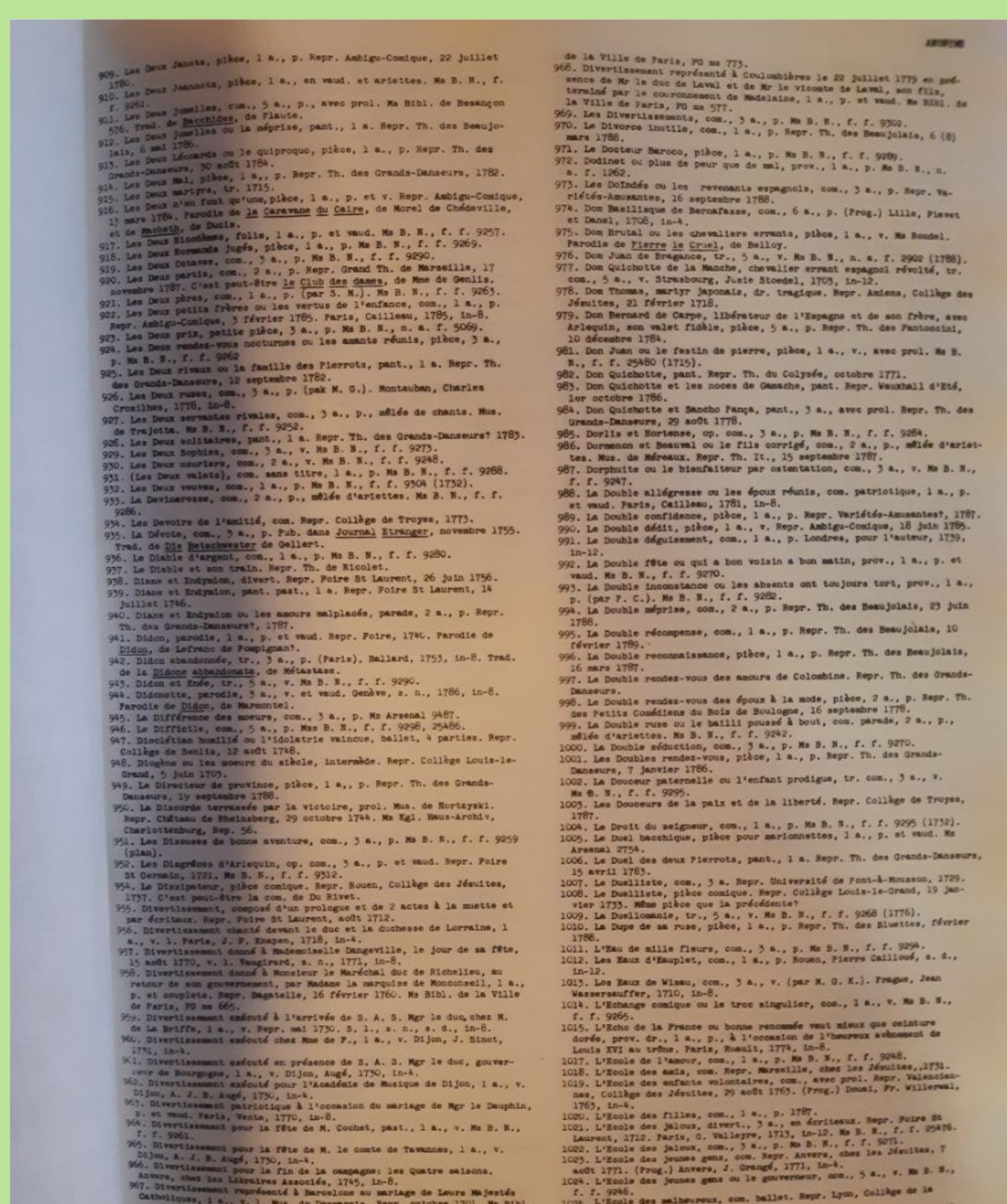
For theaters in France in the 18th century, a "repertory" is the set of plays performed in a particular theater, and it was regulated by a system of "privileges" decided by the king, defining which kind of plays was allowed and prohibited in each company/theater. Thus, a repertory is the realm of possibilities assigned by the king to a given company.

Final results

The file reporting the final results that we wish to obtain from the database was **the first document created in this project**, in collaboration with researchers in theater studies.

- The content of this document involves:
- Searching the particular information;
 - Creating lists of entities;
 - Visualizing collaborations;
 - Visualizing people working on the particular date, or on a particular play;
 - Analyzing the genre and the number of acts of plays through time;
 - Analyzing the organization of the events;
 - Analyzing the influences between plays, authors, actors;
 - Analyzing the language of the plays and the one spoken by the actors;
 - Analyzing number and kind of novelties through time.

Repertoires



DAILY PERFORMANCES		Register 10	
Date	Play	Receipts	Attendance
1317			
May 3	*Débauché ou Arlequin se trahit lui-même	387	197
4	*Métage VIV		
5	*Bouheur du hasard	429	258
6	*Prince jaloux	449	234
7	*Arlequin secrétaire public	258	134
8	*Débauché ou Arlequin se trahit lui-même	120	117
9	*Prince jaloux	148	98
10	*Prince jaloux	488	276
11	*Amour extravagant	176	112
12	*Filles-mères soupçonnées	335	187
13	*Amour extravagant	170	108
14	*Arlequin valet d'étourdi	408	250
15	*Amour extravagant	123	101
16	*Amour extravagant	304	182
17	*Amour extravagant	275	104
18	*Maison à deux portes	155	93
19	*Amour extravagant	254	181
20	*Maison à deux portes	286	158
21	*Filles-mères soupçonnées	180	101
22	*Filles-mères soupçonnées	760	405
23	*Maison à deux portes	249	129
24	*Filles-mères soupçonnées	745	437
25	*Filles-mères soupçonnées	327	210
26	*Filles-mères soupçonnées	383	208
27	*Filles-mères soupçonnées	710	376
28	*Filles-mères soupçonnées	541	219
29	*Filles-mères soupçonnées	224	167
30	*Filles-mères soupçonnées	388	232
31	*Filles-mères soupçonnées	418	231
32	*Filles-mères soupçonnées	405	217
33	*Filles-mères soupçonnées	189	126
34	*Filles-mères soupçonnées	685	380
35	*Filles-mères soupçonnées	400	219
36	*Filles-mères soupçonnées	248	134
37	*Filles-mères soupçonnées	448	273
38	*Filles-mères soupçonnées	172	89
39	*Filles-mères soupçonnées	698	358
40	*Filles-mères soupçonnées	343	176
41	*Filles-mères soupçonnées	415	221
42	*Filles-mères soupçonnées	208	117
43	*Filles-mères soupçonnées	252	140
44	*Filles-mères soupçonnées	153	102

Situation générale de la Comédie Italienne en avril 1763		
Etat des acteurs et actrices à part, de leur part, et des fonds faits par chacun		
Les Sieurs	Part	Fonds-faits
Deheuse	part	15 000
Clavacelli	idem	15 000
Rochard	idem	15 000
Carlin	idem	15 000
Champville	idem	15 000
Le Jeune	idem	6 981.5
Caillot	idem	5 750
Zemury	3/4	4 547.17.6
Collado	idem	4 547.17.6
La Ruelle	idem	1 641.12.6
Charval	idem	1 641.12.6
Ballely	1/2	7 500
Lobrasus	idem	
Mlle		
Favart	Part	15 000
Caillon	idem	15 000
Camille	idem	15 000
Piccinelli	idem	4 687.10
Villemé	idem	2 316.12.6
Duglands	3/4	11 250
Deschamps	idem	1 641.12.6
Bagnolly	1/2	7 500
Savy	1/2	1 093.15
Total 22 Personnes	18	181 099.15
51) Acteurs et actrices à appointements		
Les Sieurs	appointement	
Des Bronnes	2 000	
Savy	2 000	
Mlle		
Lafond	1 600	
Callin	2 200	
Collet	2 000	
Phacelle	550	
6. Revenant	11 340	



Brenner, Clarence D. *A Bibliographical List of Plays in the French Language, 1700-1789*. Berkeley, Calif., 1947

Brenner, Clarence D. *The Theatre Italien, Its Repertory, 1716-1793: With a Historical Introduction*. Berkeley, University of California Press, 1961.

Spanu Fremder, Silvia. *Le répertoire et la dramaturgie de la Comédie-Italienne de Paris durant la seconde moitié du XVIIIe siècle*. PhD in Italian studies (advisor: Andrea Fabiano), Université Paris-Sorbonne, 2010.

De Luca, Emanuele. *Il repertorio della Comédie-Italienne di Parigi (1716-1762)*. University of Pisa and University Paris-Sorbonne, 2011.

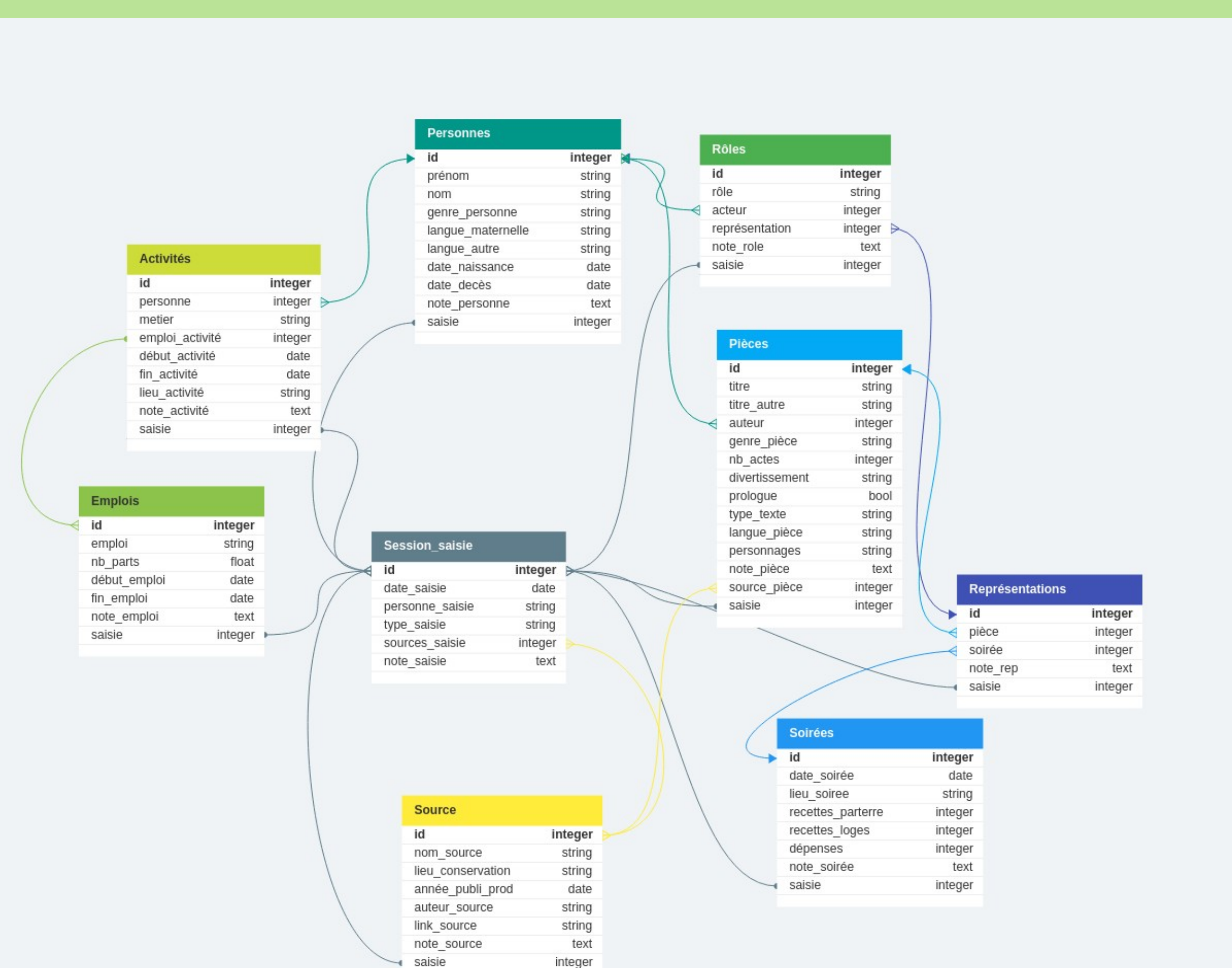
Workflow

Previous step :
Creation of hard copy and PDF repertoires

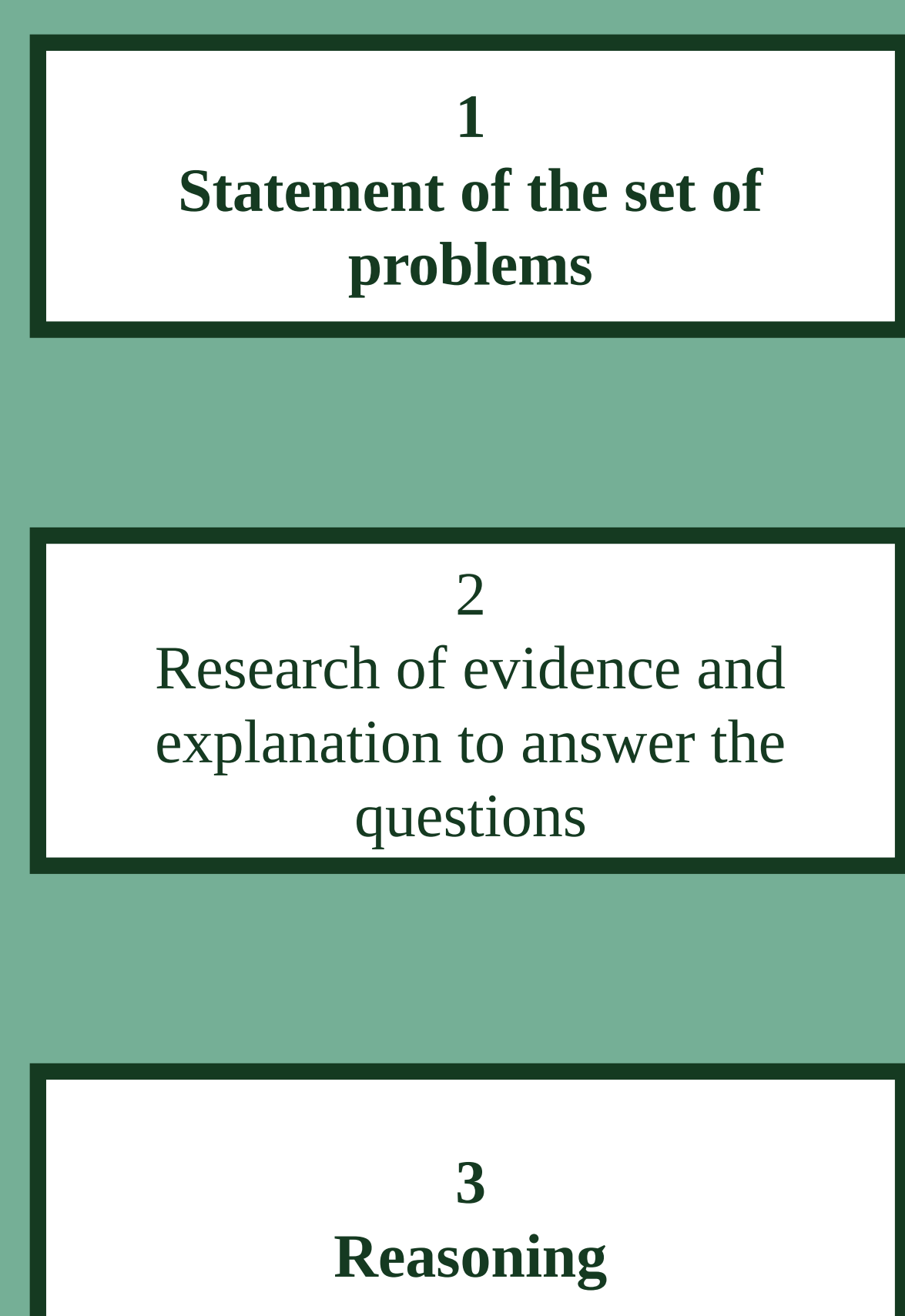
Social sciences workflow

Computer science workflow

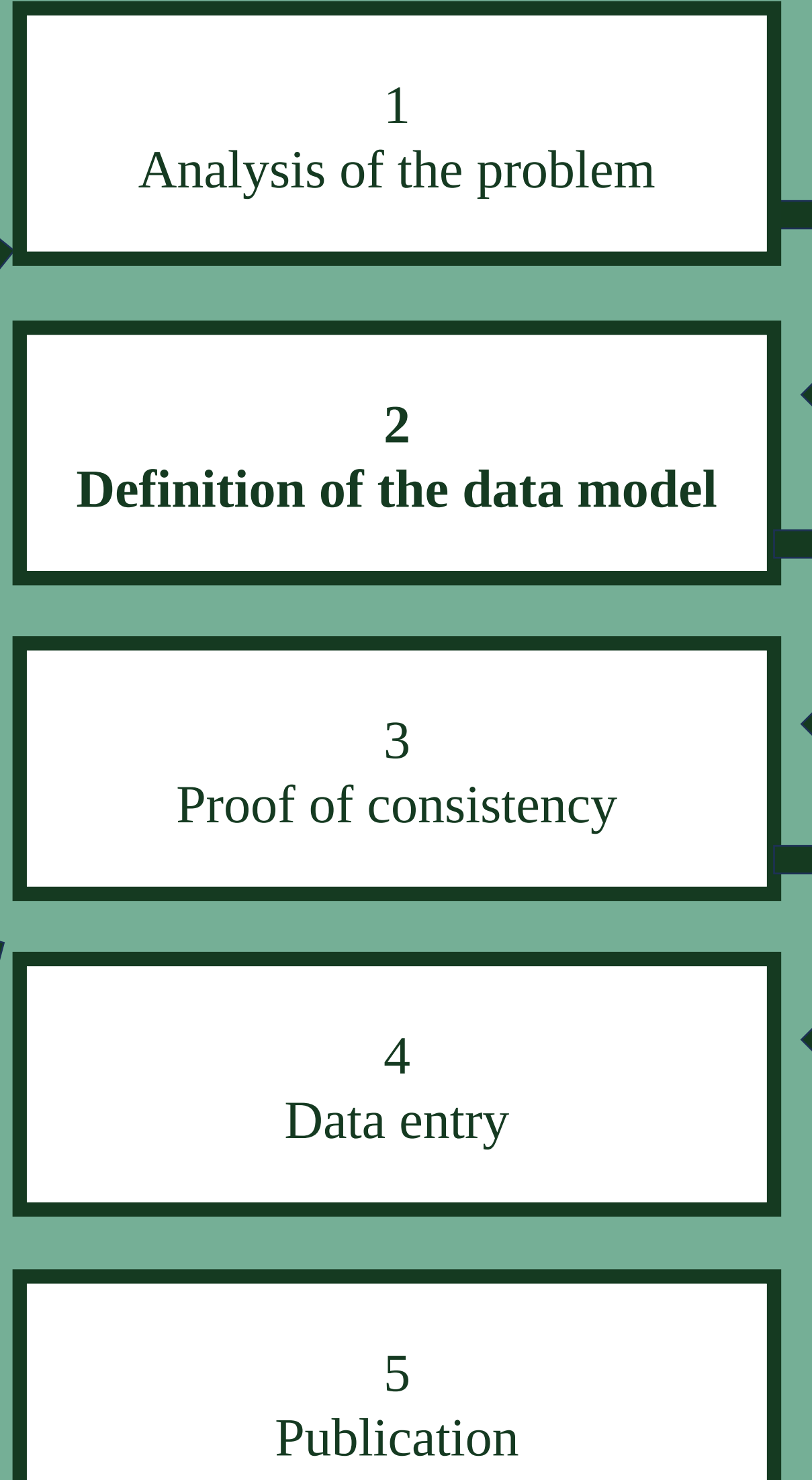
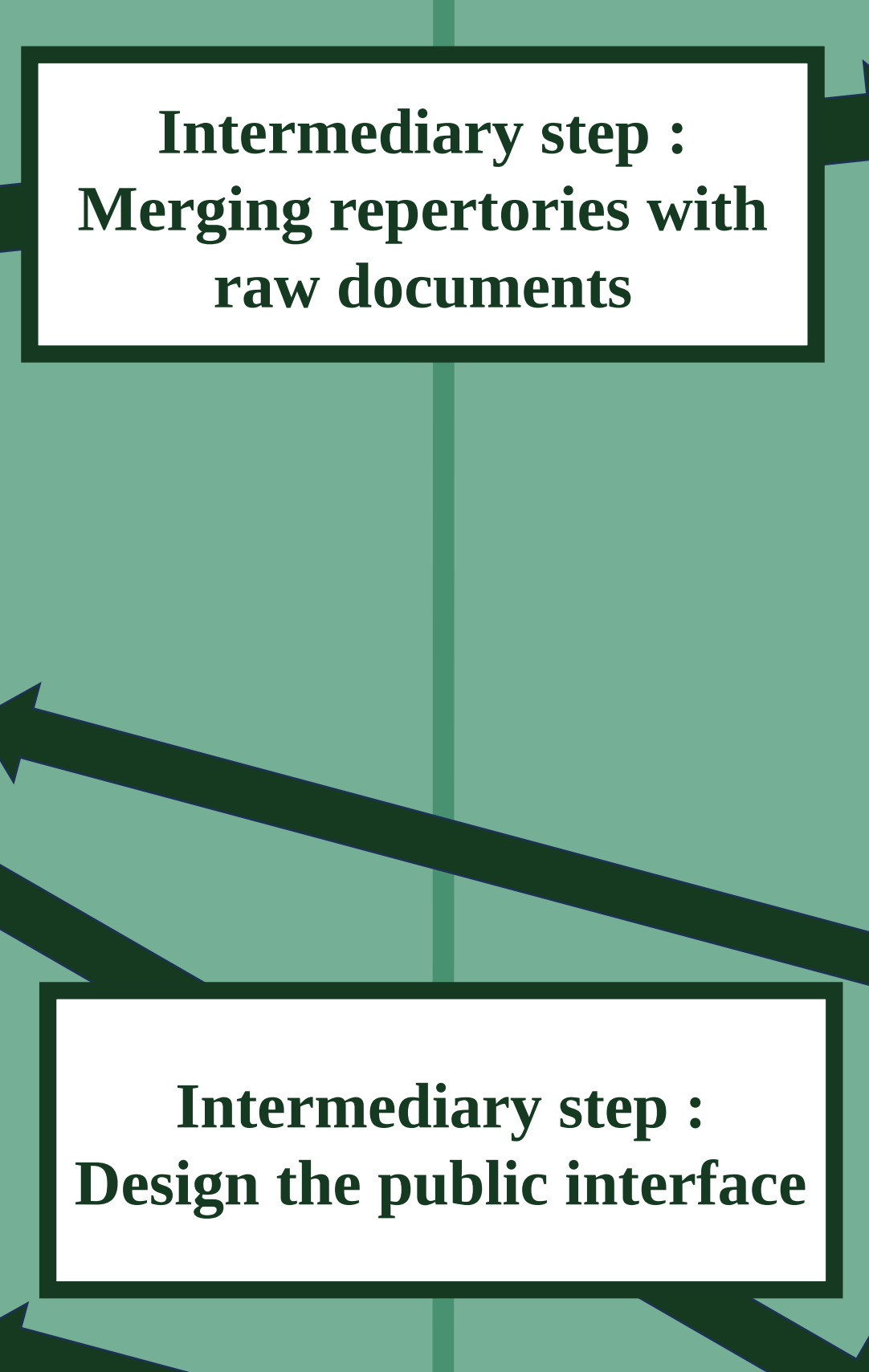
Data Model



Start



End



Created with DB Designer. Scan the QR code to see the scalable version.

Software employed for the design and creation of the database: DB Designer, Jupyter Notebook (Python), nodegoat.

Poster created on LiberOffice Impress, for the conference DH Benelux 2023 (Royal Library of Belgium, Bruxelles, May 31 – June 2, 2023).

