

Automatic Retro-Structuration of Auction Sales Catalogs Layout and Content

Hugo Scheithauer, PhD Candidate, ALMAnaCH (Inria, Paris) / École Pratique des Hautes Études (EPHE)

Sarah Bénière, Research & Development Engineer, ALMAnaCH (Inria, Paris)



The DataCatalogue Project

A Research & Development Partnership



French Ministry of Cultural Affairs (Ministère de la Culture)

{BnF

■ French National Library (Bibliothèque nationale de France - BnF)

Scientific experts, researchers, data provider

French National Institute for Art History (Institut national d'histoire de l'art - INHA)

ĺnría_

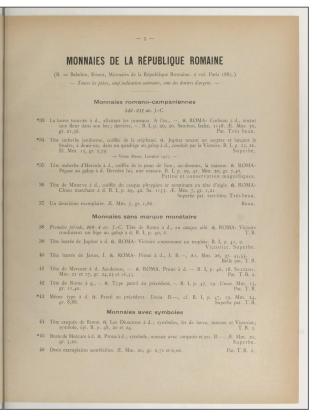
■ French National Institute for Research in Digital Sciences and Technology (Institut national de recherche en informatique et automatique - Inria)

_____ Researchers, R&D engineers, PhD students

Objectives

Automate the transformation of digitized sales catalogs into a structured database, using machine learning tools

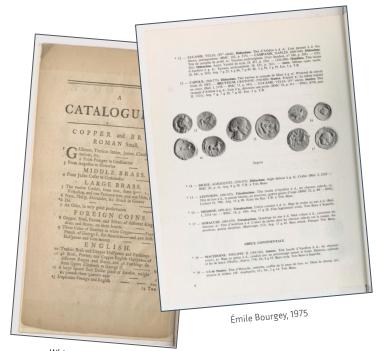
- Segmentation of the layout and content
- Conversion into TEI
- Publication of the restructured catalogs



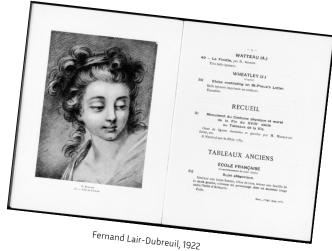
Lucien Naville, 1924



Sales Catalogs as Knowledge Bases (1/2)



Whiston Bristow, 1762



- History of economics and collections
- Art history
- Iconography
- Cultural heritage in general

Sales Catalogs as Knowledge Bases (2/2)

Redistributed online as pairs of images and unstructured plain text

Makes exploration and content extraction difficult

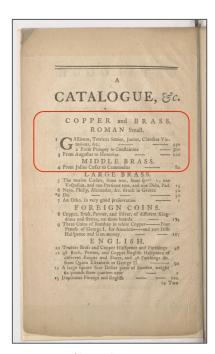


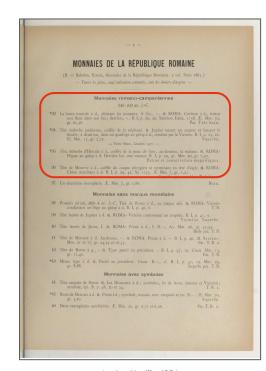


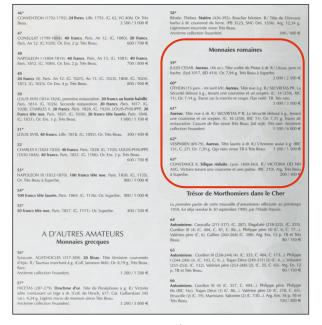
French national institute for art history's online document viewer



Basic Structure of a Sales Catalog



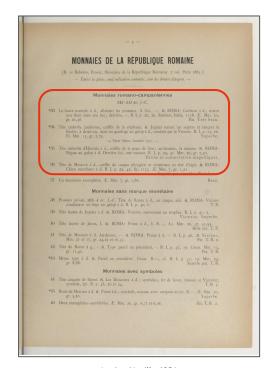


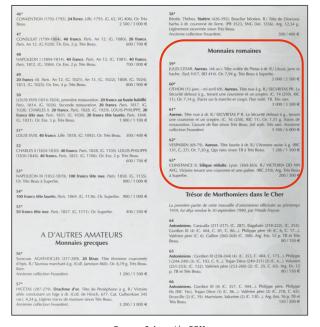


Whiston Bristow, 1762 Lucien Naville, 1924 Fraysse & Associés, 2011

Challenges: A Heterogeneous Structure (1/2)

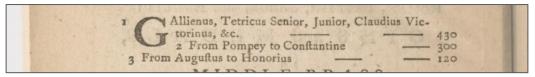






Whiston Bristow, 1762 Lucien Naville, 1924 Fraysse & Associés, 2011

Challenges: A Heterogeneous Structure (2/2)



Whiston Bristow, 1762.

```
*34 Tête imberbe janiforme, coiffée de la stéphané. A. Jupiter tenant un sceptre et lançant le foudre, à demi-nu, dans un quadrige au galop à d., conduit par la Victoire. B. I, p. 23, 26.
El. Mm. 15, gr. 2,79.

— Vente Mann, Londres 1917. —
```

Lucien Naville, 1924.

```
59*

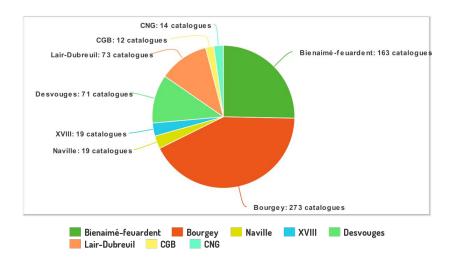
JULES CESAR. Aureus. (46 av.). Tête voilée de Pietas à dr. R./ Lituus, jarre et hache. (Syd.1017, BD 414). Or. 7,94 g. Très Beau à Superbe.

2 000 / 2 500 €
```

Fraysse & Associés, 2011.



The DataCatalogue Corpus



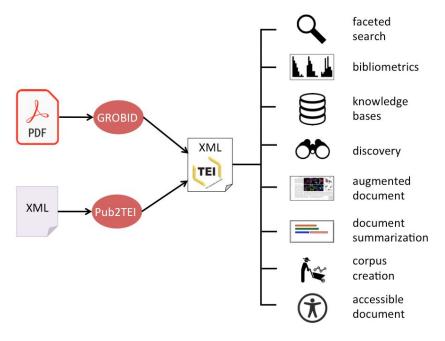
- Overall = +150k catalogs
- DataCatalogue dataset = 1426 images
 - 713 catalogs (from BnF/INHA)
 - o 2 random pages from each
- Various representations of:
 - Sales types (numismatics, ancient books, antiques, fine arts, etc.)
 - Document layouts
 - Time periods (18th-21st centuries)
- Languages:
 - French (~95%)
 - German and English (5%)

Phase 1 Assessment (2021-2022): project engineering and technology bottleneck

We first tried to use **GROBID** (Generation of BIbliographic Data) to restructure the catalogs into TEI.

GROBID is an highly efficient open source machine learning tool for extracting, parsing and restructuring PDFs into XML-TEI. GROBID works at the document level and was designed for working with scientific publications. However, its models can be retrained on new annotated document types.

GROBID models use a combination of **textual and visual features** to restructure a document.



Source: https://grobid.readthedocs.io/en/latest/Principles/

Phase 1 Assessment (2021-2022) : project engineering and technology bottleneck

However, GROBID models had trouble being accurate when dealing with the **noise generated by the OCR tools** used by the online libraries, such as:

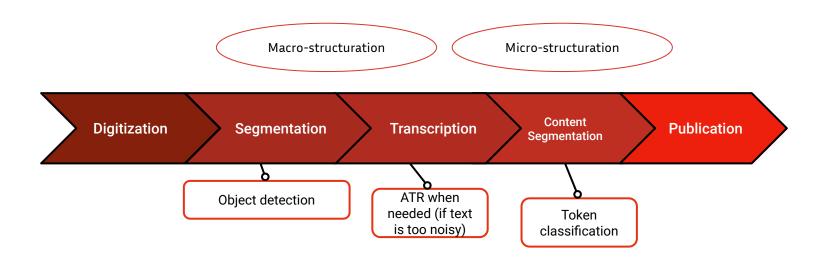
- hallucinated characters
- Deconstructed tokens

```
2 - Aprey. Bouillon couvertàdeuxan ses à tore de bran
▼<tei xml:space="preserve">
 ▼<teiHeader>
                                  chages en ancienne faïence décorée en couleur d'oise aux
    <fileDesc xml:id="0"/>
                                  <1b/>
                                 e t ch ien de ch asse.
  </teiHeader>
 ▼<text xml:lang="fr">
                                  3-4 -D e lft e t H o lla n d e. N e u f pièces : six p la ts ro n d s, u n e
                                  a s sie tte et d e u x p e tite s co u p es en a n c ie n n e faïence, d é c o rs
                                  v a rié s en b leu e t c o u le u r.
    <1b/>
    > . ~y . i
    <1b/>
                                  <lb/>
                                 5 -D e lft (genre). D eux cache-pots à a n s e s c o q u ille s en faïence
    <1b/>
                                 décorée en cama ïe u b leu , fe u illage , ro caille e t paysage .
    <1b/>
                                  6-7 -D elft. P e tit p o t à la it et p e tite b o u te ille à col à renfle
    <1b/>
                                 mentenancienne faïence, décorpolych romeà fleurs.
                                  8 -D e lft. Un p la t en a n c ie n n e faïen ce, d é c o r en c a m a ïe u
    <1b/>
    > i , * s : / i
                                 b leu, fe u illa q e et a rm o irie a v ec lio n
    <1b/>
    <1b/>
                       <lb/>
                                  de M anissès, d é c o ré a u c e n tre d 'une ro sa c e , m a rli avec
                       VENT
                       <1h/>
    <1b/>
                       HOTEL DROUOT -SALLE Nº 6
    <1b/>
                       Les Lundi 2 0 et Mardi 21 F é v r ie r 1 9 2 2
                       <1b/>
    <1b/>
                       A 2 H F II R F S
                       <1b/>
                       EXPO SITION PU BLIO U E
    <1b/>
                       Le D im a n ch e 19 F év rier 1922 , de 2 à 6 h eu res
    <1b/>
                       <1h/>
                       <lb/>
                       ^ÿ ê S p 'Â -
                       <lb/>
                       B | ii^ > >
                       <lb/>
                       » v r f f e ' :5pii
```

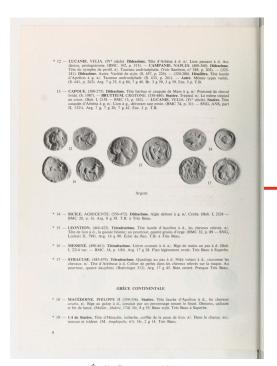
Retro-Structuration Pipeline



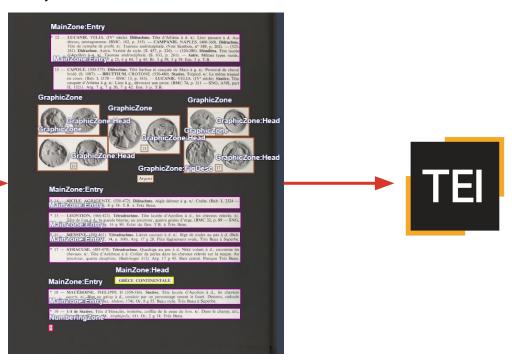
The DataCatalogue Workflow



From image to TEI



Layout and content structuration



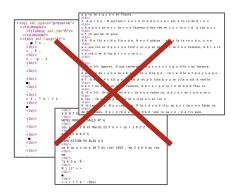
Émile Bourgey, 1975

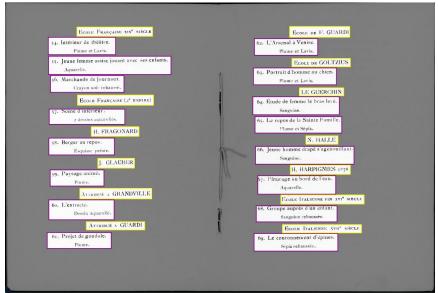
Macro-Structuration, or Layout Segmentation

To bypass OCR noise, and based on the growing popularity and efficiency of the YOLO model in DH projects (Clérice, 2023 & Clérice et al., 2024), we decided to opt for an object detection approach for segmenting the sale catalogs' layouts.

YOLO only uses visual features to segment an image into zones. Each zones are also given a label by YOLO.

We annotated all images (1426) from our dataset.



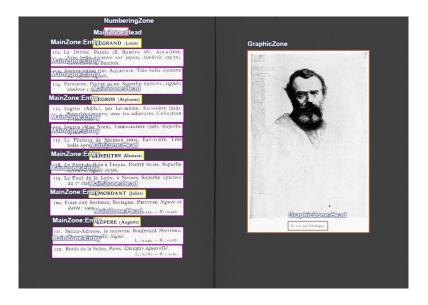


Layout Annotation Using the SegmOnto Controlled Vocabulary

- → The DataCatalogue training set was annotated following the SegmOnto controlled vocabulary, designed for describing the content of books and manuscripts.
- → It is also a subset of a wider layout analysis dataset, LADaS (Layout Analysis Dataset with SegmOnto).
- → Using a controlled vocabulary ensures that our dataset follows the FAIR principles.

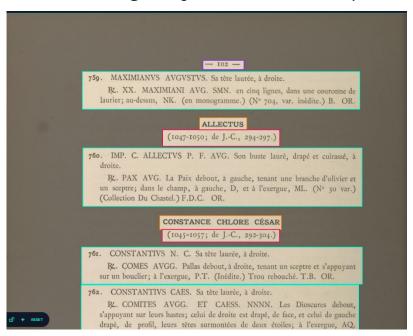


Long paper presentation on LADaS tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. (Layout Analysis Dataset with Segmonto, by Thibault Clérice and Juliette Janes)!



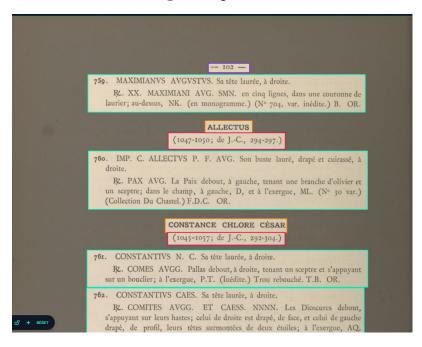
The DataCatalogue Annotation Schema: Examples

MainZone:P@CatalogueDesc and Mainzone:Entry

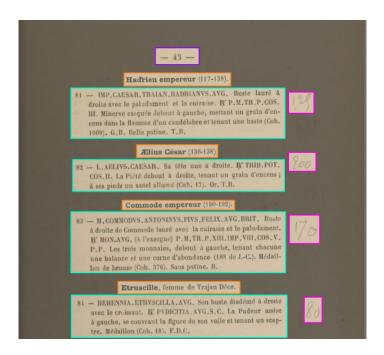


DataCatalogue's SegmOnto-based annotation schema

MainZone:P@CatalogueDesc



MarginTextZone:ManuscriptAddendum

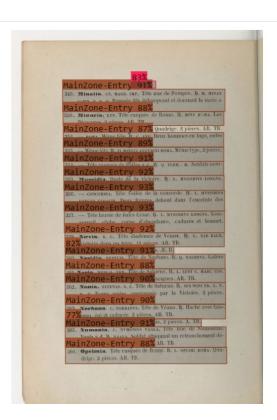




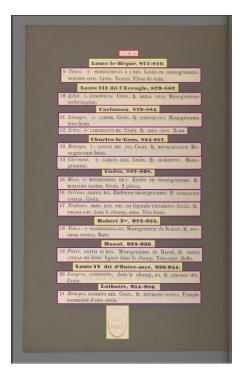
DataCatalogue's YOLO Model Performance



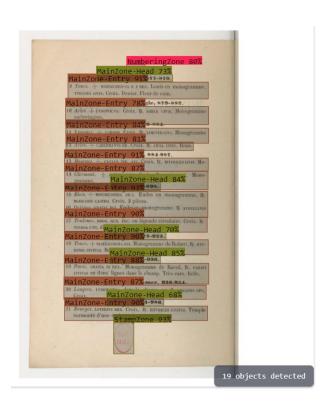
The dataset is available and the model can be tested at https://app.roboflow.com/datacatalogue/macro-segmentation/visualize/10.



Qualitative observations



Ground truth



Prediction



Qualitative Observations



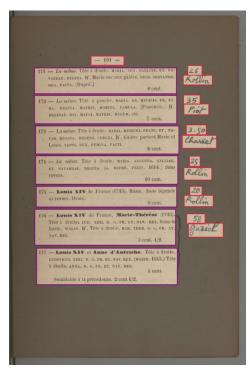
Ground truth



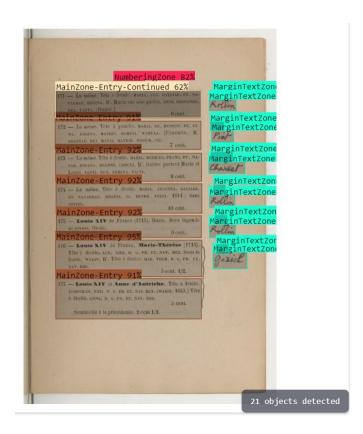
Prediction



Qualitative Observations



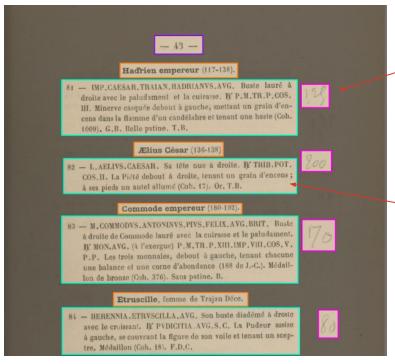
Ground truth



Prediction



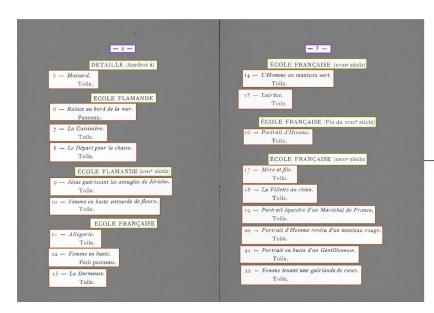
Leveraging layout analysis for automatic text recognition



Extracting handwritten notes (previously ignored by generic OCR engines) and transcribing them with an HTR model

Semi-automatic evaluation of the quality of the OCR, and if necessary, re-ocerization



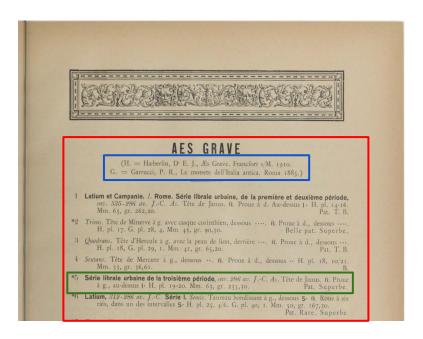


Semi-automatic transformation of the catalogs' segmentation into TEI

Text zones coordinates + transcribed text



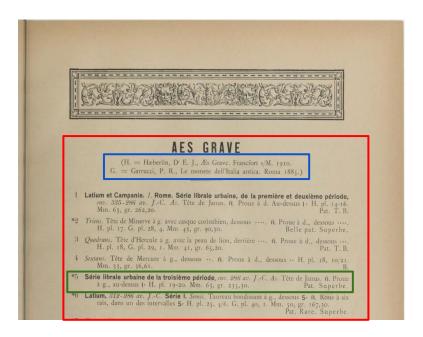
TEI Modeling of Sales Catalogs (1/2)



Built upon the grounding work of:

 Gabay, S., Topalov, B., Corbières, C., Rondeau Du Noyer, L., Joyeux-Prunel, B., & Romary, L. (2021). Automating Artl@s – Extracting Data from Exhibition Catalogues. <hal-03331838>

TEI Modeling of Sales Catalogs (2/2)



- Makes catalogs interoperable
- Structured, enriched, standardized, reusable data
- DataCatalogue ODD = customization of the TEI for encoding sales catalogs
- Definition of 3 new elements:
 - <catalogueEntry>
 - o <catalogueDesc>
 - <catalogueItem>

Modeling of a Catalog Entry (1/2)

*35 Tête imberbe d'Hercule à d., coiffée de la peau de lion; au-dessous, la massue. R. ROMA-Pégase au galop à d. Derrière lui, une massue. B. I, p. 29, 41. Mm. 20, gr. 7,40. Patine et conservation magnifiques.

*35

Tête imberbe d'Hercule à d., coiffée de la peau de lion; au-dessous, la massue. R. ROMA-Pégase au galop à d. Derrière lui, une massue.

Entry number

Object description

Building TEI specifications based on our future micro-segmentation step (= token classification task, such as Named Entity Recognition)

B. I, p. 29, 41. Bibliographic information Object dimensions

Mm. 20, gr. 7,40.

Patine et conservation magnifiques.

Object conservation comments

Modeling of a Catalog Entry (2/2)

```
<catalogueEntry>
     <head>ANTIQUITÉS ÉGYPTIENNES, <lb/>GRANIT, ALBATRE ORIENTAL, SERPENTINE, <lb/>CRAIE,
          IVOIRE.</head>
     <!-- <catalogueDesc/> -->
     <!-- <catalogueItem n=""/> -->
     <catalogueItem n="4">
          <num>4.***.</num>
          <objectType>Albâtre oriental.</objectType>
          <desc>Deux canopes, qui présentent l'un et l'autre quatre <lb/>lb/> colonnes d'hiéroglyphes gravés
                en creux; les couvercles < lb/> placés sur ces vases symboliques sont formés par des
                <lb/>têtes d'Isis.</desc>
          <dimensions>
                <height>Hauteur, 13 pouces.</height>
                <!-- <width/> -->
          </dimensions>
          <!-- <condition/> -->
     </catalogueItem>
</catalogueEntry>
```

Thank you!