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L'Innommable / The Unnamable: The Second Module of the Samuel Beckett Digital Manuscript Project's Hybrid Genetic Edition.

Dillen, Wout

wout.dillen@gmail.com
University of Antwerp

This poster will offer an interactive demonstration of the second module of the *Samuel Beckett Digital Manuscript Project* (BDMP) – an international collaboration between the Centre for Manuscript Genetics at the University of Antwerp, the Beckett International Foundation at the University of Reading, and the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at the University of Austin, Texas, with the kind permission of the Estate of Samuel Beckett. As its name implies, the BDMP aims to reunite and make publicly accessible all manuscripts of Samuel Beckett's works, the physical documents of which are located in different holding libraries around the world. This goal will be realized in the form of a hybrid genetic edition that combines a digital archive of the manuscripts organized in twenty-six research modules (one published each year) with a series of twenty-six accompanying volumes analysing the geneses of the texts contained in the corresponding modules. Each of the modules comprises digital facsimiles and transcriptions of all extant manuscripts pertaining to an individual text – or to a collection of shorter texts. The digital archive can be accessed online at www.beckettarchive.org, where you can currently find the project's first module, which combines the manuscripts of the late short prose text *Stirrings Still / Soubresauts* with those of Beckett's last poem *Comment dire / what is the word*¹. The project's second module, which will present the bilingual genetic dossier of Beckett's novel *L'Innommable / The Unnamable* edited by Dirk Van Hulle, Shane Weller and Vincent Neyt, will be made available online towards the end of 2013².

As a hybrid genetic edition, the BDMP combines digital scholarly editing with genetic criticism – a form of literary criticism that studies the dynamics of the writing process. As such, the edition does not aim to support a new reading text of Beckett's works, but rather to highlight the creative process that brought those works about. Traces of this process can be found in the extant manuscripts, more specifically in their many deletions, additions, paralipomena, doodles, etc. According to Pierre-Marc de Biasi, the objective of genetic criticism is twofold (42)³: first (1) to locate, collate, and transcribe all of the work's extant versions in order to make them analysable, and then (2) to reconstruct the logic of the work's genesis (also called the 'avant texte') from a chosen perspective. Therefore, rather than focussing solely on an *analysis* of the works' geneses – which can be found in the interpretative, printed component of our edition – we also want to make these geneses *analysable*, by offering fully transcribed (in TEI-compliant XML) and searchable facsimiles in the edition's digital component. Hence, the BDMP complies with Patrick Sahle's recent definition of scholarly hybrid editions, stipulating that such editions should not only be published in different media, but that their different components should complement one another, and that each component should take the possibilities and limitations of its medium into account (64)⁴.

Because the modern manuscripts we exhibit are still under copyright and therefore do not yet belong to the public domain, the BDMP still requires its users (either individuals or institutions) to pay a subscription fee to gain access to its materials. Therefore, this poster will be a great opportunity for potential users to receive a personal, hands-on introduction to the project. The poster's main focus will be on the project's

newest module, and on the differences between both modules. Because the genesis of every work is different, even within the oeuvre of a single author, we try to determine what the specific needs of the texts in each subsequent module are, and to re-evaluate the tools and functionalities the module will provide to satisfy those needs accordingly. For the BDMP's second module, for example, this resulted in changes to the Synoptic Sentence View (which allows the user to grab any sentence in our corpus, and generate a chronological list of its different versions), to the image-text linking tool, etc. Furthermore, this poster will also demonstrate the BDMP's improved integration of CollateX⁵ – the interoperable collation tool that is part of the Interedition project⁶.

References

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Spreading DiRT: extending the Digital Research Tools directory

Dombrowski, Quinn

quinnd@berkeley.edu
UC Berkeley

Gold, Matthew

mattgold@gmail.com
City University of New York

1. Background

The DiRT (Digital Research Tools, dirt.projectbamboo.org) directory is a longstanding resource for scholars interested in digital tools and methodologies, providing basic information about software that can facilitate different stages of the research process. DiRT was originally designed as a wiki, where a single wiki page contained information about all tools in a given category. In 2011, under the auspices of Project Bamboo, DiRT was completely rebuilt using the Drupal content management system, which allowed for data to be stored in a structured manner. This enabled more complex searching and browsing options (such as allowing the user to limit results based on criteria like platform or cost), and provided individual profile pages for each tool, which could then serve as a locus for specific comments, or be referenced in other tool profiles. For instance, if a profile page indicates that Neatline is a suite of add-on tools for Omeka, a link to Omeka appears on the Neatline tool profile page, and vice versa.