

# MARKUP AND TEXTUAL EXPLORATION

---

Early Modern Digital Pedagogies

March 30, 2016

Sarah Connell

Women Writers Project

Northeastern University

# Exploring the breathing page

```

<lg>
  [...]
  <l>Ply the pale lamp, explore the breathing page,</l>
  <l>And catch the soul of each immortal age.</l>
  <l>Strikes the pure bard his old romantic lyre?</l>
  <l>Let high <persName>Belphæbe</persName> warm, let
    <persName>Amoret</persName> sweet inspire</l>
  <l>Does History speak? drink in her loftiest tone,</l>
  <l>And be <persName>Cornelia's</persName> virtues all your own.</l>
  <l>Thus self-endowed, thus armed for every state,</l>
  <l>Improve, excel, surmount, subdue, your fate!</l>
  [...]
</lg>

```

❁ Lucy Aikin  
*Epistles on Women*  
 London, 1810

# Some common markup for textual features

**<quote>** for material that originates outside the passage in which it appears

**<title>** for proper names of works

**<bibl>** for bibliographic citations or references

**<note>** for textual notes

**<epigraph>** for epigraphs

**<author>** for authors of texts referenced in bibliographic citations

**<persName>** for names of persons

**<lg>** for line groups

**<l>** for poetic lines

**<div>** for textual divisions

# One method for marking up genre

Labeling various types of textual divisions provides basic generic information. Some of the categories used by the WWP are:

- act
- advertisement
- appendix
- concluding material
- confession
- dedication
- endnotes
- entry
- epigraph
- epilogue
- essay
- examination
- index
- letter
- meditation
- narrative
- petition
- poem
- prayer
- prefatory material
- prologue
- recipe
- revelation
- scene
- speech
- timeline

# For example: encoding a sonnet

```

<div type="poem">
  <head>Sonnet VIII.</head>
  <head type="sub">To Spring.</head>
  <lg type="poem" subtype="sonnet">
    <lg type="quatrain">
      <l>Again the wood, and long-withdrawing vale,</l>
      <l>In many a tint of tender green are dreft,</l>
      <l>Where the young leaves unfolding, fcarce conceal</l>
      <l>Beneath their early fhade, the half-form'd neft</l>
    </lg>
    <lg type="quatrain">
      <l>Of finch or woodlark; and the primrofe pale,</l>
      <l>And lavifh cowflip, wildly fcatter'd round,</l>
      <l>Give their fweet fpirits to the fighting gale.</l>
      <l>Ah! feafon of delight!—could aught be found</l>
    </lg>
    <lg type="tercet">
      <l>To footh awhile the tortured bofom's pain,</l>
      <l>Of Sorrow's rankling fhafft to cure the wound,</l>
      <l>And bring life's firft delufions once again,</l>
    </lg>
    <lg type="tercet">
      <l>'Twere furely met in thee!—thy profpect fair,</l>
      <l>Thy founds of harmony, thy balmy air,</l>
      <l>Have power to cure
      <quote xml:id="a011" corresp="#n011">all fadnefs—but despair.</quote></l>
    </lg>
  </lg>
</div>

```

✚ Charlotte Smith  
*Elegiac Sonnets*  
 London, 1797

# Counting <titles> in textual divisions

Out of 5,346 total <title>s inside texts:

# of <title>s	@type of <div>	# of <div>s with titles	total # of <div>s
841	advert	64	69
704	chapter	214	1,053
530	section	145	1,146
515	letter	207	1,315
405	prefatory material	95	416
266	book	33	51
235	poem	191	4,457
188	endnotes	31	42
188	essay	28	152
57	concluding material	13	50
55	act	32	345

# Further exploration

- Make these measurements more detailed (look at number of words or characters for different types of divisions, calculate percentages of divisions containing titles, &c.)
- Look for specific titles that appear in the types of textual divisions you're interested in (for example, what works are named within drama?)
- Compare counts for other elements in these types of textual divisions (for example, try <quote>, <persName>, <bibl>)
- Or, look for <title>s within other elements to narrow down where they are appearing (for example, with divisions that have a type of "poem," look within <head>, <epigraph>, and <l>)

# More detailed markup: epigraphs

```

<epigraph>
  <quote>
    <lg type="couplet">
      <l>Soft, charming Numbers do our Souls inthrall.</l>
      <l>The rigid melt, and we turn Lovers all.</l>
    </lg>
  </quote>
  <bibl><author><persName>Higgon</persName></author>
    <rs type="title">on <persName>Dryden's</persName>
    <title><persName>Perfius</persName></title></rs>.
  </bibl>
</epigraph>

```

† Elizabeth Boyd  
 “Macareus to Æolus:  
 An Epistle”  
*Variety: A Poem*  
 London, 1727



# Citation patterns in epigraphs

Total number of epigraphs: **655**

Epigraphs containing bibliographic citations: **407**

—Containing authors: **273**

—Containing titles: **58**

—Containing both: **25**

Author	# in <epigraph>	# with <title>
William Shakespeare	41	4
Horace	20	0
Alexander Pope	15	0
James Thomson	13	0
Virgil	13	2
Edward Young	10	0
Ovid	8	1

# Exploring by location: top <placeName>s by city of publication in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>c texts

## London

#	Location
701	London
696	England
275	France
197	Africa
176	Bristol
156	Ireland
152	America
151	Rangoon
144	Quebec
133	Europe
123	Sillery
117	Bath

## Boston

#	Location
301	England
249	Jerusalem
184	France
157	America
156	Rome
150	Boston
146	Spain
121	Europe
116	London
115	Germany
114	Massachusetts
106	Egypt

## Dublin

#	Location
126	France
117	Montfleuri
114	England
89	Paris
65	Dublin
65	Bath
43	London
40	Rome
32	Hauteville
30	Clones
22	Meudon
19	Cavan

# Exploring by author: language use

## Margaret Cavendish

#	Language
52	Latin
22	French
8	Italian
2	Spanish

## Aphra Behn

#	Language
50	French
50	Latin
10	Italian
6	Dutch
1	Greek
1	Hebrew

## Hannah Cowley

#	Language
182	French
26	Latin
25	Italian
1	Spanish
1	Greek

## Charlotte Smith

#	Language
27	Latin
270	French
23	Italian
1	Scots

[...]the wind among trees seems better expressed by the Scottish word `<foreign xml:lang="sco">sugh</foreign>`, and still more elegantly by the `<name>Italian</name>` `<foreign xml:lang="it">susuráre</foreign>` [...]

☞ Charlotte Smith

*Conversations Introducing Poetry*  
London, 1819

# Exploring by century: top titles

## Seventeenth Century

- 62 *Revelation*
- 35 *Philosophical and Physical Opinions*  
—Margaret Cavendish
- 28 *Corinthians*
- 24 *Psalms*
- 23 *Luke*
- 22 *Isaiah*
- 19 *Daniel*
- 18 *Acts*
- 13 *Arraignment of Women*  
—Joseph Swetnam
- 11 *Arcadia*  
—Philip Sidney
- 11 *Romans*
- 8 *Hebrews*
- 8 *Ezekiel*
- 8 *John*

## Eighteenth Century

- 33 *Pompey*
- 15 *Isaiah*
- 14 *Psalms*
- 13 *John*
- 12 *Genesis*
- 16 *Sorrows of Young Werther*
- 9 *1 Kings*
- 8 *Lady Julia Mandeville*  
—Frances Brooke
- 7 *Evelina*  
—Fanny Burney
- 7 *Paradise Lost*
- 6 *Aminta*  
—Torquato Tasso
- 6 *Hudibras*  
—Samuel Butler
- 6 *Matthew*
- 6 *Song of Solomon*

# Shakespeare by century

## Eighteenth century

**99 total**

#	Location
37	<p> (not in <note>)
34	<note>
19	<l>
5	<epigraph>
4	<list>
1	<advertisement>
1	<head>

## Nineteenth century

**92 total**

#	Location
38	<epigraph>
18	<l>
17	<note>
12	<p> (not in <note> or <sp>)
7	<sp>
1	<advertisement>

**T**HANK YOU!

---

