

Towards a Cross-Disciplinary Notion of *Data Level* in Data Curation

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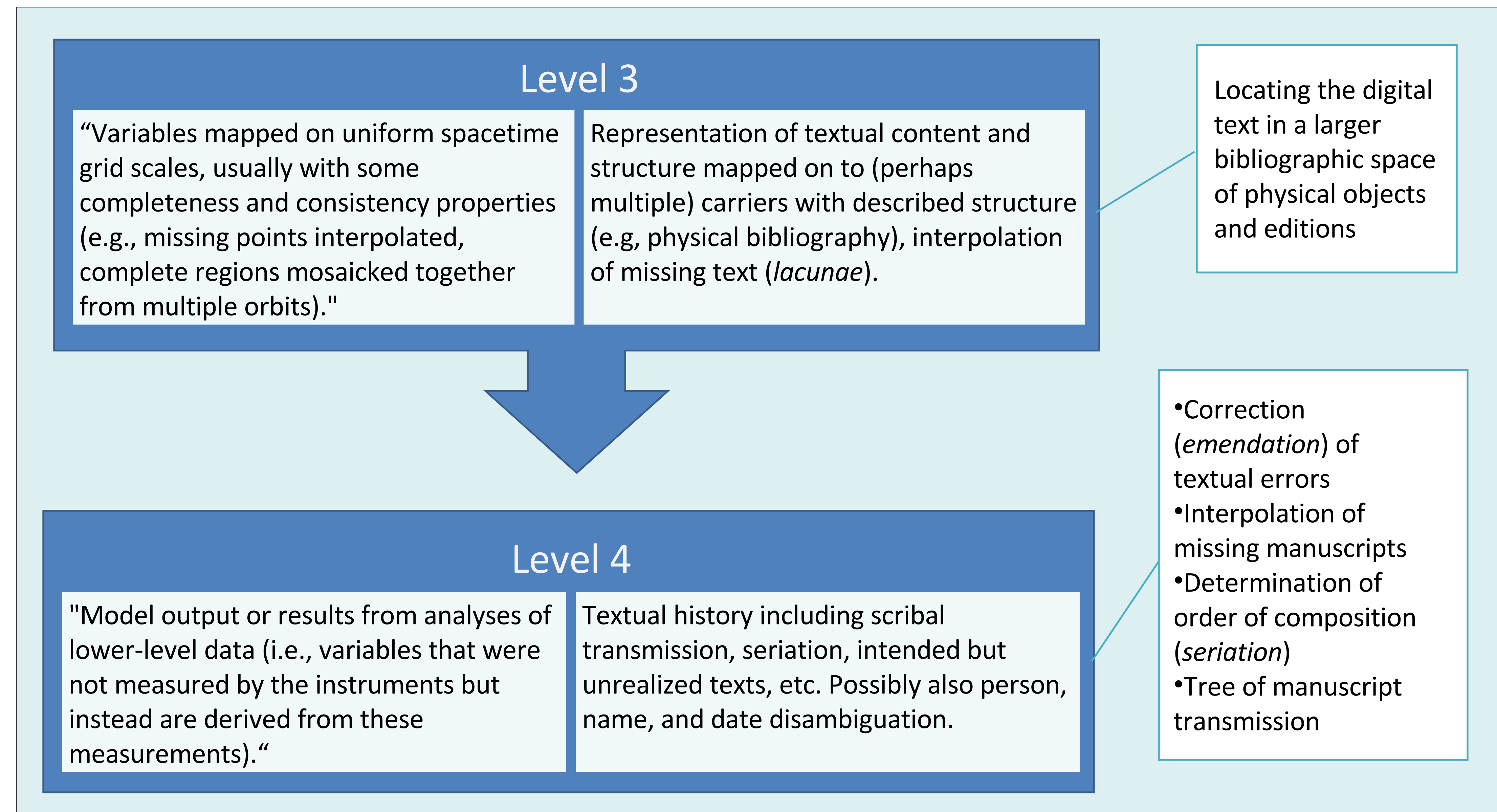
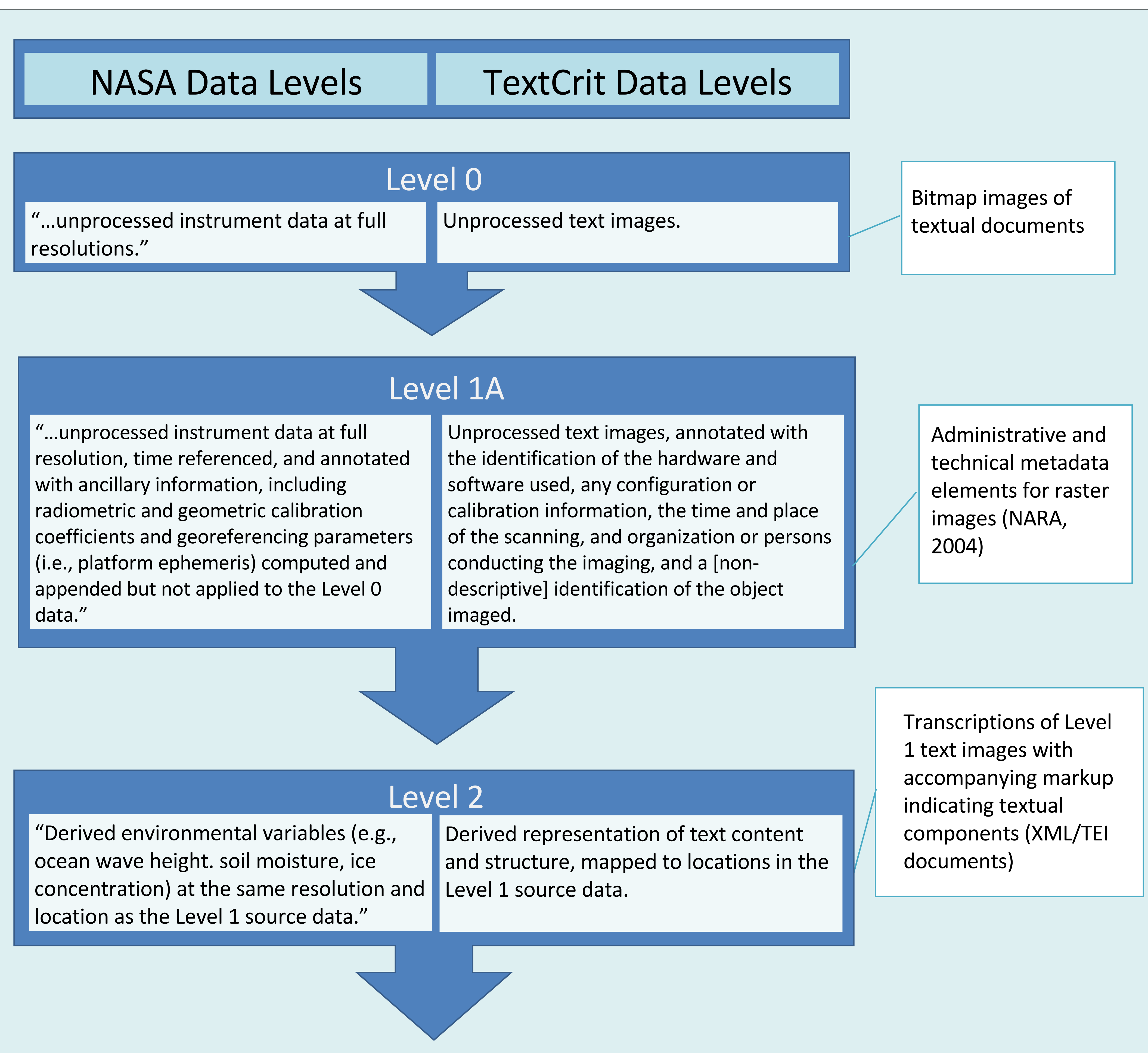
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Data Levels in Earth Science and Textual Criticism

- Originally focused on scientific data, the data curation community is now engaged with humanities data as well.
- Sharing concepts and terminology across domains will be valuable for both:
 - the practice of data curation, and
 - the education of data curation professionals.
- Can these distinct domains support shared frameworks of common concepts?
- As an exercise in conceptual alignment, we compare the widely used NASA data level categories for remote sensing data with traditional notions of scholarly transcription and editing found in textual criticism or textual philology.
- "Data level" categorizes data with respect to the extent to which it is "raw" or "processed".



Questions for Further Discussion

- Are there fundamental differences between cultural and scientific data that will bear on the characterization of data level?
- What role does human judgment and intuition play in moving from one data level to another? Is this role the same in the sciences and the humanities?
- How does the intentionality, the *aboutness*, of cultural artifacts fit into the concept of data levels?
- What is the effect of one discipline's theory being another discipline's data? (e.g., a scholarly edition is data for a literary critic, but theory for a textual philologist.)
- These are operational definitions; how can we characterize data levels conceptually?

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