

# Singing another Tune: Open/Digital/Minimal Scholarly Edition of Castilian and Galician- Portuguese Lyric Poetry

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In recent years, Open Science has emerged as a movement to make scientific research accessible to society. Open Science is related to ethical and technological principles concerning transparency, re-use, participation, cooperation, accountability, reproducibility of research, and the use of open-source software and hardware. Surprisingly, even though Digital Humanities (DH) is a “technologically embedded field” (Svensson, 2016), its critical literature has not focused much on the benefits of Open Science for enabling collaborative, scalable, and long-lasting research.

Digital scholarly editing is at the core of DH (Earhart, 2012). Free open standards such as the ones developed by the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI), but also XML technologies such as XSLT and XQuery, characterize the field; however, the scholarly editions themselves have not always been successful in being open products of research. From a Global South perspective, the Digital Scholarly Edition (DSE) field is perceived as being dominated by standards and technologies that are still unfamiliar to scholars (Allés-Torrent and del Rio Riande, 2020) and as objects that require substantial infrastructure and advanced technical skills.

The allocation of resources for research in Latin America is in great disproportion with that in developed countries. This is the case for HD CAICYT Lab (<http://hdlab.space/>), the DH laboratory at Argentinian CONICET I have been coordinating since 2017. Minimal computing has become part of the Lab’s DH standards and commons, integrating with principles of openness (open corpora, documentation, collaboration, software, and publishing) (del Rio Riande et al., 2018) aligned with Argentinian national law on open access and the Open Science environment in Latin America. As such, we practice minimal computing beyond its definition of simply “computing done under some technological constraints” as it becomes our primary instrument for computing to do any form of open DH.

The Lab has been making minimal editions incorporating TEI markup and rendering the edited texts in static sites built with Jekyll and GitHub pages. The minimal computing approach turned into the solution for computing done under technological constraints, but also for “producing our own scholarship ourselves” (Gil, 2015). In this presentation I

commented on our DSEs of the Castilian and Galician-Portuguese poetry. The cantigas were designed not to be read but to be sung before an audience and accompanied by musical instruments. The DSEs are part of the Reis Trobadors project, an initiative I lead at the Arts Faculty of the University of Buenos Aires, in which humanists work together with musicologists, musicians and students to reconstruct and bring back to life texts and musical notation in digital editions (<http://hdlab.space/Poesia-Medieval/>) with audio resources and live performances (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjFhjRoy8sXSb3YUEaAFvtvFXjOzExCv5> and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KN93o1meK14&ab\\_channel=AALGAvideos](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KN93o1meK14&ab_channel=AALGAvideos)). I discussed the advantages and limitations of this approach and our work on poetry and music encoding.

Keywords: Open Science, Minimal Computing, Galician-Portuguese Lyric Poetry, Text Encoding Initiative (TEI), digital edition, music.