The encoding of agency in Iberian notarial charters (XIIth-XVIIth centuries)

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Abstract

In the last half century, several thousand medieval charters concerning Spain and Portugal have been the subject of academic editions. This abundance has allow.
The purpose of this Project (Notariado y construcción social de la realidad. Hacia una codificación del documento notarial) is to advance the efficient access to historical data by developing a markup model for historical documents. The research is based on documents written by public notaries in the kingdoms of Castile and Portugal between the 12th and 17th centuries. The nature of the diplomatic documentation is appropriate for a massive analysis of the data that does not lose sight of the particular writing of each piece. Sales or rents are based on formularies. Diplomatic studies carried out in recent years have revealed recurring writing patterns in which the client agency and notaries for the description of particular situations can also be appreciated.ed the development of a historiography that has multiplied the number of investigations. The scale of the studies has also changed, allowing the growth of research less focused on case studies. However, the vast majority of scholars continue to use these print editions in a traditional way, and the use of digital techniques seems still quite scarce.

The encoding model that is being developed consists of three parts. The Guidelines of the Text Encoding Initiative are used for the TeiHeader, description of manuscripts and encoding of names, dates, people and places. Secondly, the marking of diplomatic aspects uses those general categories that were defined by the Vocabulaire Internationale de Diplomatique and codified by the Charters Encoding Initiative. Finally, recent research on the diplomatic structure of the notarial document in Castile and Portugal is the basis for the development of a specific module for encoding structural components of the text that are particular to the documentation of public notaries.

The preliminary works are allowing to analyze the way in which the public notaries use the documentary structures of the forms they handled, as well as the way in which they adapt them to particular cases. The objective of the project is to encode 10,000 notarial documents as a starting point for historical research based on a large number of data, which will accelerate the gathering of information and open up new research perspectives.

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