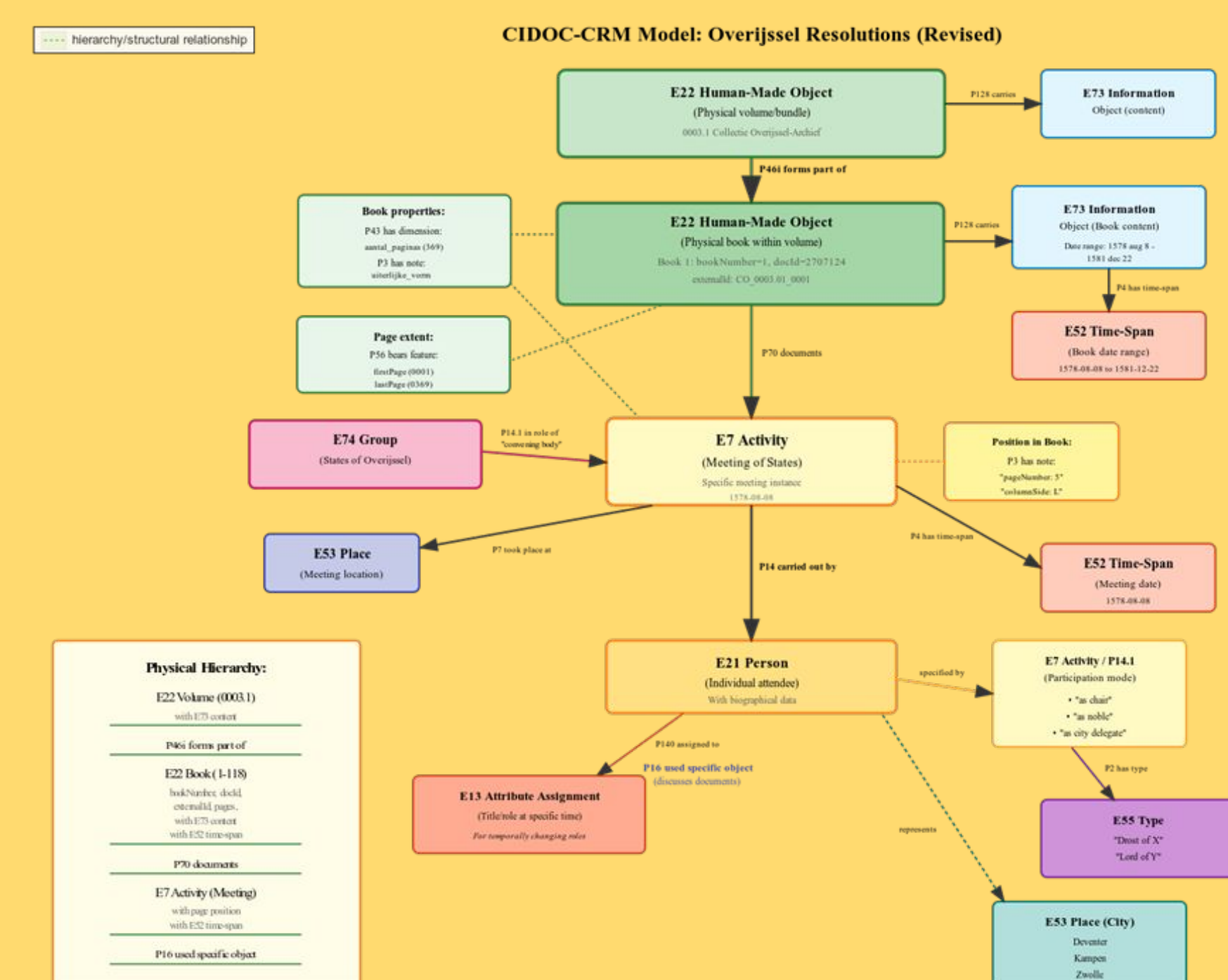


Making Provincial Archives Accessible: ML/AI-Driven Transformation of the Overijssel Resolutions (1578-1795)

C.A. Romein

This methodology provides provincial archives with a proven workflow for rendering large volumes of handwritten administrative sources accessible. The combination of automated text recognition, structured data (CIDOC-CRM, Wikidata), and citizen science validation is directly applicable to comparable resolution series in other provinces. Linking historical place names to Wikidata identifiers creates interoperability between heritage institutions, enabling researchers and the public to search sources across institutional boundaries. The project demonstrates how ML/AI technology augments rather than replaces archival expertise, with human interpretation remaining essential for quality assurance. This approach enables comparative research into early modern governance practices and connects scholarly investigation with public narratives about regional identity.



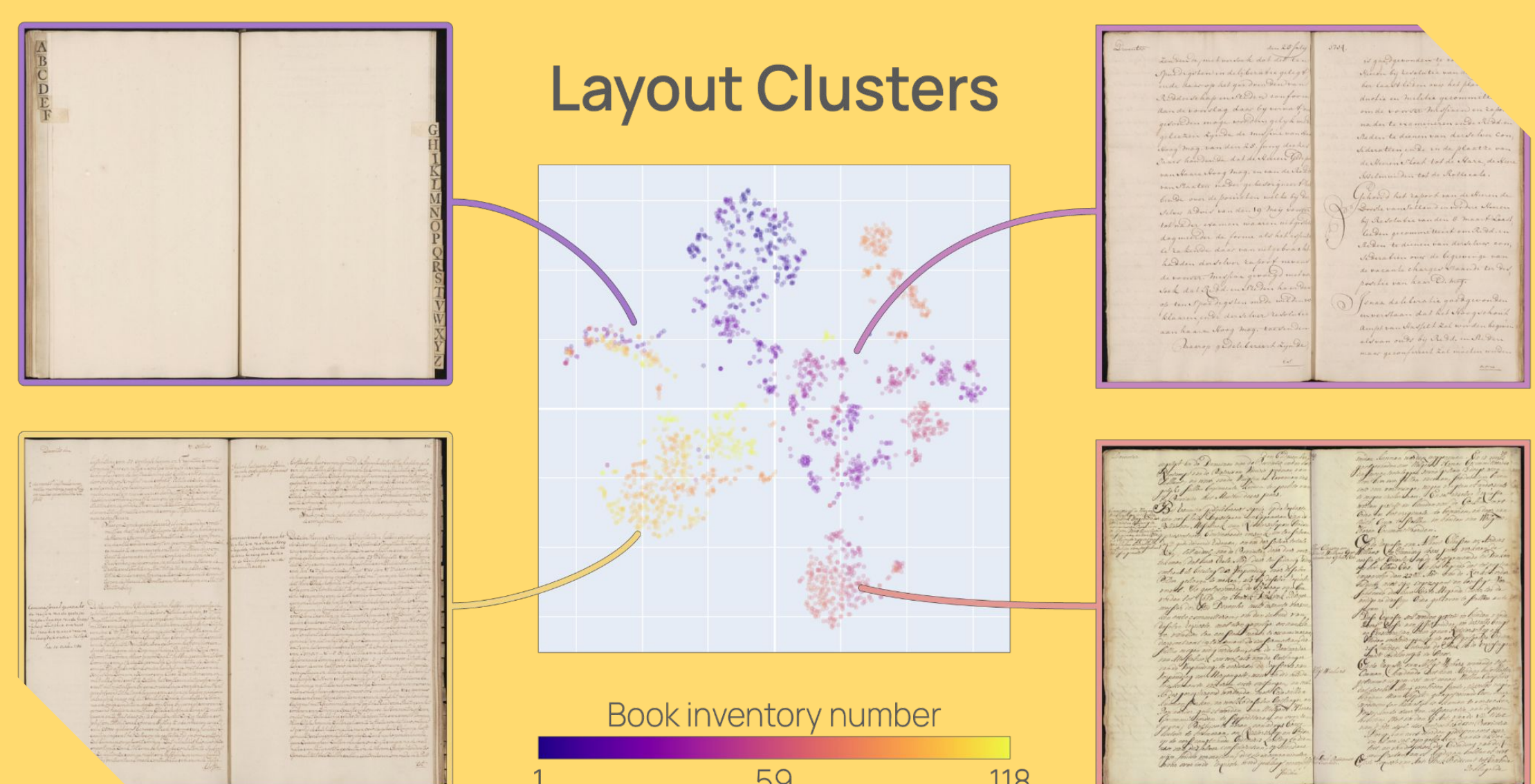
Spring 2028

2026-27

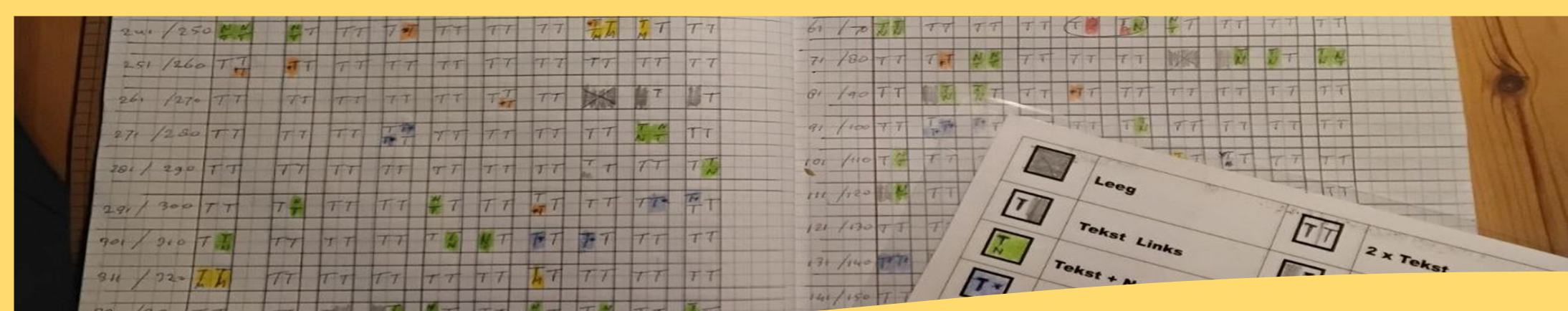
2025



2024



2020



1578-1795

The “Resolutions” presented to Overijssel

- Direct evidence of citizen-government interaction
- Provincial citizenship in practice
- Rich source for spatial, temporal, and social analysis

Named Entity Recognition and Topics

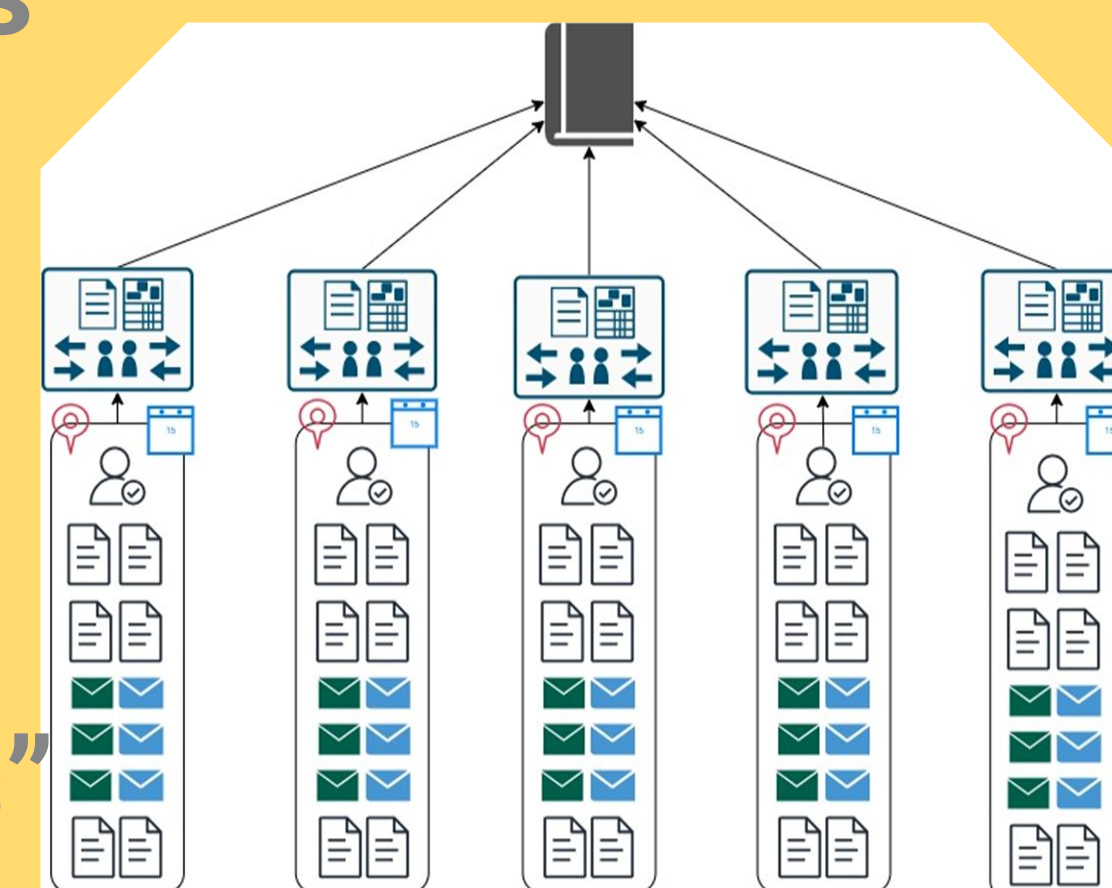
- Layout labelling
- NER recognition
- Explore LLMs/tSNE/Annif to cluster content for topical metadata

Recognizing the “Resolutions”

- Layout recognition for all sources.
- Text recognition for all sources.
- Start “finding meetings”.
- Hack-a-LOD: exploring maps for visualizations.
- Working with volunteers for Named Entity Recognition.

HAICu @UT starts working on datafication of the “Resolutions”

- Exploring the layout and content.
- Testing models and tools.



Digitisation of the “Resolutions”

- Provincial governance records to made accessible by 2028 (jubilee).
- Previously largely inaccessible for systematic research.
- Contains abstracts of requests/petitions of the inhabitants - these are hitherto unexplored due to their absence in indices.

Meetings of the Staten van Overijssel

- 118 bound manuscript volumes (1578-1795)
- ~ 6,015 days of meeting-minutes
- ~ 55,000+ handwritten pages
- ~ 9,924,767 words in predominantly Dutch

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Acknowledgements:

With help from Ben Wolf, Victor de Boer, Andreas Weber, Volunteers, Collectie Overijssel, HAICu-SCOPE.



NWO FUNDING: NWA.1518.22.105