



The VAST Collaborative Multimodal Annotation Platform: Annotating Values

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Abstract. In this paper, we present the VAST Collaborative, Multimodal, Web Annotation Tool. It is a collaborative, web-based annotation tool built upon the Ellogon infrastructure, adapted to the content creation and annotation needs of digital cultural heritage. With the help of an annotation methodology and guidelines, the tool has been used to analyse and annotate intangible artifacts (mainly narratives) with moral values. This paper presents the tool and its capabilities, and an evaluation study for assessing its usability.

Keywords: annotation tools · inter-annotation reliability · collaborative annotation · web-based annotation · moral values

1 Introduction

It is widely spoken of the values inherited through literary heritage. However, being specific about how these values are expressed in intangible artifacts (e.g. narratives such as historical texts) is not straightforward. One widely adopted technique to externalise implicit content in text is qualitative content analysis, where experts annotate a text assigning labels that are not necessarily visible in the text itself.

In this paper, we present the VAST Collaborative, Multimodal, Web Annotation Tool. It is a collaborative, web-based annotation tool built upon the Ellogon infrastructure, adapted to the content creation and annotation needs of digital cultural heritage. Being based on a generic annotation platform in development for many years, offers a set of advantages, like the ability to support a wide range of annotation tasks and annotation schemata, robustness, as well as cross-domain features, like artifact/resource management, security, storage, etc. On the other hand, domains like the digital cultural heritage, may have specialised