

Why do the digital critical edition of a Latin source? The example of the *De Rebus Gestis Rogerii comitis* by Gaufredus Malaterra

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Abstract : The rise of digital humanities has contributed greatly in the study of ancient and medieval texts : by rendering accessible large collections of downloadable and searchable texts and by digitizing many manuscript collections that preserve the memory of these texts.

In addition, this development has been supported by deep reflection on the contribution of new tools for the scientific edition, by examining the best methods to be adopted with the development of computer tools and the expected result of the editorial work.

However, very few researchers today work digital scientific editions from old sources. Deploring the complexity of the work of ecdotics linked with digital, some researchers encourage to publish online “documentary” editions rather than “critical” editions.

This contribution will seek to point out that the optimum use of IT tools preferably leads to defend the complementarity of documentary and critical edition. First, the advantages of using a digital environment during the research will be defined: structuring data to make them sustainable and interoperable, tooling-up the data input to ensure maximum reliability, etc.

The benefits for the editor/researcher/reader will then be presented: handwritten witnesses useful for the realization of the scientific edition are made available, along with the scientific apparatus necessary for their critical reading and for the understanding of the approach adopted by the editor. For this purpose, we will rely on the work carried out in Caen on the *History of the Great Count Roger* by Gaufredus Malaterra (composed in Latin around 1100), within the framework of the partnership associating [CRAHAM](#), the [Pôle Document numérique](#) of the [MRSH](#), the Presses universitaires de Caen and the libraries where the manuscripts are preserved.