

Under utgivning

- den vetenskapliga utgivningens
bibliografiska funktion

av

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Akademisk avhandling som med tillstånd av samhällsvetenskapliga fakulteten vid
Göteborgs universitet för vinnande av filosofie doktorsexamen
framläggs till offentlig granskning kl. 13.15 lördagen den 9 december 2006
i Stora Hörsalen (C 203), Högsolan i Borås, Allégatan 1, Borås.

Institutionen Biblioteks- och informationsvetenskap/Bibliotekshögskolan
Högsolan i Borås och Göteborgs universitet

Title: Under utgivning: den vetenskapliga utgivningens bibliografiska funktion (The editor's text: bibliographic functions in scholarly editing)

Language: Swedish, with a summary in English

ISBN 91-89416-16-3

ISSN 1103-6990

The thesis investigates in what way the scholarly edition performs bibliographic functions as it manages and positions other documents. This is where the study differs from previous research on scholarly editing and bibliography. It aims to trace the boundary between scholarly editing and bibliography by comparing crucial objectives, problems and conflicts in each field. This is accomplished by identifying the argumentation, assumptions and conceptual frameworks that form the rationale for the fields, and subjecting them to qualitative critical and historical analysis. The main empirical material is editorial theory literature, with scholarly editions serving as illustrating examples. Key questions concern the way scholarly editors and bibliographers identify, define and reproduce their respective source material; the reasons for conflicts between editors' varying expectations of the reproductive force in printed and digital editions; and the connections and demarcations between scholarly editing and bibliography and between scholarly editions and reference works such as bibliographies. Bibliographic and media theory form the basis for the theoretical framework, with additional input from book history, literary theory, genre studies and scholarly communication studies.

The thesis suggests a distinction between the two activities of clustering and transposition, and the distortion the latter brings about. These concepts are employed to detect, group and explain activities and problems in scholarly editing and bibliography, who both manage sets of documents by clustering them to one another and transposing their contents by producing new documents. There is a noticeable division of labour between the two tasks, and they also correspond to different types of editions.

The study also ties the dominant editorial strategies and edition types to respective bibliographic foci, and argues that central conflict areas are primarily accentuated and only secondarily introduced with digital editing. An idealistic strand treats editing as unbiased delivery of disambiguable and reproducible content, while to a hermeneutical strand the edition is an argumentative and content constraining filter, its editor being a kind of biased author. In a third strand, editions are content circulating ecosystems with a division of labour between collaborating media types. In particular the view of editions as constitutive arguments is related to analogue observations in LIS and genre and scholarly communication studies. On the one hand, editing is supposed to be a dynamic research area, ready to respond to new findings and scholarly ideals. On the other, several arenas demand the edition to serve as a conservative force, static and confirmatory. The potential of digital media points to a distinction between edition and archive, where the former but not the latter explicitly takes an interpretative stand. Digital editing also boosts the idealistic strand by the seeming promise to separate facts from interpretation and to enhance maximum exhaustiveness and reproductivity.

Although the thesis identifies many commonalities between editions and reference works and the way these are structured, there is a crucial difference. The edition is simultaneously a work's reference and referent. Bibliographies and reference works cannot make that claim.

Keywords: Bibliography, Clustering, Conceptual analysis, Document studies, Knowledge organization, Library and information science, Media theory, Reference works, Textual criticism, Transposition