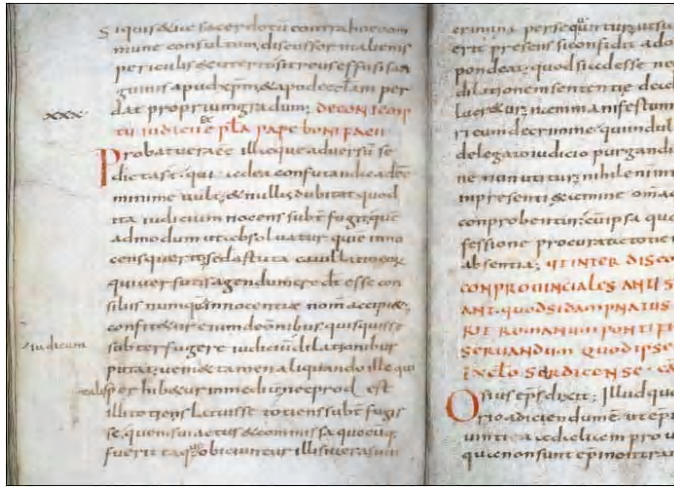


In the early middle ages there was no single, codified corpus of canon law. The components of canon law — the individual “canons” (specific rules) — were gathered and compiled in “collections” which varied in their size, content, organization, and intent. As each manuscript was copied or copied from another, the components mutated. In such a changing environment of manuscript witnesses, the problem is which of the various mutations should be privileged and represented on the printed page. By presenting three prominent collections used in the early middle ages (the *Collectio Dacheriana*, the *Collectio Hispana*, and the *Collectio Dionysiana*) in a manipulable collation, the CCL allows users to enter the dynamic world of Carolingian jurists.



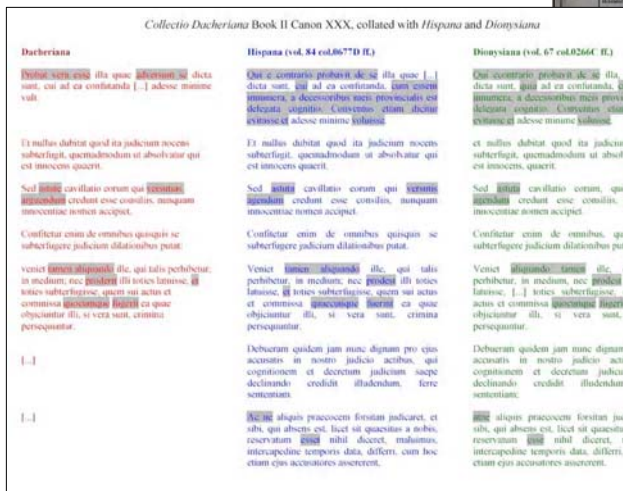
Stage 1: Manuscript

Canons are issued by councils and selected from papal legal opinions, gathered into collections and copied into manuscripts. Over time manuscripts are copied again and again, and canons are gathered and re-gathered into new collections.



Stage 2: Printed Edition

In the early modern period, editors compiled and published editions of the canon collections, but these editions have limitations. They privilege one set of readings in a text over all others (one canon may be quite different from manuscript to manuscript and from collection to collection).



Stage 3: Collation

We take canon readings from each of the three collections (*Collectio Dacheriana*, *Collectio Hispana*, and *Collectio Dionysiana*) and collate them, noting each variant reading. The three-column format helps us see at a glance how the canon readings differ from one collection to the next.

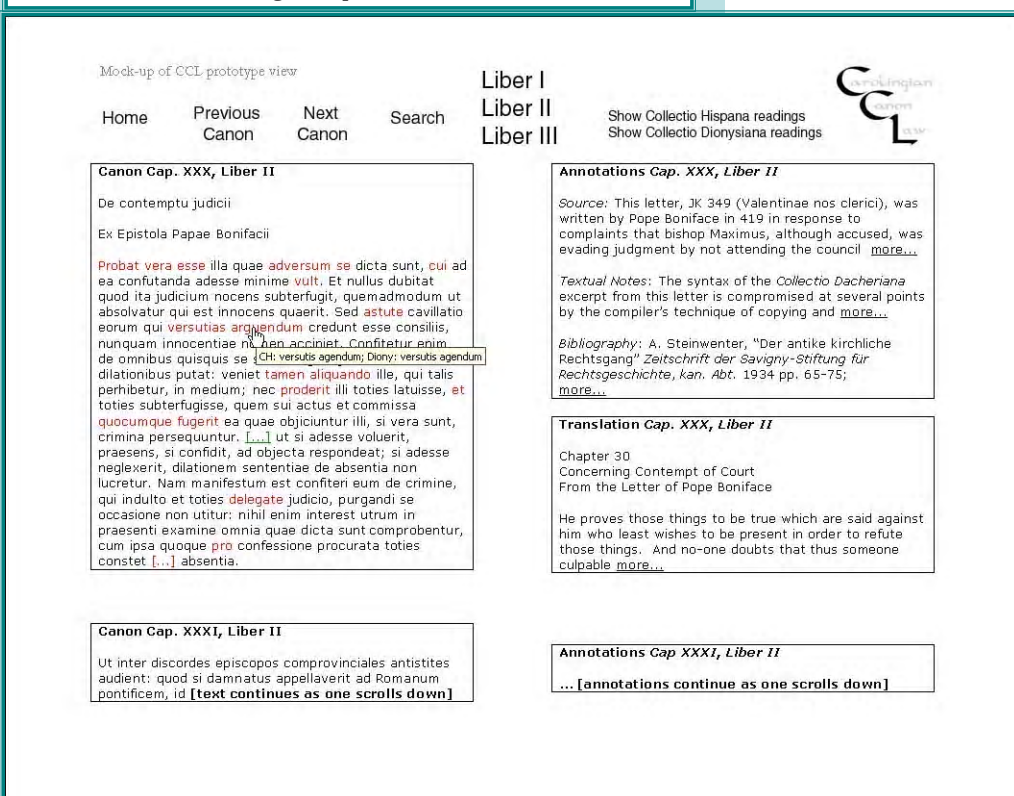


Stage 4: Computer-readable encoding

Once we have collated canon readings from each collection, we convert the collation into computer-readable code using the standard developed by the *Text Encoding Initiative* (TEI). This encoding enables us to note each variant, and in which collection the variant reading is represented.

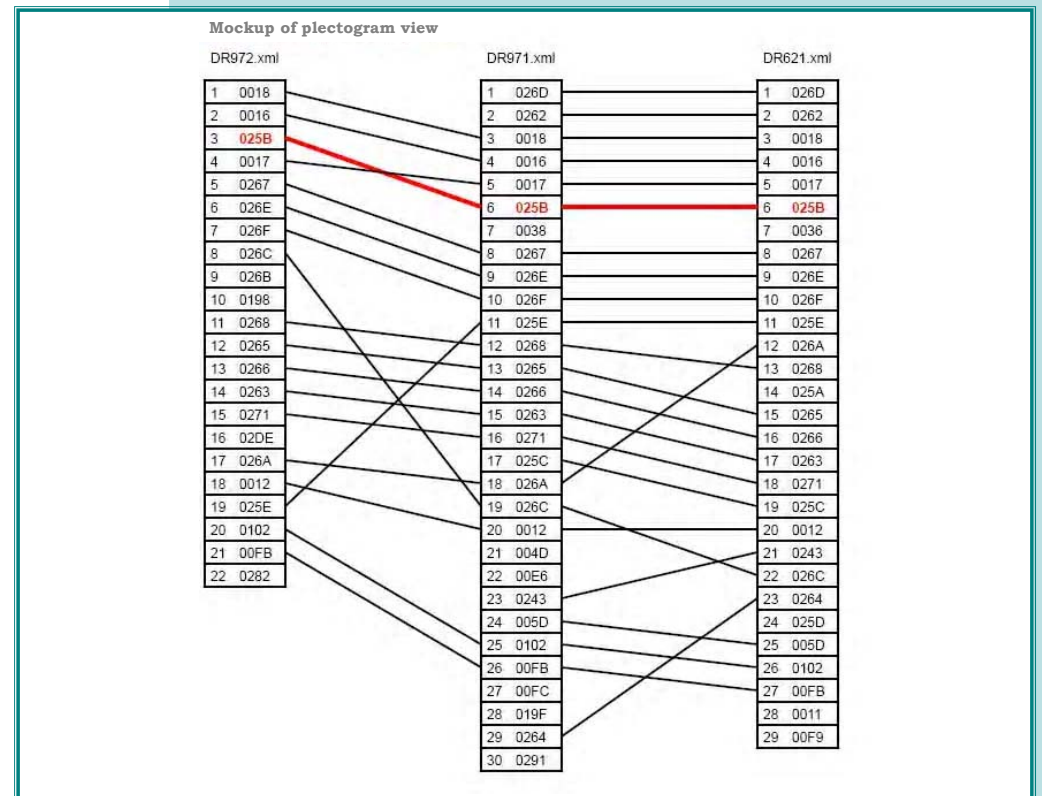
Stage 5: CCL Online: Variant Readings

In the final online view (see the figure below), the text is displayed so that the user can perceive the points of difference and similitude between the three collated collections. The CCL differs from traditional printed editions that privilege one set of readings in a text over all others. Instead, users can explore the universe of possible readings known to Carolingian jurists. Rather than having to compile mentally the variant readings recorded in an apparatus, users can view the different forms of each canon at will through simple mouse-clicks.



Visualizing organizational variation among the Canon Law collections: The Plectogram*

In addition to supplying the variant readings of the different collections, the CCL supplies a tool for understanding the different orders in which each collection places the canons. *Plectograms* allow scholars to map the changes in the order of the canons so that they can better understand the issues of intertextuality and the relationships different compilers saw among the canons. David Birnbaum has developed software to build plectograms that visually collate different organizational structures of complex texts.



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*Hugh Olmsted, "Modeling the Genealogy of Maksim Grek's Collection Types: The 'Plectogram' as Visual Aid in Reconstruction." In: *Medieval Russian Culture*, vol. 2. Michael S. Flier and Daniel Rowland, ed. California Slavic Studies XIX. Berkeley: University of California Press. 1994. 107-33)