Proto4DigEd

Prototypical Workflows for Digital Editions

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A Goals

The main goal of this open research data (ORD) project funded by swissuniversities is to test and further develop prototypical workflows in the conception phase of digital edition projects. The conception phase is particularly crucial from an ORD perspective: it is here that the foundations are laid for ensuring that research data remain accessible and can be re-used later.

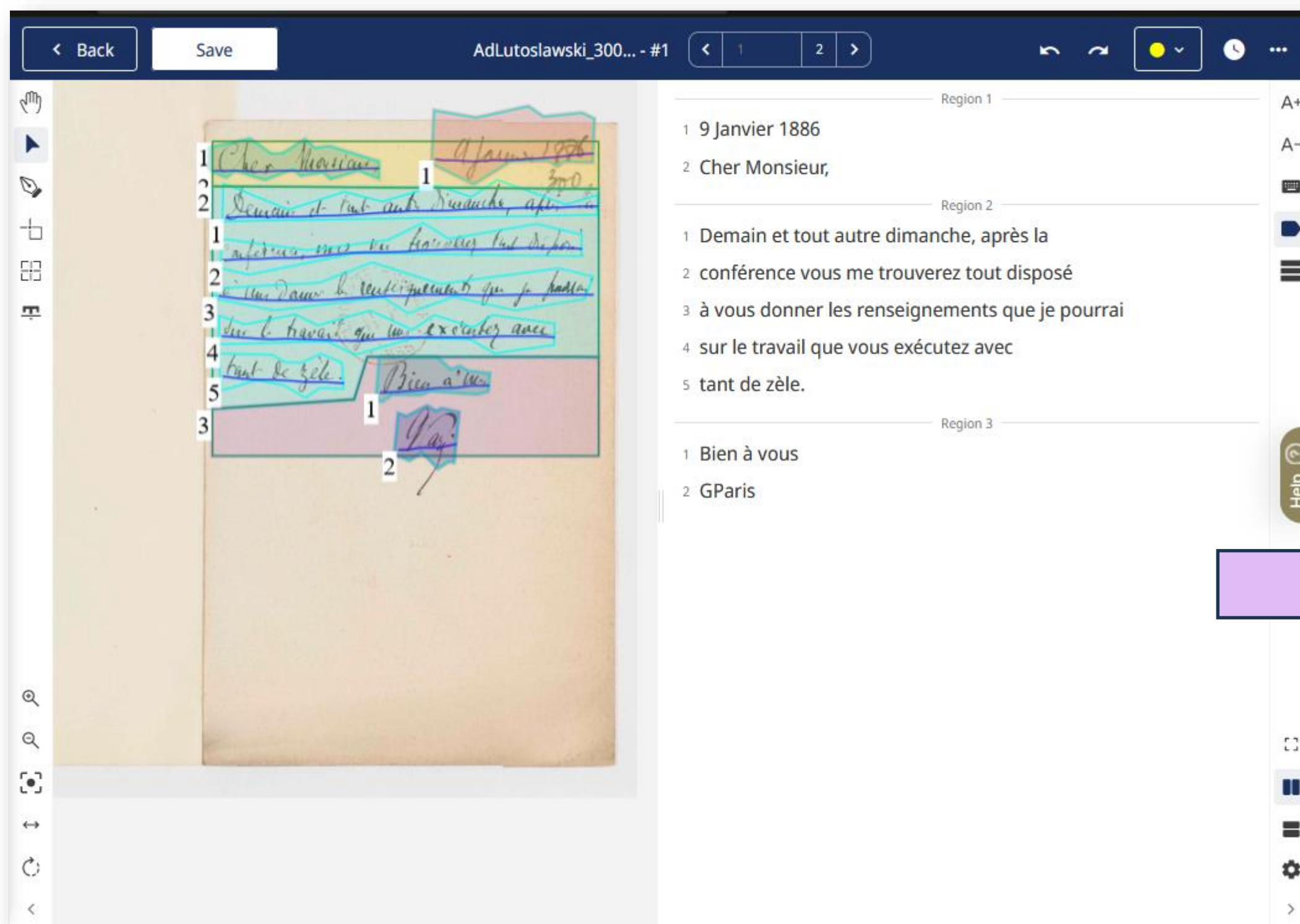Proto4DigEd answers to a growing need for standardisation:

"The challenge here is to imagine what a Prêt-à-Porter edition might look like, that is, to model the digital editions of the future and their editors, or, better, the skills they need to acquire."
(Pierazzo 2019, 214).

For this aim, the project tests and documents the use of proven tools (Transkribus, TEI Publisher) using a small subset of the huge correspondence of Gaston Paris (1839-1903), one of the most influent European philologist of the 19th century.

B Tools, model edition and handbook

The project focuses on connecting existing, proven tools and presenting their workflow-use in an accessible and intuitive manner:

Transkribus offers automated transcription of manuscripts (HTR) with sophisticated general text recognition models as well as the training of specific models.

TEI Publisher is a publishing toolbox developed in Switzerland and Germany that is supported by a growing community and allows standardised markup of texts in TEI-XML and their online publication.

Proto4DigEd will publish a fully functional model edition on a TEI Publisher instance of the UZH, and a static version with reduced functionality which can be preserved long-term in the Swiss National Data and Service Center for the Humanities (DaSCH).

The results of the research project will be presented as a handbook that links the documentation of best practices to the model edition. It will be available in English, using MkDocs. The first outputs will be publicly available in summer/autumn 2024 and finally also be published on the SSH Open Marketplace.
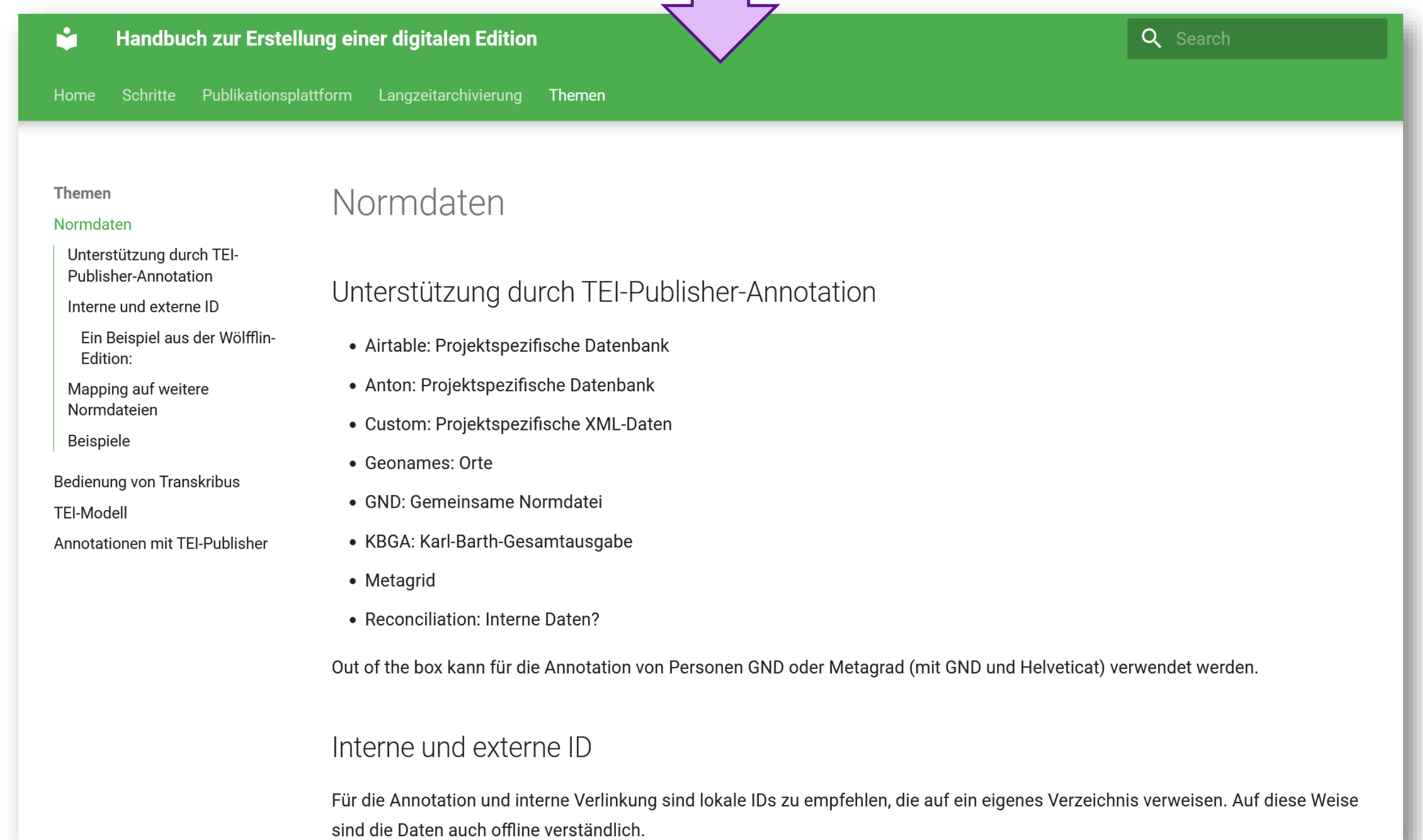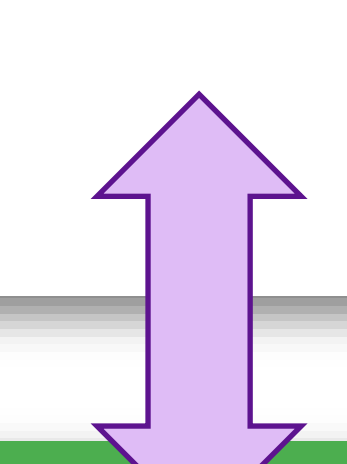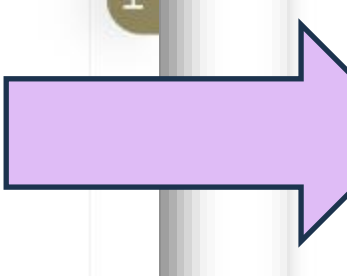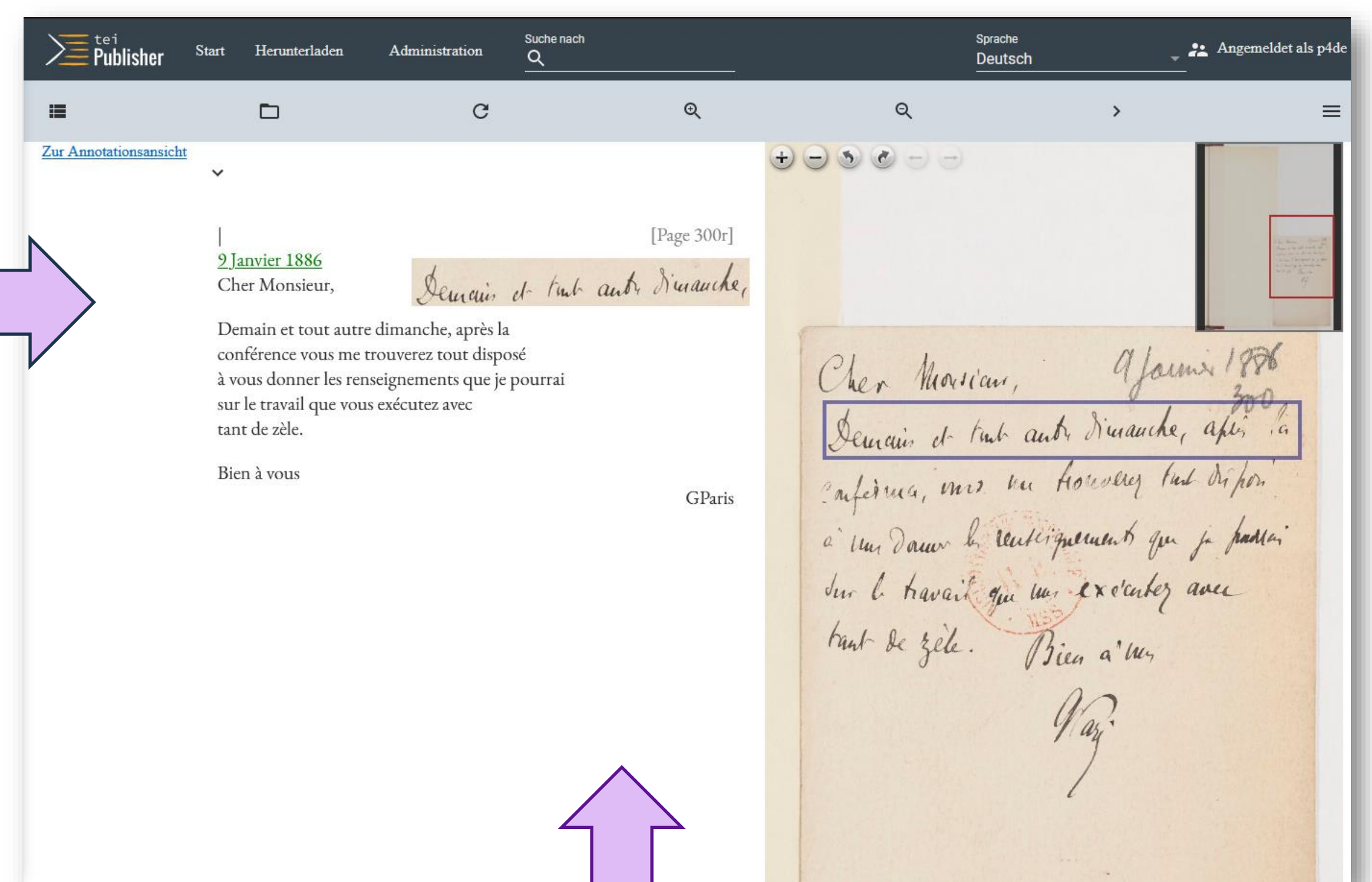
C Multilingual Editions

Multilingualism is an important concern in our workflow since Switzerland is a country with more than one official language and strong connections to French, German and Italian communities. The – sometimes in the same letter - multilingual correspondence of Gaston Paris is therefore a testcase for not only Swiss, but any pan-European project. Proto4DigEd tries to develop versatile workflows for the use and training of multilingual HTR-Models and for the linking of metadata to different national and international authority databases with different language sets.

D Bibliography

For the bibliography and further Information see our abstract:

E Community and Workshops

The first workshop (prototypical workflows) was held on the 10th of April 2024 in Zurich with important digital editions and dh-experts from Switzerland.
The second workshop (long-term sustainability of data) is scheduled for the 11th of September 2024.

We will be happy to keep you informed about its details via the ZDE newsletter:

F Organisation and Expertise

The project management is carried out by the Romanische Seminar UZH (Prof. Dr Ursula Bähler) supported by Science IT UZH.
They represent the core team entrusted with the realisation and documentation of the prototypical workflows.

The Zentrum Digitale Editionen & Editionsanalytik UZH (ZDE) is responsible for the national and international networking of the project as well as documenting the workflows in connection with long-term archiving.

ZB Zürich brings its expertise in structured, standardised and linked metadata. It enables DSEs to autonomously add entities to the GND through a web form and provides editorial GND services to support best practices of authority vocabulary in order to leverage efficient use.
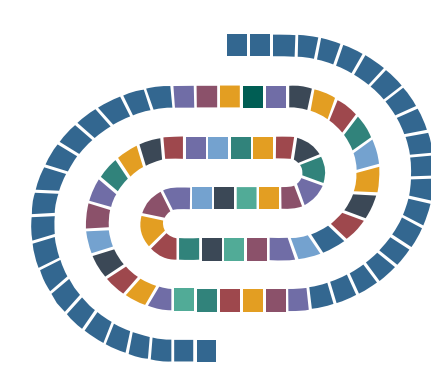
The head of the Swiss National Data and Service Center for the Humanities (DaSCH) contributes her experience in interoperability and building long-term archives.