# SaariStory: A framework to represent the medieval history of Saarland

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> Text Mining for Historical Documents WS 2011/12

# Motivation

Medieval History of Saarland



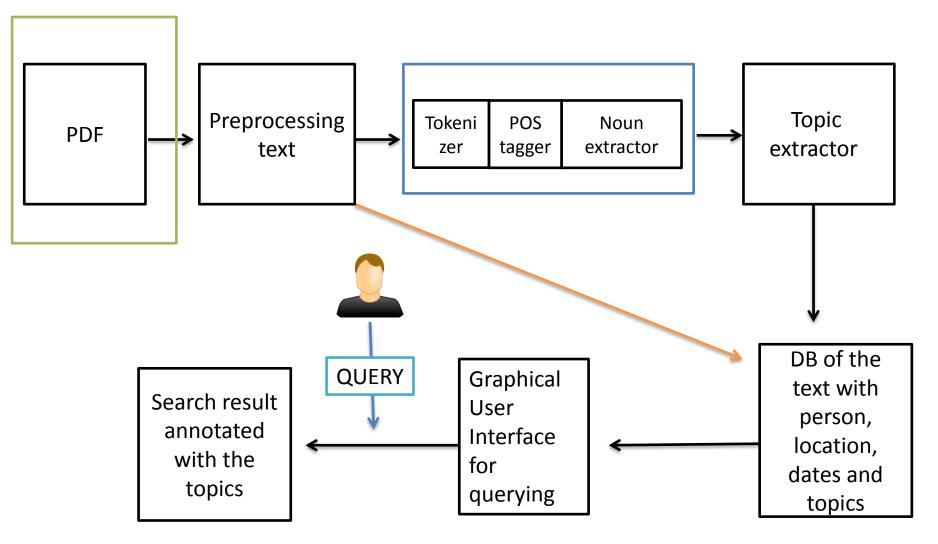


• Query: Which records talked about financial matters involving St. Arnual in the year 600 to 1300

# SaariStory

- Enabling keyword based search
- Answering complex queries
- Providing topic based search
- Showing temporal changes in the number of results for a query

# Workflow of SaariStory



# **Description of the data**

- Two parts of the data
  - **Data block**: Chronologically sorted records of events
  - Index block: index for all these data blocks with alphabetically sorted keywords

#### **Components of a data block**

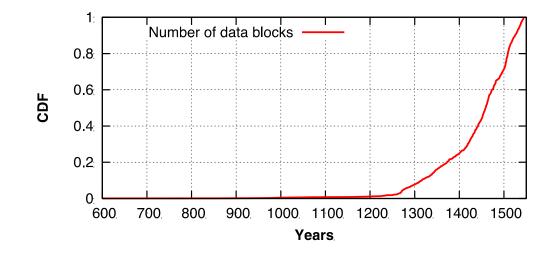
#### timestamp 1275-03-04 Simon [IV.], Graf zu Saarbrucken-Commercy, verbessert das Lehen seines Vasallen, des Ritters Friedrich von Kofel (Ferrico dicto de Cofle) von Saarbrücken, um jährlich 100 Metzer Schillinge, nämlich mit der Mühle zu Neumünster und Abgaben aus dem Forst zu Völklingen und dem Dekanat von Harreswilre, wofür dieser auf der Burg zu Saarbrücken wohnen und Burghut halten soll. MCCLXX quarto feria secunda post buras mense martii<sup>22</sup> S.: A. 1. HessHStAWi - Original (Jungk), hier nicht mehr ermittelt 2. LASb Best. Nassau-Saarbrücken II Nr. 1238 (ehem. HessHStAWi Abt. 121 Urkunden Cofle, um 1900/1910 nach Koblenz extradiert) -Abschrift (14. oder Anfang 15. Jh.), Papier Druck: Kremer (1785) II S. 346 (MCCLXX feria 2 post marci); Schönemann I (1800) S. 208 (MCCLXX feria 2 post marci); Hardt, MRUB IV (2007), S. 845, Nr. 1246 (MCCLXX, feria secunda post Marci); Hardt MRUB V (2007), S. 260 Nr. 391 (mit richtiger Datierung nach Abschrift in Saarbrücken) Regest: MRR III (1881) S. 565 Nr. 2504; Jungk (1914/19) S. 146 Nr. 501

(alies nach der fehlerhaften Transkription der Datierung bei Kremer und Schönemann, die von Hardt zunächst wiederholt wird); Jungk (1914/19) S. 160 Nr. 540 (richtig nach Vorlage ehem. in Wiesbaden) - (Ed)

data

#### **Characteristics of the data blocks**

Number of words	200,646
Number of lines	15,021
Unique data blocks	1,490
Pages	612



#### **Components of a index block**

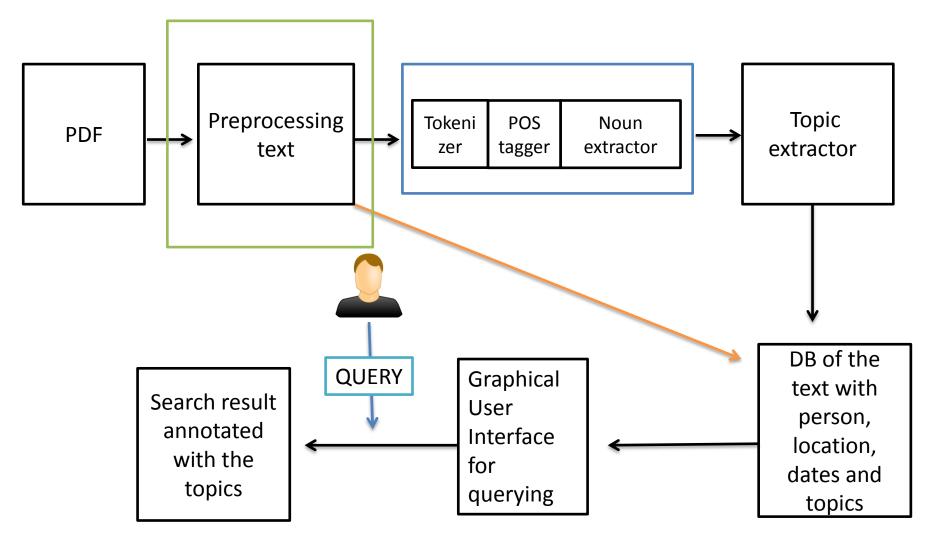
Arnheim, Jacob von 1435-03-06 Arnual, Bf. von Metz (599-615) 0857 Aschaffenburg (Oschoffenburg), Stadt (By) Einwohner - Peter Vox von Oschoffenburg, Bürger zu Saarbrücken, oo Madlen 1529-05-31 keywords

**Dates connecting to index block** 

# **Characteristics of the index blocks**

Number of words	86,485
Number of lines	10,803
Unique index blocks	934
Pages	277

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#### Preprocessing of the data block

- Basic strategy:
  - Convert pdf to text using nitro pdf
  - Parse text to separate the data blocks
- Problem: How to separate data blocks?
  - New lines do not indicate starting of data blocks
  - Distinguish between start of a page and start of a data block

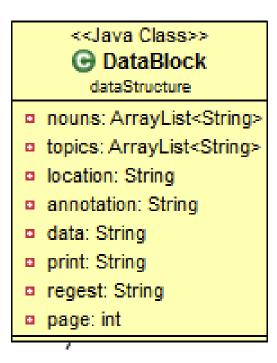
#### Preprocessing of the data block

- Solution: Regular expression
  - Each data block starts with a date:
  - yyyy-mm-dd, yyyy-mm, yyyy/mm, yyyy

• Use them to search "Regest" and "Druck" too

#### **Preprocessing of the data block**

• Data structure to present the processed data



#### **Preprocessing of the index block**

- Problem: How to separate index blocks?
  - The only way to separate them is to use the fact: titles are in bold text

Arnheim, Jacob von 1435-03-06
Arnual, Bf. von Metz (599-615) 0857
Aschaffenburg (Oschoffenburg), Stadt (By)

Einwohner
Peter Vox von Oschoffenburg, Bürger zu Saarbrücken, oo Madlen
1529-05-31

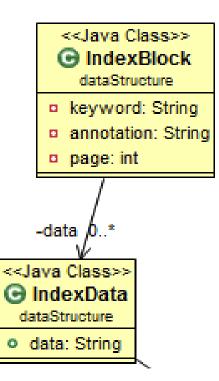
• The bold annotation is lost in pdf to text conversion

### **Preprocessing of the index block**

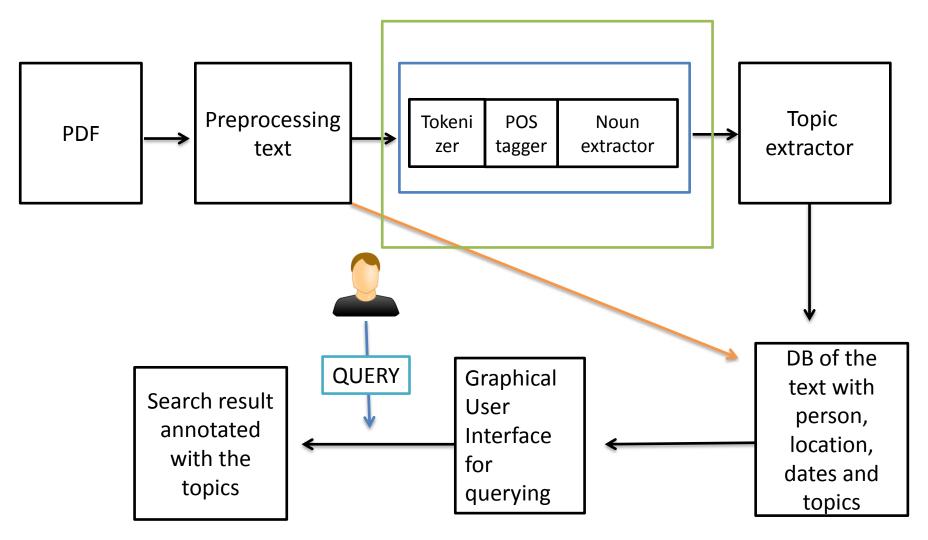
- Solution:  $pdf \implies doc \implies html$ 
  - The bold annotations are preserved
  - Use regular expression to search for the <b></b> tag
  - Took care of broken lines for line breaks
     -0830-05- <next line> 10 -0830-05-10

#### **Preprocessing of the index block**

• Data structure to present the processed index data



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# **Tokenizer and POS tagger**

- Need to process data from each data block
- We use openNLP for this purpose
  - Open source
  - Easy to use
  - Pre-trained for German

#### Noun extraction

- Straightforward to get from POS tagged text
- ~6000 nouns from 1490 data blocks

• Problem: 22 minutes for only 6000 nouns

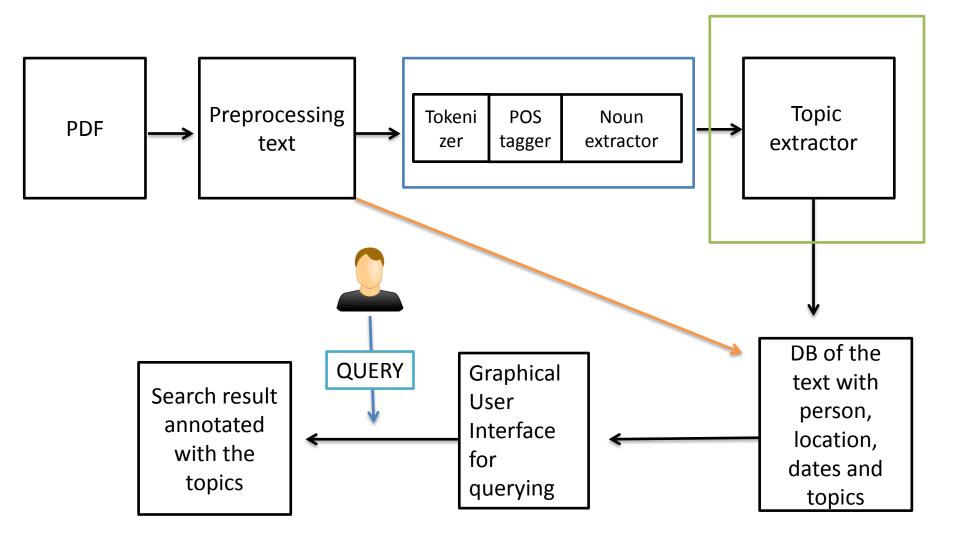
#### **Noun extraction**

- Solution:
  - Run the POS tagger concurrently over data blocks
  - Feed only the tokens which *could be* nouns

Method	Time (seconds)	Speed up
Sequential	1322.6	-
Concurrent	12.4	100x
Concurrent with optimization	12.4	100x

we use the optimized version to have better quality of nouns

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- We use Latent Dirichlet allocation (LDA)
  - Proposed by Biel et al. in 2002
  - Assumption: Each document is a mixture of small number of topics
  - Needed to set two parameters: used trial and error to get meaningful topics

- Using LDA, try 1: Use blindly
  - Some very frequent not so meaningful words
    - E.g. Saarbrücken
  - They are in every topic and every data block
  - Every topic is assigned to every data block

- Using LDA, try 2: Remove some nouns
  - We remove the 15 most frequent nouns
    - Covered 24% of all nouns
  - Problem: some of these nouns *may be* relevant to some documents

- Using LDA, try 3: Only keep *essential* nouns
  - Calculate tf-idf score for word w in a data block d

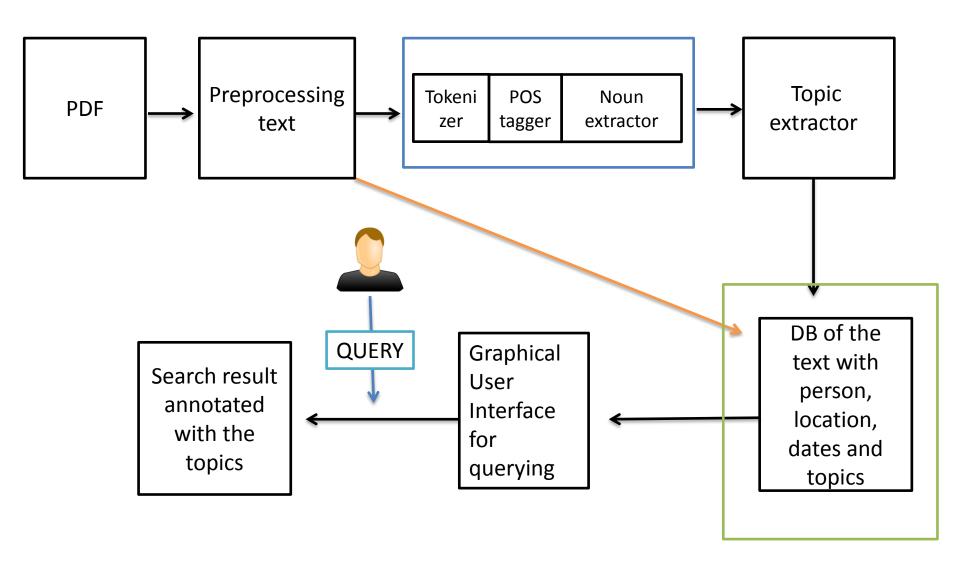
$$tf_{w,d} = #of occurrences of w in d$$
$$idf_{w} = \frac{\partial}{\log_{C} \frac{\partial}{\partial 1 + |Data\_blocks\_having\_word\_w|_{\emptyset}}}$$

$$tf-idf_{w,d} = tf_{w,d} \times idf_{w}$$

- If  $tf-idf_{w,d} < 3.0$  we remove w from d
- Use LDA on the modified data blocks

- We use LDA on the modified data blocks after using tf-idf score
- LDA identifies 7 meaningful topics with 10 words each
  - Bekanntmachung, Besitz, Finanzen, Vereinbarungen, Familie, Schulden, Recht

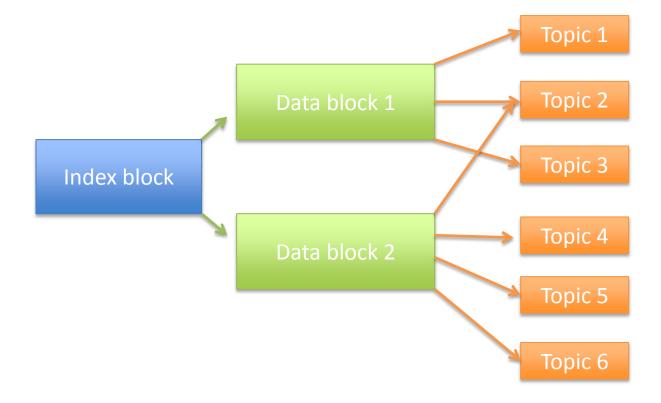
# SaariStory



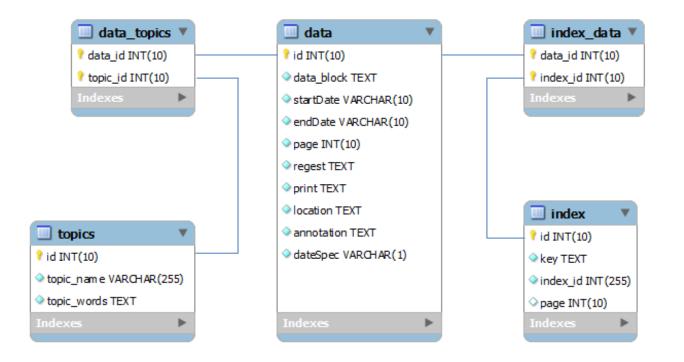
# Putting the data into database

- Type of features we want to have
  - Enabling keyword based search
  - Answering complex queries
  - Providing topic based search
  - Showing temporal changes in the number of results for a query

# Dependency within index and data block



#### Database schema



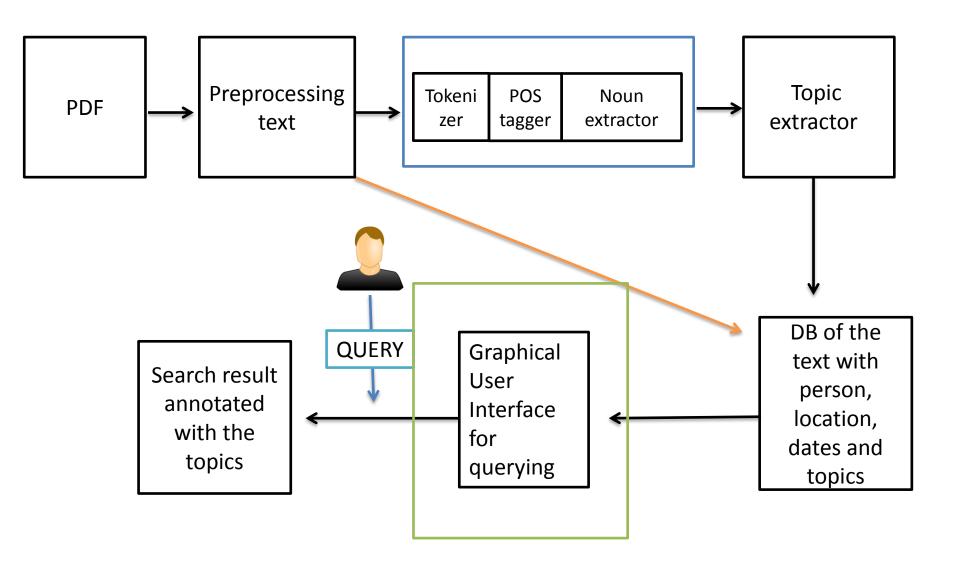
SELECT d.\*, GROUP\_CONCAT(DISTINCT t.topic\_name) AS topic\_names FROM (`data` AS d LEFT OUTER JOIN `data\_topics` AS dt ON d.id = dt.data\_id) LEFT OUTER JOIN `topics` AS t ON dt.topic\_id = t.id WHERE d.startDate >= '0600-00-00' AND d.endDate <= '1600-00-00' AND dt.topic\_id = 1 OR dt.topic\_id = 6 AND d.data\_block LIKE '%Keyword%' GROUP BY d.id ORDER BY d.startDate

### **Database settings**

- We use MySQL database
- First we used a web based sql provider
  - Not always live
  - Too slow in times of high load
- We set up a local database

Database	# Rows filled	Time to fill the DB (seconds)	Average time for query (seconds)	
Remote	25,274	4,800	10	
Local	25,527	300	3	

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# **Graphical user interface**

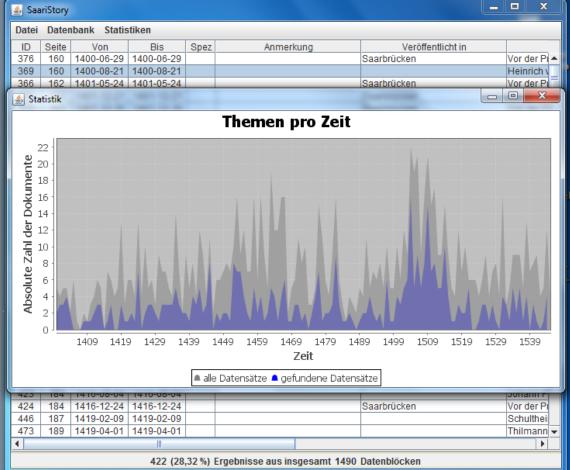
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Filter		23	19	0935-00-00			(ca.)		Auf
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Datum der Veröffentlichung		122	20	0977-05-11				Diedenhofen	Kai
		14	20	0993-03-26				Lüttich	Kai
	0600-00-00	3	21	0999-04-14				Rom	Kai
bis	1600-00-00	1	21	1009-00-00					Kör
Regesten	alle 🗸 🗸	7	22		1046-05-25			Aachen	Kör
Druck		9	22		1065-04-03		(	Mainz	Kör
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		8	24	1190-12-20				Adulen	Ebe
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Finanzen	Recht	12	24		1200-00-00		(um) (b)		Joh
		15	25	1212-00-00			(accid (a)		Hei
Vereinbarungen		16	25	1223-09-18				Saarbrücken	Mat
Suche starten		51	25	1227-00-00					Sin
300		18	27	1227-05-31					Joh
Information		17	27	1228-00-00					Hei
		19	27	1230-01-25	1230-01-25			Perugia	Par
Optionen		20	28	1234-03-16	1234-03-16			Kaiserslautern	Sin
Datenblock in pdf anzeigen		21	28	1235-04-00					Joh
100-000-00-03 DIS 0900-00-1	J3	27	28	1236-03-03	1236-03-03				Joh
in Köln		24	29	1236-06-05	1236-06-05		(vor)		Gei
		25	29		1250-12-07			Saarbrücken	Grä
König Otto I. bestätigt den Nonnen von St. Peter zu Metz ihre 🛛 🦷		30	30	1251-00-00					Grä
Besitzungen, darunter die Kirchen (aecclesias) von Malstatt (		28	30	1252-00-00					Joh
de Mathalstat) und anderen Orten, und verleiht ihnen das Re		32	30	1252-12-13	1252-12-13			Saarbrücken	Phi 👻
		•							
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# **Graphical user interface**

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bis	1600				
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Besitz	Schulden				
Finanzen	Recht				
Vereinbarungen					
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Information					
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#### **Evaluation**

- Precision and recall is 100% for keyword based random queries
  - We compared manual results with results from our system
- The topic detection works! The following text is labeled as "Familie" and "Finanzen"

Gerbod verzichtet mit seiner Frau und seinen Kindern nach erhaltenen 40 Metzer Schillinge auf seinen Anteil an der Wetzelsmühle zu Gunsten des Klosters Fraulautern. Zeugenliste. Zur besseren Bekräftigung hat Gerbod noch in Saarbrücken (*Sareponti*) vor den Kirchtüren<sup>15</sup> unter Berührung der Reliquien einen Eid geschworen, wobei der Propst von Fraulautern, Rorich d.J., Ludwig vom Berg, Petrus von Bebelsheim und Liebwin von Malstatt zugegen waren.

#### **Future work**

- Improving our pre-processing step to include more corner cases
- Extract and save footnotes from the text
- Possibility to add more data blocks to the database
- Taking care of line breaks in data blocks
- Keyword based search in complete index block

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