

A Generic Platform for Digital Editions

Niklas Liljestrand, 2018-09-20

Agenda

- The Current Situation
- Challenges with the Current Setup
- The Generic Platform
- Benefits of a Generic Platform
- o What's Next?



The Current Situation

- The Web Platform
- The Toolset
- The Databases



The Current Situation

The Topelius Web Platform – For Presentation

- Built in-house, work started in 2008 (PHP/JavaScript/MySQL)
- Original functionality extended between then and now, by several different vendors

The Topelius Toolset – For working with XML and publishing on the Web Platform

- Built by SLS and external vendors between 2008 and 2017.
- A selection of the tools:
 - Edith lemmatization and commentary tool (Java/JSP)
 - eXist-db as a search engine and custom tool for comparing text versions (Java/JSP)
 - TEI Tagger, TEI Selector, Publisher, Facsimile Publisher (C# .Net)



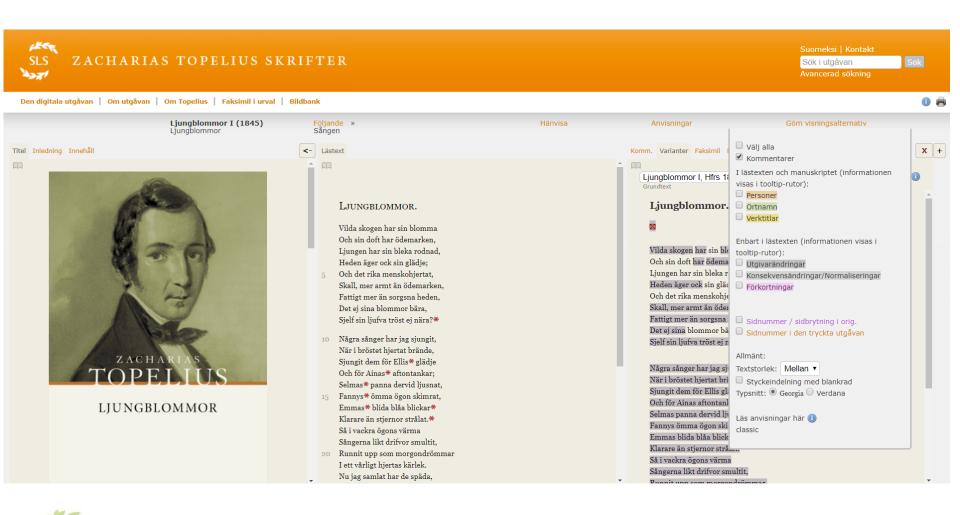
The Current Situation

The Databases – For Working with Metadata

- FileMaker database for storing metadata about, and connections between,
 Collections, Works, Versions, Persons, Places etc.
- DatabaseCopy, for transferring data from FileMaker to MySQL for use on the Topelius website



The Current Situation – Topelius.fi





The Current Situation – Topelius-m.fi



omfång. Ett flertal delar publiceras också i tryckt

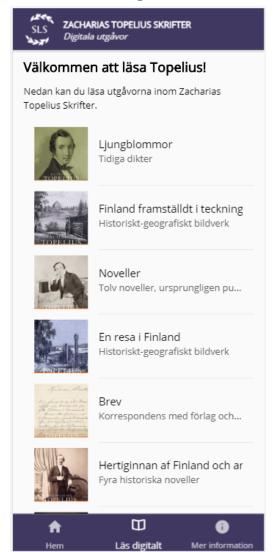
Denna mobilversion av utgåvan är under utveckling

 \Box

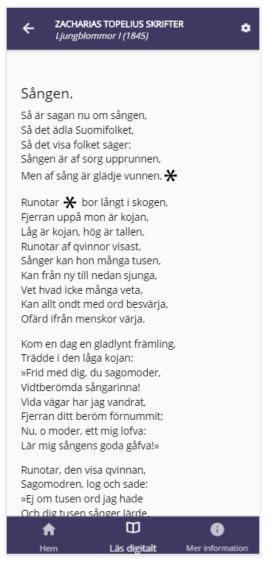
Läs digitalt

samt har en begränsad funktionalitet jämfört med

den fullständiga utgåvan, som finns på



7





form.

Connecting...

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Mer information

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Challenges with the Current Platform

- Many of the tools were developed specifically for the Topelius project, some Windows OS only
- No high-level architecture or development roadmap for the software
 - Ad-hoc work, resulting in non-optimal results
 - Difficult to maintain and develop
- The Web Platform is not responsive; does not work on mobile devices
- MySQL Database poorly normalized
 - Makes it difficult to understand
- FileMaker is costly and challenging to work with
- Two new projects during 2017 (in the old environment)
 - Development work about 150 200 hours per project (expensive)



The Generic Platform

- Will be developed to support all of the SLS digital editions
- A toolset to enable design, editing, publishing, and maintenance with minimal interaction from any IT department
- Built with documentation and open frameworks in mind, making the journey from idea to a published edition less of a hassle
- A tool for estimating cost and work hours for new digital publications
- Not only for TEI XML projects
- Publishing a Digital Edition is still not an easy task



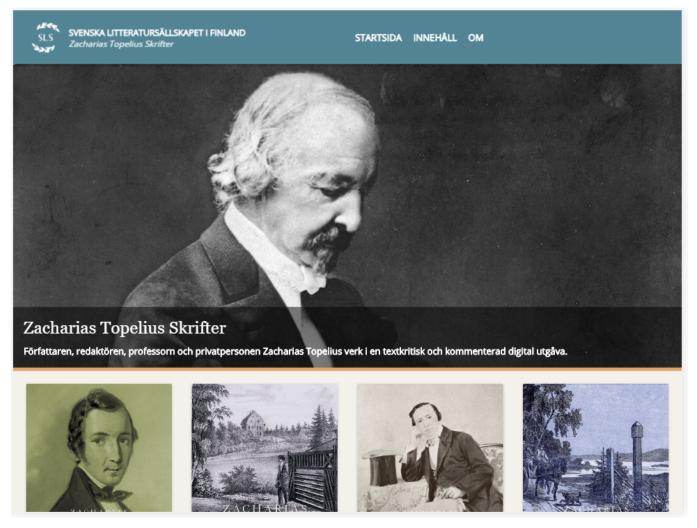
The Generic Platform

- The Website
- The Tools
- The API
- The Database
- The Workflow



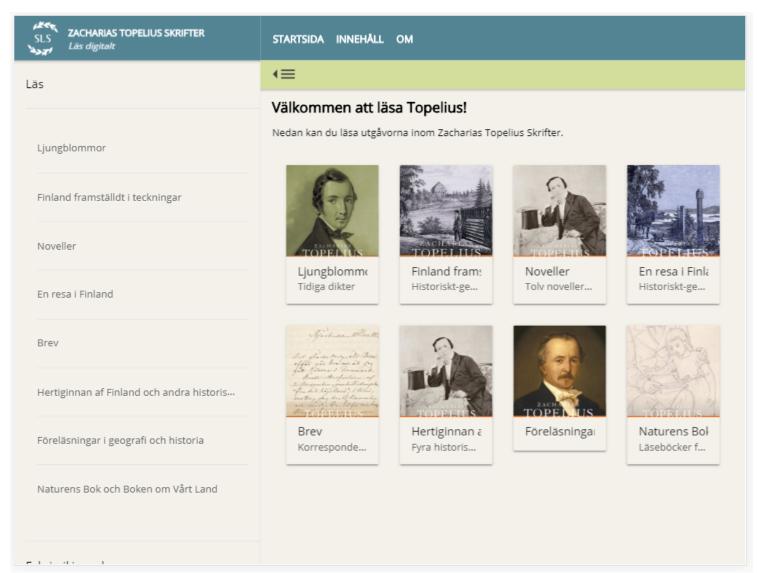
- The website will be built from scratch
 - Responsive design
 - Works and looks awesome on both desktops and mobile devices
 - Common and open frameworks
 - Makes future development and maintenance easier
 - Design and content maintainable by members of a project, not only by IT professionals



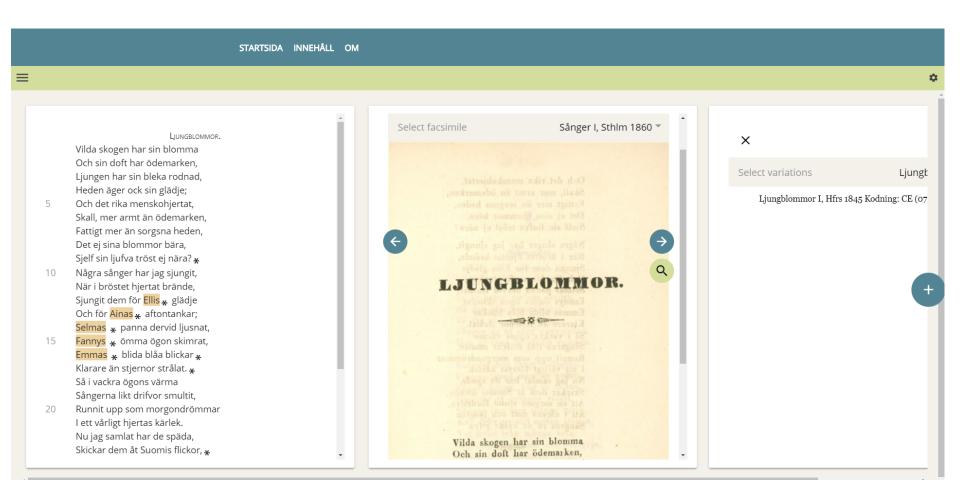




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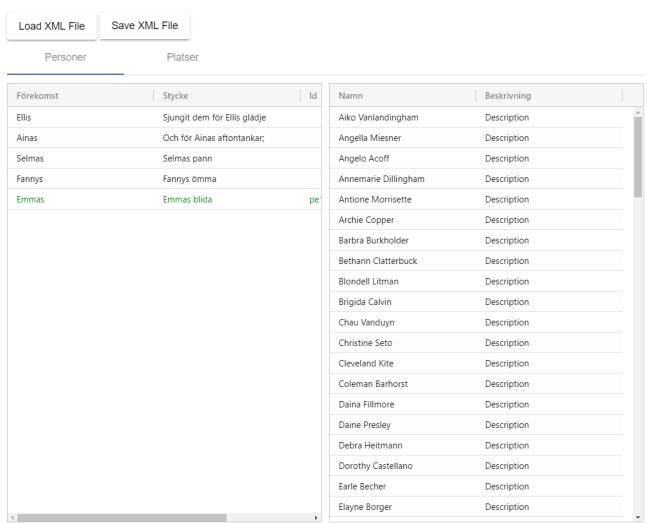
The Generic Platform – the Tools

- Windows based tools will be redone
 - All tools will be web based
 - Simplify deployment and configuration of new environments
 - Platform independent
 - The code will be well documented
 - Proper instructions for use and maintenance
 - Both the Edith and the eXist-db "version tool" are out-of-scope for 2018
 - Already web based and too complex to re-do during the year
 - External vendors



The Generic Platform – the Tools

TEI Tools 0.0.1 / Selector



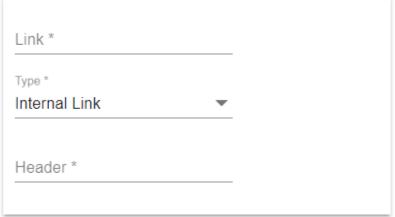


The Generic Platform – the Tools

TEI Tools 0.0.1 / Menus





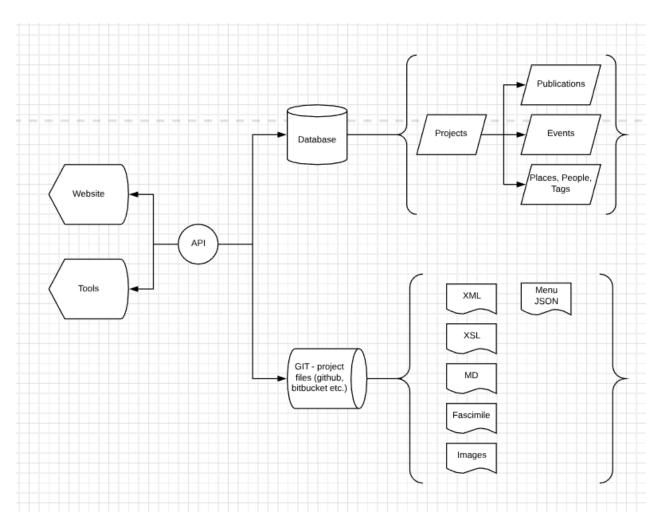


The Generic Platform - the API

- A RESTful API for use with the new Web and Tools platform
- All the business logic collected in one endpoint
- Access to static files, databases and XML through the same endpoint
- SOLR/Elasticsearch based search for web and XML content
- Possibility to extend and modify according to project needs
- The first step to replace FileMaker starts in 2018
 - With a simplified version in MySQL



The Generic Platform - the API





The Generic Platform - the API

http://topelius-m.sls.fi:8000/apidocs/



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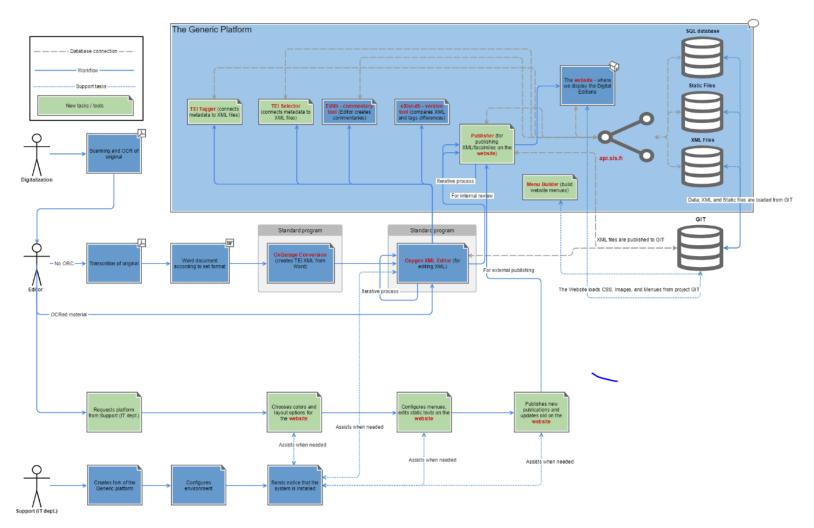
The Generic Platform - the Database

- https://www.lucidchart.com/invitations/accept/050b95a2-bc3d-4020-8947-2fd0b1e957fe
- One or many projects, all in one structure



The Workflow

https://bitbucket.org/slssu/digital_edition_d ocumentation/wiki/Workflow





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Benefits of a Generic Platform

Project planning

 Will provide a tool for planning and estimating the scope of the project; based on wanted features and amount of texts

Researcher/Editor

- Set rules and guidelines for working with a digital edition
- Instructions and tools for choosing features for the digital edition
- Proper documentation of the tools to ease the work with the editions
- Possibility to change the appearance, texts etc. of the Digital Edition without the help of IT professionals

IT-department

- Fewer hours for support due to
 - Proper documentation and automation of deployments
 - Editors are able to configure layout, publish new material, and edit static texts by themselves



What's next?

- Published as Open Source license (tbd)
 - Open for everyone and anyone to download, extend or fork
 - Incremental updates during the Spring
- User testing during summer early autumn
- Go-live during winter 2018
- Watch the project evolve
 - o http://www.sls.fi/generic
- Ingest Tools
 - o https://hub.docker.com/u/slsfinland/





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