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Revised entries in the multi-volume edition and TEI encoding: a case of the historical dictionary of Russian

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Abstract

The Dictionary of Russian Language of the 11th – 17th centuries (DRL11–17), which covers both Old and Middle Russian periods, is an ongoing project of the Russian Academy of Sciences, with volumes 1–31 published in hardcopy in 1975–2019). Up to now, only volumes 28-30 were converted into the database and published free online (http://web-corpora.net/wsgi/oldrus.wsgi/). The online edition allows one to search for entries that contain particular grammatical properties, phraseological units, sources of etymology, texts and sources attested in the entry, historical periods they represent, etc. (Aksyonov et al. 2015, Vechkaeva 2016). This paper presents a new initiative aimed at the digitization of earlier volumes, which includes OCR, encoding the dictionary according to a TEI-compatible XML scheme, improving the integrity of entries, and additional data mining and enrichment using external resources. We focus on the issue of how to represent the revised entries, namely, those that were added, deleted, and corrected in subsequent volumes and in a supplementary volume.

The changes in the entries are usually powered by new sources taken into consideration, by new interpretations of the source documents, or by changes in editorial policy. The typology of revisions made by the authors and editors of later volumes includes: adding or deleting entries; adding or deleting certain parts of the entry (senses, examples, etymology, etc.); correcting one or several fields of the entry (definition, example, grammatical properties, bibliographic description of citations, etc.). More complex changes are decomposed into the components listed above.

The TEI-based scheme of the dictionary addresses two ways of presenting the content: (i) an online searchable version and (ii) a retro-digitized version that preserves the layout of the published volumes. In the first case, the revised entry is represented as one merged entry (Target) that incorporates data from Source (entry published in an earlier volume) and Revision (entry published as addendum in later or supplementary volumes). As neither Source no Revision presents the correct content of the entry in full, the TEI-based representation of the Target should be generated. Besides that, advanced users may have access to the history of changes made by editors and to deleted entries. We use the critical apparatus module of TEI to track the history of changes, in which the lemma contains a "preferred", corrected reading and another reading corresponds to the content provided in earlier volumes. Taking the perspective of the retro-digitized version, Source and Revision are two separate entries with different metadata. Nevertheless, these two entries are linked to each other using the reference tags. Taken as a whole, the proposed schema outlines the principles for documenting the genetic relationships between different versions of edited lexicographic material.

Keywords: historical lexicography; TEI encoding; retro-digitizing; dictionary content revision; Old Russian; Dictionary of Russian Language of the 11th–17th centuries

1. The Dictionary of Russian Language of the 11th – 17th centuries and its revision history

The Dictionary of Russian Language of the 11th–17th centuries (DRL11-17) presents different periods of the Old Russian language including Middle Russian (15–17th centuries). The compilation of the DRL11–17 was initially aimed at creating a wide-audience popular-science manual for reading Old Russian texts (cf. the verso of the title page and the preface to (DRL11–17, 1, 5-16)), provided with a minimal number of citations from the Old Russian sources (usually, the earliest and the latest attestations were given). The concept of the DRL11–17 had been changed several times even before the release of the first volume (the editors first planned to publish the so-called "Small Old Russian Dictionary of the 11th – 17th centuries", see (Krysko 2007, 108)). During the publication process, the concept of the Dictionary underwent significant changes. From a popular-science manual, it gradually turned into an academic dictionary, cf. (Chernysheva 2013).

Changes in the concept caused the revision of many lexicographic principles: the number of source citations highly increased; recently published Old Russian texts are constantly added to the list of the dictionary sources, outdated editions being excluded; unknown originals for Old Russian translations are regularly identified.

One of the consequences of the conceptual change was the need for a revision of the previous volumes, taking into account the recent editions of sources, the emergence of Old Russian corpora, and newly identified originals. Most productively, this work was being carried out when V.B. Krysko became the editor-in-chief of the DRL11–17, i.e., in the 27th–29th volumes, cf. (Krysko 2007).

In 2006, additions and corrections to the first volume of the DRL11–17 were published, both in the appendix to volume 27, and as a separate volume (DRL11–17, vol. 27; Chernysheva 2006). However, the editorial board decided to postpone the systematic publication of additions to the earlier volumes until all the DRL11–17 volumes were completed. The editors decided to provide each current volume only with corrections and additions to the later volumes.

Thus, volume 27 is supplemented with additions for the alphabetic segment "C" and corrections to the previous 26th volume. The 28th volume (DRL11–17, vol. 28) includes only corrections to the 2nd volume (the alphabetic segment

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"B"), the additions to the segment "B" being not yet published.

The 29th volume (DRL11–17, vol. 29) contains additions for the alphabetic segment "C", omitted in previous volumes (including those omitted in additions published in DRL11–17, vol. 27: 214-216). The "Supplements" also indicate words that were mistakenly included in the 28th volume and should be removed. The 30th volume (DRL11–17, vol. 30: 316–318) is supplemented by the additions to the alphabetical segments "C–T" and the corrections to the previous 29th volume. Volume 31 (DRL11–17, vol. 31) also contains some additions to the segments "C–T"; however, it does not include any corrections planned to be published in the upcoming volumes. So, various additions and corrections are scattered across the latest five volumes (27th–31st).

2. Variety of revision strategies

The lexicographic principles for submitting corrections and additions were not completely unified in the latest volumes of the DRL11–17. In the 29th volume, references to entries included in the appendix are marked with an asterisk, cf.:

(1) CAMOOБѢЩАННО... – Ср. самоотвѣщанно* (DRL11–17, vol. 29: 424) 'SAMOOBĚŠČANNO... – Cf. samootvěščanno*'

In the supplementary volume (Chernysheva 2006), this symbol is used wider: it marks all newly discovered lemmas that are missing in the 1st volume. In the 31st volume, the asterisk is used to refer to the unpublished additions that will be included only in the next, 32nd volume.

However, the differences in structuring additions and corrections are not limited to ways of using an asterisk. The crucial difference between the lexicographic strategies used in different volumes is the following. In (Chernysheva 2006), additions and corrections are provided with a special commentary, such as "previous interpretation is removed"; "lemma is corrected"; "previous interpretation is specified"; "misprint in the lemma is corrected". The previous variant, as a rule, is not indicated. In some cases, it is not easy to understand what changes are being made without consulting the original article from Volume 1, cf.:

(2) БРЕЩИ. знач. 4: цитаты с отрицанием переносятся в статью НЕБРЕЩИ.

Брещи себе. Исправлены опечатки. (Chernysheva 2006: 60)

'BREŠČI. sense 4: citations with negation transferred in the entry NEBREŠČI'

'brešči sebe. Misprints corrected.'

In presenting corrections to the 2nd volume, published in the appendix to volume 28 (DRL11–17, vol. 28: 291–302), another strategy is adopted. The corrections are structured in the form of a table. The left column contains a lemma of the dictionary entry being amended. The lemma is given in the form as presented in the 2nd volume. In the right column, the information that requires correction is placed to the left of the "arrow" symbol (⇒). The Arabic numerals indicate the sense number, and a certain type of font indicates the corresponding field of the dictionary entry: bold capital letters mark lemmas, bold letters − references, italics indicate interpretation, wide font − idiomatic combinations. The correct variant stands to the right of the arrow symbol; a semicolon marks boundaries of the corrections. The initials of the editors who provided the editor-in-chief with the corresponding amendment are put in square brackets. If the correction concerns only the lemma, the arrow symbol is not used, and the corrected lemma variant is put in the right column (see table 1).

вдание	2. Действие по глаг. вдатися (в знач. 2) ⇒ Сдача (города) без боя, капитуляция [К.М.]; овоихъ ⇒ ово ихъ (2 раза) '2. Action related to the verb vdatisya (sense 2) ⇒ Surrender (of the town) without a fight, capitulation [К.М.]; ovoih" ⇒ ovo ih" (2 times)'
VDANIE	3. Вещь, отданная на сбережение; залог ⇒ Вещь или сумма денег, отданная в залог серьезности намерений заключить брак [К.М.]. '3. A savings item; a pledge ⇒ A thing or amount of money pledged for the seriousness of intent to marry [К.М.].'
ВДАНИЕ VDANIE	2. Действие по глаг. вдатися (в знач. 2) ⇒ Сдача (города) без боя, капитуляция [К.М.]; овоихъ ⇒ ово ихъ (2 раза) '2. Action related to the verb vdatisya (sense 2) ⇒ Surrender (of the town) without a fight, capitulation [К.М.]; ovoih" ⇒ ovo ih" (2 times)'
	3. Вещь, отданная на сбережение; залог ⇒ Вещь или сумма денег, отданная в залог серьезности намерений заключить брак [К.М.]. '3. A savings item; a pledge ⇒ A thing or amount of money pledged for the seriousness of intent to marry [К.М.].'

Table 1: A sample of corrections presented in (DRL11-17, vol. 28: 292).

If the changes are related to removing a segment or transferring it to another dictionary entry, the arrow symbol is not used, and the correction is provided only with a comment: "citation is transferred to article N," or "entry is removed," etc.

The types of the changes approve the strategy used in (Chernysheva 2006): the supplementary volume deals mostly with adding new entries. It determined the principles for presenting additions and corrections (see above). However, the

strategy used in the 28th volume seems to be more convenient for the user of the dictionary, on the one hand, and it is easier to integrate the changes into the dictionary database, on the other hand.

The inconsistency with which additions and corrections are presented in different volumes of the DRL11–17 introduces difficulties for integrating the corresponding ones into the dictionary database. However, before discussing particular technical solutions, it is necessary to establish all the types of additions and corrections which we are dealing with.

3. Typology of the content revisions

Various reasons cause the changes that have been introduced by the editors. There are many different classifications of lexicographic errors depending on the particular purposes. One can propose a lexicographic error classification based on the reasons behind these errors, cf. (Shapoval 2016). There are various types of such errors:

- errors as a result of an incorrect reading of sources (for example, incorrect word division in a manuscript);
- transmission errors, i.e., errors brought by copying text from a source to dictionary entry;
- errors which go back to the publishers of Old Russian sources cited and uncritically reproduced in the dictionary;
- errors resulting from incorrect interpretation or reconstruction of grammatical forms, etc.

The changes in the entries can also be powered by new interpretations of the source documents, by new sources taken into consideration, or by changes in editorial policy. However, for our purposes, we need a technical classification of changes. The typology of revisions made by the authors and editors of later volumes includes adding missing entries, or parts of the entries, and revision.

3.1. Additions

Types of additions include:

- adding a missing dictionary entry;
- adding a missing reference entry;
- adding a missing part in an existing entry (i.e., adding Greek glosses to the citation taken from Old Russian translations, identifying a new sense, etc.);
- expanding already existing fields (i.e., citation extension).

3.2. Simple and complex revisions

We distinguish between simple and complex revisions. The former ones suggest that the correction can be made in one step. Simple corrections include deleting an existing entry or a certain part of it, replacing the contents of one of the fields, moving a part of the entry to another entry, as well as simple corrections in one of the fields (i.e., correction of misprints).

Simple replacements may refer to:

- lemma spelling;
- grammatical information;
- interpretation provided, no changes in the citations are required;
- source citation, unless it causes changes in the chronological order of the citations.

Simple transfers include:

- moving a source citation from one sense to another within the same dictionary entry, provided the latter preserves its structure;
- moving citations to another dictionary entry, provided both entries preserve their structure.

Simple deletions include:

- deleting the dictionary entry, unless it requires deletion of the reference included in another dictionary entry;
- deleting a part of the entry along with all the citations.

Complex revisions are a combination of two or more corrections, i.e., such changes, which, from a technical point of view, should be introduced in several steps. Complex corrections include the following:

- deleting a dictionary entry, along with transferring citations from the deleted entry to other dictionary entries;
- transferring citations along with creating a new dictionary entry;
- transferring citations to another dictionary entry, along with adding to the latter, a new sense field;
- replacing an existing dictionary entry with a reference entry, along with transferring the citations to other dictionary entries.

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Table 2 shows an example of a complex change, a replacement of the dictionary entry with the reference entry, while the citation is transferred to another dictionary entry.

ВОЖАВСТВО	ВОЖАВСТВО см. вожевство; цитата переносится в статью ВОЖЕВСТВО
VOŽAVSTVO	'VOŽAVSTVO see voževstvo; citation transferred to the entry VOŽEVSTVO'

Table 1: A sample entry with a complex change.

3.3. Implicit corrections

We discussed the classification of revisions to the earlier volumes of the DRL11–17, proposed by the editors of the latter five volumes. However, there is also another type of correction, which can be called implicit.

Firstly, implicit corrections arise in the case when the source, used for decades, acquires a new dating, due to a separate archaeographic research. Secondly, implicit corrections include introduction of new source abbreviations. As a result, different volumes of the dictionary can refer to the same source, using different abbreviations. Thirdly, implicit corrections are powered by the termination of the use of a particular source recognized as unsuitable (i.e., if a manuscript is recognized as not featuring the Russian redaction of Church Slavonic). Fourthly, spelling and interpretation of Greek glosses (and, less commonly, glosses in other languages), is also the subject of editorial revisions in subsequent volumes. Other corrections can also occur.

4. The DRL11–17 electronic edition

Starting from 1975, the dictionary was originally published in hardcopy (the 31st volume was released in 2019). The their first attempt to create an online edition, Aksyonov et al. (2015) and Vechkaeva (2016) converted the content of volumes 28-30 into the lexicographic database and made it possible to search for head words, grammatical labels, phraseological units, sources of etymology, texts and sources attested in the entry and historical periods they represent, etc. online (http://webcorpora.net/wsgi/oldrus.wsgi/). The new objective is to expand the coverage of the database, so that it eventually includes all printed volumes, and to make access to the content more flexible and user-friendly.

The data is automatically recognized, using the ABBYY FineReader OCR system, manually checked and presented in three different ways:

- TEI-compatible XML scheme;
- SQlite database format;
- screenshots of the printed dictionary pages and individual entries (pdf view).

Figures 1 and 2 illustrate the TEI-based representation and the browser view, based on the SQlite representation of the same entry. By clicking on the "book" pictogram, the user can switch to the pdf view of the printed edition, see figure 3. To improve the integrity of entries, some implicit information, not present in the printed version, was retrieved and added to the TEI-based representation. For that purpose, we mostly use tags, embedded within the definition and example fields. For example, the definition template elements *Tom*, κmo... 'The one who (does smth.)' is marked with the tag <defTemplate class="agent">. The corresponding nominalization, denoting the agent's action (cnacehue 'salvation'), has a cross-reference to the entry cnacehue. In examples, the mentioned headwords were identified and labeled with
 oRef type="pl">cποτραμμα
 oRef> for the plural abbreviated form of the headword cnachukb. Glosses were classified by language and scope, see the tag <gloss lang="gr" class="ex"> for the Greek gloss that corresponds to the Greek source of the cited example. Besides that, the editors' notes, with regard to definitions and examples, were marked and classified. Missing data tags were added, using information from the source titles, see the tag <date class="hidden" when="1073"> which has the attribute 'hidden'. In enhanced TEI-based representation, lemmas for all Russian and Old Russian words are provided so that the user could look for particular words in definitions, examples, grammatical data, and other fields throughout the entries.

The TEI scheme of the dictionary is designed to support two ways of presenting the content:

- (i) an online searchable version and
- (ii) a retro-digitized version that preserves the layout of the published volumes.

With such functionality, line break tags (<lb/>) are preserved in the TEI-based representation, but used only in (ii). Analogically, information tagged with the attribute 'hidden' is used in (i) and not shown in (ii).

The following section addresses the representation of the revised entries, namely, those that were added, deleted, and corrected in the TEI scheme, taking into account (i) and (ii).

```
<entry xml:lang="orv" xml:id="спасникъ" type="mainEntry">
   <form type="lemma">
      <orth>CПАСНИКЪ</orth>
   </form>.
   <gramGrp>
      <gen>M.</gen>
   </gramGrp>
   <sense n="0">
      <def>
         <defTemplate class="agent">Toτ, κτο</defTemplate>
         несет <ref target="#спасение">спасе¬<lb/>ние</ref>, охраняет.
      <cit type="example">
         <quote>Да сице убо стии добрыимъ<lb/>члкомъ и блговърьныимъ звъзды суть и<lb/>
                <oRef type="pl">cпсьници</oRef>, якоже рече Гъ къ нимъ: вы есте<lb/>
                свътъ мира сего и соль земльная
                <gloss lang="gr" class="ex">(σωτήριοι)</gloss>.
         </quote><lb/>
         <hibl>
            <title level="a" id="izb1073-2">N36.CB. 1073 r.<hi rend="sup">2</hi></title>,
                <biblScope unit="page">572</biblScope>.
         </bibl>
         <date class="hidden" when="1073"/>
      </cit>
   </sense>
</entry>
```

Figure 1: A simplified TEI-based representation of the entry *спасникъ* 'savior'.

```
СПАСНИКЪ, м.

Тот, кто несет спасение, охраняет.

1073 Да сице убо стин добрынмъ чакомъ и баговърьныимъ двъзды суть и спсьници, якоже рече Гъ къ нимъ: вы есте свътъ мира сего и соль земльная (σωτήριοι).
```

Изб. Св. 1073 г.², 572

Figure 2: The browser view for the entry *спасникъ* 'savior'.

СПАСНИКЪ, м. Тот, кто несет спасение, охраняет. Да сице убо стии добрыимъ члкомъ и блговърьныимъ звъзды суть и спсьници, якоже рече Гъ къ нимъ: вы есте свътъ мира сего и соль земльная (σωτήριοι). Изб.Св. 1073 г.², 572.

Figure 3: The pdf view for the entry спасникъ 'savior'.

5. TEI-based approach to track the revision changes

In the online searchable version (i), the revised entry is represented as one merged entry that incorporates data from both Source (entry published in an earlier volume) and Revision (entry published as addendum in later or supplementary volumes). As none of them presents the correct content of the entry in full, the TEI-based representation of the Target should be generated from both. In the retro-digitized version (ii), Source and Revision are considered as two (or more) separate entries, with different metadata. However, it is useful to link these entries to each other, to facilitate access to the related content. Figure 4 shows the Revision entry of the word безглавный 'headless' (see the TEI tag <entry type="supplementaryEntry">), which refers to the Source entry using the TEI tag <ref>.

While compiling the electronic version of the dictionary, we face a challenging task to represent the various kinds of additions and corrections made, over time, by the editors of the DRL11–17. At the same time, advanced users may have access to the revision history of a given entry and to deleted entries. So, the history of changes should also be reflected in the representation.

Taking into account the typology of revisions provided in section 3, we distinguish among:

- adding and deleting the whole entry, reference entry, particular senses;
- transferring data from one entry or subentry (sense) to another, and from one field to another;
- changing the order of certain elements;
- replacing data within a particular entry field.

```
<entry xml:lang="orv" xml:id="безглавный.sup1" type="supplementaryEntry">
   <ref target="#безглавный" type="entry">
   <form type="lemma">
       <orth>БЕЗГЛАВНЫЙ</orth>
   </form>
   <gramGrp>
       <gram type="pos" value="ADJ">прил.
   </gramGrp>
   <note>...</note></ref>
   <sense n="1">4.
       <def><defTemplate class="equivalent">To же, чτο</defTemplate><lb/>
           <ref target="#безглавый"><note type="supplementaryEntry">
           <hi rend="sup">*</hi></note>безглавый</ref>.</def>
   </sense>
   <note>
       Сочетание <ref target="безглавная_въра"><hi rend="expanded">безглавная въра</hi></ref>
       в знач. 3<lb/>
       снимается. Цитата переносится в знач. 4.
   </note>
</entry>
```

Figure 4: A simplified TEI-based representation of corrections to the entry безглавный 'headless' in the supplementary volume.

Complex changes are decomposed into the components listed above. Technically, transferring and changing the order of elements is encoded as adding and deleting in the TEI-based encoding.

There is no uniform convention on how to represent the revision history in dictionaries. On the one hand, the tags <add>, , <subst> are good candidates to reflect simple changes, but they are defined to encode changes made in the same primary source (i.e. one tangible medium) (TEI P5 2021). Certainly, this does not hold true in our case, since we deal with multiple, though related, media that carry the changes. On the other hand, tags such as <revisionDesc> and listChange> are intended to summarize the history of changes in the header, rather than throughout the body of the document. We choose the third option, namely, using the critical apparatus module of TEI that is intended to represent related texts found in different physical witnesses (TEI P5 2021, Section 12).

To illustrate the use of the critical editing tags, let us move back to the previous example. In the Revision entry of the adjective безглавный 'headless', sense 4 is added provided with a definition only. The editors add a note that the section of the sense 3 that contains a multi-word expression is deprecated; however, the citation from this section should be transferred to sense 4. The reason for restructuring the entry is that the new adjective безглавый 'headless', of roughly the same morphological structure and with the same meaning as in the multi-word expression, is added to the dictionary. In order to document all the changes, the list of all DRL11–17 volumes is declared as witnesses in the listWit> element of the TEI header. In the entry, the revised sections are enclosed in the app-tag (see Figure 5).

Since the entries have been revised only once by now, each <app> section contains a <lem> element (a "preferred", corrected reading) and one <rdg> element (a reading from an earlier edition identified by the attribute wit). In the case of the subentry transfer, there are two <app> sections corresponding to deletion and addition, respectively. The first <app> element contains an empty <lem/> element (deletion) and the subentry for the multi-word expression from the Source entry enclosed in the <rdg wit="#V1">...</rdg> tags. The second <app> element contains a lemma with both new sense and its definition explicitly represented in the Revision entry and the transferred citation. The <rdg> element is empty. Note that in deviation from most common practice, the Source and Revision witnesses are not different versions of the same work, rather, the Revision can be considered as a commentary and supplementary material that substitues the content of the Source representing the final version of the lexicographic material. Another limitation of the current TEI-based representation is that content provided by the editors and generated content are not explicitly distinguished in the <lem> elements. Yet, in the absence of better solutions, this takes a step towards encoding the "genetic relationships among documents" (Barney 2018).

6. Conclusion

Digitizing the Dictionary of Russian Language of the 11th – 17th centuries not only makes the published volumes of this long-lasting project more accessible but also gives researchers a more flexible and powerful resource to work with. Our approach offers a new vision of the critical electronic edition for the multi-volume historical dictionaries. This implies the parallel handling of an online, searchable version, enriched with linguistic and textological information, and a retrodigitized version that preserves the layout of the published volumes.

In this paper, we addressed challenges arising from inconsistencies in editorial practice, strategies to report added, deleted, corrected, and restructured entries. Following the developed typology of simple and complex revisions, we adopted a TEI-compatible XML scheme to represent corrections, content restructuring and transfer, made by editors over many years. However, more efforts to standardize the tracking of longitudinal changes in multi-volume dictionaries are needed.

```
<sense n="3">3.
    <app>
       <lem/>
       <rdg wit="#V1">
            <entry xml:lang="orv" xml:id="безглавная_вѣра" type="relatedEntry">
                <form type="idiom">Безглавная<lb/>въра</form> -
                <def>вероучение, не признающее цер¬<lb/>
                    ковной иерархии.</def>
                <cit type="example">
                    <quote>Mamy же нѣкоего... eжe<lb/>
                        съ Севгиромѣ нѣкоимъ начатокъ безгла¬<lb/>
                        вию... поимъ съ собою отцъ наша Сава<lb/>
                        во Иерслмъ, моляшеся отступити от без¬<lb/>
                        главныя въры и к соборнъи общеватися<lb/>
                        цркви.</quote>
                    <bibl><title level="a" id="VMCh">ВМЧ, Дек. 1-5</title>,
                        <biblScope unit="page">504</biblScope></bibl>.
                    <date notAfter="1600" notBefore="1500">XVI B.</date>
                </cit>
            </entry>
       </rdg>
    </app>
</sense>
<app>
    <lem>
        <sense n="1">4.
            <def><defTemplate class="equivalent">То же, что</defTemplate><lb/>
                <ref target="#безглавый"><note type="supplementaryEntry">
                <hi rend="sup">*</hi></note>безглавый</ref>.</def>
            <cit type="example">
                <quote>Maму же нѣкоего... eжe<lb/>
                    съ Севгиромѣ нѣкоимъ начатокъ безгла¬<\b/>
                    вию... поимъ съ собою отцъ наша Сава<lb/>
                    во Иерслмъ, моляшеся отступити от без¬<lb/>
                    главныя въры и к соборнъи общеватися<lb/>
                    цркви.</quote>
                <br/>
<bibl><title level="a" id="VMCh">BMЧ, Дек. 1-5</title>,
                    <biblScope unit="page">504</biblScope></bibl>.
                <date notAfter="1600" notBefore="1500">XVI B.</date>
            </cit>
        </sense>
    </lem>
    <rdg wit="#V1"/>
</app>
```

Figure 5: A fragment of the generated TEI-based representation of the безглавный 'headless'.

7. References

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