

Annual Report 2025

BærUt! Sustainable Digital Scholarly Editions Network and Skills Hub

Organisation of the Skills Hub and Network

BærUt! Team

The BærUt! team consists of project and academic leader Annika Rockenberger, 50%, research assistant Johanne Emilie Christensen, 50% (Jan–Jul 2025), project assistant (fagkonsulent) Othelia Engelstad, 50% (Aug–Dec 2025), and project co-lead Federico Aurora. All are employed at the University Library.

Node Leaders and Ambassadors

BærUt! Skills Hub has six thematic nodes, each headed by a network member. We reviewed the node structure and decided to keep it as is. The nodes aid new and established network members in finding like-minded members and serve as a mode of balancing activities by connecting events and other activities to the node

- Digital Editions and Philology: Annika Rockenberger (UB)
- Materiality: Hugo Lundhaug (TF)
- Automatic Text Recognition: Annika Rockenberger (UB)
- XML/TEI Encoding: Federico Aurora (UB)
- Databases: Elisabeth Maria Magin (KHM)
- Interfaces: Federico Aurora & Annika Rockenberger (UB)

We want to reach as many people as possible with our skills hub and network.

Therefore, we have Ambassadors at each Department, Unit, Section, etc., who will actively inform their colleagues about the skills hub and network, share and forward newsletters and event announcements, and invite potential new members to network meetings and other activities. We have kept the previously assigned Ambassadors for:

- Dept. of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages (ILOS) (Jacob Thaisen)
- Dept. of Musicology (IMV) (Judith I. Haug)
- Dept. of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages (IKOS) (Albrecht Hofheinz)

- National Library (NB) (Ellen N. Wiger)

In 2025, we could recruit Hugo Lundhaug, Mina Monier and Alessandro Palumbo as ambassadors.

- Faculty of Theology (TF) (Hugo Lundhaug)
- MF School of Theology, Religion, and Society (MF) (Mina Monier)
- Dept. of Linguistics and Scandinavian Studies (ILN) (Alessandro Palumbo)

Despite our efforts to improve regular attendance among members of the HumIT and the UiO IT Department, attendance remained low. We will make another attempt during the spring term 2026, involving HumIT and the IT Department in the Feasibility Study.

Activities

BærUt! hosts a variety of academic and networking events. During 2025, we successfully held the following:

Summer School: Create Your Digital Edition From Scratch

The survey study we conducted in 2024 and the spring of 2025 revealed a strong need among interviewees and network members for training and skill development in preparing and publishing a digital scholarly edition. We decided to address this need with a week-long summer school. The event was hands-on and required active preparation and participation from attendees. With internationally renowned scholars as summer school instructors, we delivered a high-quality teaching and learning experience. We introduced novices and seasoned textual scholars to state-of-the-art digital edition technology and data modelling.

The summer school consisted of 5 full-day sessions, alternating between lectures and hands-on activities. Participants were required to bring their materials and read a carefully composed syllabus before the event. A final presentation by each participant closed the summer school.

So far, the summer school has been our most significant and most impactful event. We will continue with full-day training sessions and modules throughout the project.

Link to the event webpage:

- https://www.ub.uio.no/english/libraries/dsc/berut/events/workshops/2025-09-22-26_xml-summer-school.html

Date	Title	Nodes	Organisers	Participants*
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2025-09-21 to 2025-09-26	Summer School: Create Your Digital Edition From Scratch	Digital Editions & Philology XML/TEI User Interface	BærUt! Team	16 (+2 internal)
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Keynotes

Keynotes are standalone talks given by invited experts. They are usually 45 minutes long, followed by 15 minutes for questions and discussion. The target audience for keynotes is generally broader than the network. Keynotes are always public, and registration is not required to participate.

Link to the event webpage:

- <https://www.ub.uio.no/english/libraries/dsc/berut/events/seminars/2025-03-10-reprozipweb.html>

Date	Title	Nodes	Organisers	Participants*
2025-03-10	Server-side web archiving with ReproZip web	Databases User Interface	BærUt! team + ReproducibiliT ea	24

Workshops

Workshops are generally hands-on activities to develop, expand, and share specific skills. They are centred around a specific tool, software, programming language, data modelling technique or encoding practice. They are technical in nature; however, they are aimed mainly at academics with some technical skills. At the same time, they are useful for technical, academic, and administrative staff working in research support and methods partnerships. The target audience for workshops is the network and research support units at the IT Department, HumIT, and the University Library's Dept. for Digital Services, including the Digital Scholarship Centre and the Digital Research Methods team at the Section for Research Support (HumSam).

We held five workshops around two significant areas of development: Automatic Text Recognition and Digital Publishing.

Links to the webpages:

- <https://www.ub.uio.no/english/libraries/dsc/berut/events/workshops/2025-12-09-latex-for-intermediates.html>

- https://www.ub.uio.no/english/libraries/dsc/berut/events/workshops/2025-11-11_latex-light-introduction-to-lyx.html
- https://www.ub.uio.no/english/libraries/dsc/berut/events/workshops/2025-10-14_transcribathon-ii-hansteen.html
- https://www.ub.uio.no/english/libraries/dsc/berut/events/workshops/2025-02-18_latex-light-introduction-to-lyx.html
- https://www.ub.uio.no/english/libraries/dsc/berut/events/workshops/2025-02-06_transcribathon-i-arabic-texts.html

Date	Title	Nodes	Organisers	Participants*
2025-12-09	LaTeX for intermediates	Digital Editions & Philology	BærUt! team + Elisabeth Maria Magin (KHM)	4
2025-11-11	LaTeX for beginners	Digital Editions & Philology	BærUt! team + Elisabeth Maria Magin (KHM)	1
2025-10-23	Transcribathon II: Christopher Hansteen's academic correspondence	Automatic Text Recognition	BærUt! team + UB SpesDig + MUV/KHM	19
2025-02-18	LaTeX with LyX	Digital Editions & Philology	BærUt! team	15
2025-02-06	Transcribathon I: Arabic Texts	Automatic Text Recognition	BærUt! team	6

Networking

Since its inception, BærUt! holds monthly *Network Meetings*. These meetings are low-threshold activities during lunchtime (11:00-12:30), where network members meet one another and the BærUt! team.

From September 2024 onward, network members hold a short, informal talk about an ongoing or planned project to serve as a point of departure for discussion. At the

beginning of each meeting, PI Annika Rockenberger gives a brief overview of the network activities and other relevant information.

Network meetings and most other activities are held in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library. We use the room “DSC Oasen”, designated for activities by and for digital methods and skills training and research support. DSC Oasen is the physical “Hub” of the BærUt! network. We have used the Science Library’s teaching room when DSC Oasen was occupied.

Registration for *Network Meetings* is optional; we want members and other interested parties to be able to join us on an ad hoc basis. Typically, 5–10 participants attend.

Unlike our other activities, invitations to *Network Meetings* are sent via Outlook well in advance. This practical measure has increased participation.

Date	Short Presentation
2025-12-08	Annika Rockenberger: <i>Oscar Mamen, Atter Et År i Østen (1938) - DSE Prototype</i>
2025-11-10	Alessandro Palumbo: presenting his project <i>EpiCenter</i>
2025-10-13	Judith Irmela Haug: presenting the <i>CMO-Project: the Corpus Musicae Ottomanicae</i>
2025-08-14	Michelle Waldispühl: <i>Echoes of History: Analysis and Decipherment of Historical Writings</i>
2025-06-10	BærUt!-team: preliminary results from the project <i>Surveying Digital Scholarly Editions at the University of Oslo</i>
2025-05-13	Sebastian Pohland: <i>Towards Standards in Digital Editions of Old Norse Prose</i>
2025-04-08	Elisabet Maria Magin: <i>From Stick to Screens: What Remains</i>
2025-03-04	Hugo Lundberg and Samuel Cook: Presenting the results of the ERC <i>proof of Concept</i> project <i>TInTraMaC</i>
2025-02-04	Dag Trygve Truslew Haug and Jacob Høigilt: Presentation about Humit and how the Humit-team provide support for research-projects working with digital editions and similar projects.
2025-01-14	Christian Emil Smith Ore: <i>Diplomatarium Norvegicum, Regesta Norvegica and Oluf Ryghs Norske Gaardsnavn (Norwegian Farmnames) -</i>

Date	Short Presentation
	how to prepare digital editions prepared for linked data - <i>A lunch snack about the process, design philosophy, and method</i>

Encoding Lab

A new event type was introduced and tested with the *Encoding Lab*. This event is modelled on the successful *Pusletime* event hosted by the Humanities and Social Sciences Library's Digital Research Methods (DigiForsk) team: Every other week for one hour, participants meet to work on digital methods and tools, data modelling, and coding and programming. Participants can work individually or in small groups, helping one another.

We launched the *Encoding Lab* as a follow-up to the Summer School in September, with alternating meetingtimes each week until December 18th, 2025.

Given how busy our network members are and that many travel long distances to reach the Blindern campus, participation was moderate to low.

Therefore, we decided to change the *Encoding Lab* frequency for 2026: we will co-locate the event with the monthly Network Meetings and include a drop-in option. The *Lab* is open from 12:15 to 13:00 in DSC Oasen, immediately after the *Network Meeting* concludes.

*Participation

For 2025, we have tracked *registered* participants for all events except the *Network Meetings* and the *Encoding Lab*.

Digital Tools for Preparing Digital Scholarly Editions

Transkribus

Thanks to the continued support of the HumSam Library, BærUt! secured accreditation for the widely used and well-established handwritten text recognition service [Transkribus](#) for use at the University of Oslo.

With its easy-to-use interface and support from an international community, *Transkribus* can be a low-threshold HTR tool that most researchers can use, regardless of location or technical equipment. *Transkribus* can be used for "green" and "yellow" data at UiO.

BærUt! offers individual training and guiding sessions to all UiO staff and hosts hands-on workshops for novices twice a year.

Additionally, *Transkribus* will be a crucial tool for the collections at the University Library, the Museum of Cultural History, the Museum of University History and the History of Science, and other UiO special collections units.

Oxygen XML Editor

For textual scholars working with XML/TEI encoding, the de facto standard for digital scholarly editions across disciplines is the *Oxygen XML Editor*. The software application has been thoroughly tested and is recommended by the international research community.

Oxygen can be downloaded and run directly on a PC running any OS. It requires a one-time purchase license. In 2025, pricing has changed, and we will have to investigate the actual costs for our needs in the *Feasibility Study*.

UiO offers *Oxygen* via the [Program Kiosk](#). We tested this approach with *Oxygen* during the *Summer School* and concluded that it is not feasible. It is slow, cumbersome and prone to crashing. A researcher responsible for creating and maintaining a digital scholarly edition must be able to run *Oxygen* on their work PC reliably and stably.

We will include *Oxygen* and the different license types in the 2026 *Feasibility Study*.

TEI Publisher, Edition Visualisation Technology (EVT), eXist Database et al.

During the Summer School, we introduced participants to several established tools and platforms for publishing and maintaining digital scholarly editions, namely:

- TEI Publisher
- Edition Visualisation Technology (EVT)
- Digital Philology for Dummies (DPhD)
- eXist Database
- VS Code

We will investigate these tools, including their software, hardware, data processing, and legal requirements, in our *Feasibility Study* in 2026.

Communications: Outreach and Dissemination

Website

The University Library hosts the BærUt! skills hub and network. Our website is hosted on the UB domain and is structurally located under the Digital Scholarship Centre.

<https://www.ub.uio.no/bibliotekene/dsc/berut/>

The website is bilingual in Norwegian and English, with English as the primary language.

Our website provides information on BærUt! 's aims, goals, and framework. It is set up in Vortex as a “project”, which allows adding members from UiO to be displayed on the website directly and links back from our members’ web pages. Subordinated to the main website are lists of events and subpages for “Nodes”, “Survey”, and “News”.

In addition, the website streams an RSS feed from our external academic blog at Hypotheses.org.

<https://dsenetwork.hypotheses.org/>

The main website and the events subpages are meticulously updated. In 2026, we plan to conduct a design sprint to improve our website and prepare it for archiving upon project completion.

Bibliography and Documentation

BærUt! created a public Zotero group. Members gather relevant literature and share it with each other. Zotero also serves as a documentation tool for all hub publications. It allows users to collaboratively read, excerpt, comment on, and discuss academic articles and other publications.

<https://www.zotero.org/groups/5164276/baerut>

Weblog

Our dissemination channel is the academic blog “Sustainable Digital Scholarly Editions Network” on the academic blogging platform Hypotheses.org.

Hypotheses.org is a platform owned and hosted by OpenEdition for Humanities and Social Sciences Research Blogs. It hosts several thousand social sciences and humanities academic blogs in numerous languages and is carried by a French national research infrastructure. This gives us the following advantages:

- The blog is part of a large international platform with thousands of daily readers.
- The Hypotheses servers are located in France at the In2P3 computing centre, a CNRS Support and Research Unit that provides backup and general technical support and maintenance.
- Blogs are indexed in many international catalogues, and each post is assigned a DOI.

- OpenEdition guarantees the perennality of our blog content published on Hypotheses to a certain extent.

We are also actively working on archiving our blog in the Norwegian Web Archive.

<https://dsenetwork.hypotheses.org/>

Blog Posts in 2025

Five blog posts were published in 2025. Another is being prepared for publication at the beginning of 2024.

The weblog's Editorial Board consists of Annika Rockenberger, Othelia Engelstad (Aug–), and Johanne Emilie Christensen (Jan 2024–Jul 2025). We have guests and network members as authors.

- Boss, Katherine. 'Using ReproZip-Web for Archiving and Preservation of Digital Projects and Other Complex, Dynamic Websites'. Weblog. *Sustainable Digital Scholarly Editions Network*, 22 January 2025. <https://doi.org/10.58079/134si>.
- Christensen, Johanne Emilie. 'From Audio to Text: Mapping Scholarly Editions at the University of Oslo and Beyond'. Billet. *Sustainable Digital Scholarly Editions Network*, 9 September 2025. <https://doi.org/10.58079/14m6u>.
- Rockenberger, Annika. 'Arabic in the Spotlight – Creating Ground Truth for a New Text Recognition Model'. Billet. *Sustainable Digital Scholarly Editions Network*, 31 March 2025. <https://doi.org/10.58079/13lrv>.
- Rockenberger, Annika. 'From Questionnaire to Interview: Mapping Scholarly Editions at the University of Oslo and Beyond'. Weblog. *Sustainable Digital Scholarly Editions Network*, 20 May 2025. <https://doi.org/10.58079/13ykh>.
- Vaalund, Anne. 'Transcribathon II: Academic Letters About Astronomy And A Lot of Other Stuff'. Weblog. *Sustainable Digital Scholarly Editions Network*, 8 December 2025. <https://doi.org/10.58079/15atp>.

Dissemination

The network and skills hub was presented at a national conference in 2025.

In October, during the DHKO conference in Hamar, a long paper was planned to be presented by Annika Rockenberger. Due to illness, the presentation could not proceed; however, the paper will be submitted to the conference proceedings, which will be published in the Diamond Open Access journal *DHNB Publications*.

A long paper was accepted for the Nordic Network for Edition Philologists' biannual meeting in Helsinki, in September 2026; due to a low submission rate, the conference has been postponed until further notice.

We are considering submitting our paper to the European Society for Textual Scholarship Conference in Denmark in 2027; however, this will be after the project's end.

Research

Surveying Digital Scholarly Editions at the University of Oslo and Beyond

An essential part of the BærUt! project is an extensive survey of Digital Scholarly Editions developed, executed, and published by Norwegian scholars. Through the survey, we aim to systematically map existing and planned DSEs, focusing on data types and structures, systems, technical infrastructure, and documentation.

We aim to understand how digital scholarly editions are produced, published, and archived at the University of Oslo. The goal of the project is to map the university's expertise and knowledge to identify institutional, situational, and subject-specific challenges affecting long-term archiving, accessibility, maintenance, and data and software integrity. We would like to gain insights and experience from researchers, developers, and software engineers who have created digital scholarly editions or digitally prepared printed editions.

The survey period ran from June 2024 to Spring 2025 and was conducted via in-person interviews.

We interviewed 17 researchers and recorded 25 hours of interviews, yielding 338 pages of transcriptions.

A report is forthcoming and will be a priority for the BærUt! team in the spring of 2026.

We have documented the aim and objectives of the survey and the process around it on our website, in a data management plan, and in two longer blog posts:

- Rockenberger, Annika, and Johanne Emilie Christensen. 'Surveying DSEs at UiO'. University of Oslo Library, 17 June 2025.
<https://www.ub.uio.no/english/libraries/dsc/berut/survey-uio/index.html>
- Rockenberger, Annika. 'Surveying Digital Scholarly Editions at the University of Oslo and Higher Education and Cultural Heritage Institutions in the Greater Oslo Area'. Data Management Plan. DMPTool, 2024.
<https://doi.org/10.48321/D1B2CDC991>.

- Christensen, Johanne Emilie. 'From Audio to Text: Mapping Scholarly Editions at the University of Oslo and Beyond'. Billet. *Sustainable Digital Scholarly Editions Network*, 9 September 2025. <https://doi.org/10.58079/14m6u>.
- Rockenberger, Annika. 'From Questionnaire to Interview: Mapping Scholarly Editions at the University of Oslo and Beyond'. Weblog. *Sustainable Digital Scholarly Editions Network*, 20 May 2025. <https://doi.org/10.58079/13ykh>.

Concluding remarks

Achievements

Overall, we exceeded our goals and expectations for the second project year.

We have established and maintained a regular meeting venue for our community. We have a comprehensive overview of our members' current and anticipated needs and provide training through workshops and peer-to-peer self-study sessions on digital tools, methods, and practical guides. We offer individual and project guidance and supervision (veiledning).

We have concluded our mapping survey, which will serve as the foundation for the *Feasibility Study 2026* and inform further work and grant applications for the establishment of an infrastructure for the publication, maintenance, and preservation (and long-term archiving) of digital scholarly editions at UiO and in Norway.

Challenges

The project was affected by the University Library's reorganisation process, which started (and concluded) in 2025. This drew attention to other areas and halted our work on establishing a solid foundation for the planned future BærUt! services and infrastructure at the library. We have to take up this work in 2026 and aim to integrate current and future work with the library's new organisation around *Services*. The *Feasibility Study 2026* will be a crucial instrument in this process.

The project budget (based on 2023 calculations) did not account for inflation, wage increases, and generally higher prices. We made the necessary adjustments and decided to reassign the 'driftsmidler' to salary for the position of *fagkonsulent*, so that we can retain the project assistant until the end of the project.

Another challenge was the change in the position of 'vit. ass.' which happened over the summer of 2025: the rules and requirements for this position were changed, and UiO was not allowed to recruit for the *vit.ass.* positions until after summer and within the new legal framework. We thus decided to hire a *fagkonsulent* to assist the

project. This, however, meant that a significant portion of the assistant's tasks had to be transferred to the project's PI. This, combined with delays in the hiring process, led to delays in project tasks, such as the *Feasibility Study* and the mapping survey report.

Plans for 2026

In the last year of the BærUt! project, we will continue our regular events and activities. Additionally, we plan to hold several training sessions modelled on the Summer School modules with local trainers and instructors. We are planning to contribute to the University of Oslo's Sustainability Week in the spring of 2026.

A *Closing Conference* is scheduled for November 2026, and we aim for a national reach. This conference will happen in close conjunction with the first *Special Collections Network Meeting and Conference* at the end of November. With this, we aim to highlight the close relationship between digital scholarly editions and the research, care, and preservation of cultural heritage in public organisations' special collections.

Another collaboration will be the *Book History Seminar*, scheduled for late August 2026. The Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages, the Network for Book History and the History of Literary Reception at UiO, and BærUt will co-organise the two-day seminar, which we hope will be useful for our members.

Our plans are ambitious, but we are confident we can complete the project within the specified timeframe and with the resources provided.

With regards,

Annika Rockenberger

Oslo, 15th December 2025