The Idea:

Texts are connected over centuries and genres e.g. by quotes, allusions, idioms and stylistic imitations – things we tend to call intertextuality. So texts leave their traces in other texts and it is our main goal to find those textual "re-uses".

In the Göttingen sub-project of eTRACES, computer scientists and philologists of the Göttingen Centre for Digital Humanities and the Universität Leipzig develop a tool to annotate re-use manually and detect text re-use automatically and make those results available and usable to the public.

Our first approach will be to determine re-use of probably the most influential work of the last centuries: The Bible. We try to find Biblical quotes, names and expressions as well as allusions, idioms, and stylistic imitations. This search will be based on the zenon.org library, a corpus of 400 years of German literature, funded by the BMBF - just like our project.

The tool will be presented in a freely available frontend online (see screenshot of the mock-up below), where any user has the opportunity to examine, evaluate and comment on any given result as well as to add new ones, the algorithm didn't find. This interaction between users and developers will help improve the tool. The goal is to compare the results, annotations and comments made by as many users as possible (crowd-sourcing) and create a digital edition together.

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