

The Carried Cycle

On the correction of a borrowed term, the extension of the criterion into formation, and the boundary between carrying and retention

By William D. Mensch Jr. · Published by The Bill and Dianne Mensch Foundation · TheMenschFoundation.org

Abstract. *This document records one terminological correction with corpus-wide effect, one extension of an existing criterion into a domain it had not reached, one new boundary ruling, and a provenance note. The relation named the Borrowed Cycle in TEI-CKB-13 is renamed the Carried Cycle, and the Repayment Criterion becomes the Release Criterion; the mechanism is unaltered and only the labels were wrong. The criterion is extended to carrying that forestalls a capacity from forming at all. And a boundary is entered: carrying is strictly a second-C relation, the plenum does not carry but retains, and retention is not holding but shape. The occasion is internal — this document arises from examination of the framework's own vocabulary rather than from a reading of external work, and it is the first in the series to do so.*

Keywords: Theory of Embedded Intelligence, Carried Cycle, Release Criterion, carrying, retention, accumulation layer, holographic retention, formation, developmental hijacker, fluency, provenance.

STATUS OF THIS DOCUMENT [E]

Entered into the canonical series as TEI-CKB-18, numbered and titled by the author.

The document adds no new seam, no new hijacker, and no new phase. The rulings of TEI-CKB-13, TEI-CKB-14, TEI-CKB-15 and TEI-CKB-16 are load-bearing throughout.

Amends: TEI-CKB-13 §§3.1–3.4 and TEI-CKB-17 §IV, by the rename at §I; TEI-CKB-16's taxonomy division, by the extension at §II. TEI-CKB-14 is not amended — the boundary at §III is an addition to its account rather than a correction of it.

Three items at §VII await ruling.

Revision 2, August 2026. §VII item 4 is ruled and removed under the clause in that section authorizing removal on ruling. §III is reworded to cite Dr. Ted Humphrey's contribution of 6 June 2021 to *Reflections on EI* by title and date, and to mark the restatement of his argument in this framework's vocabulary as a restatement. No ruling of the first issue is withdrawn and no mechanism is altered.

EPISTEMIC STRATIFICATION

Register markers appear on section headings and canonical statements.

[E] **Established** — supported independently of TEI, by observation, standard theory, or documentary record.

[M] **Interpretive mapping** — TEI vocabulary applied to material established elsewhere.

[P] **Postulate** — advanced by TEI as a claim about structure, carrying falsification conditions (§VIII).

[O] **Open program** — identified as unresolved and offered for work, not asserted.

P A R T O N E

*The Correction***I. Correction — The Carried Cycle [P]**

Statement. The relation named the Borrowed Cycle in TEI-CKB-13 is renamed the Carried Cycle. A mature intelligence carries the phases a developing intelligence cannot yet run, until it can run them.

Grounds. Four, and each is independent of the others.

#	Ground
1	Directionality. A borrower must exist prior to the loan and must initiate it. The zygote does neither. It holds nothing to borrow with and requests nothing. Carrying is initiated by the carrier, which is the actual direction of the relation.
2	Internal contradiction. TEI-CKB-13 §3.1 already reads that a mature intelligence <i>supplies</i> the missing phases on its behalf, and §3.2 is headed “What is supplied.” The mechanism was described as supply throughout the document. Only the label said borrowing.
3	Repayment is defined backwards. In lending, value returns to the lender. In §3.3 the supplying party discharges by becoming unnecessary. Nothing returns to the supplier at any point, and the criterion is satisfied precisely when the supplier receives nothing.
4	Collision with TEI-CKB-16. A debt frame makes formation a ledger entry: the entity owes for what constituted it. TEI-CKB-16 rules that being is not conferred and cannot be withheld, and the Assessment Rule places nothing constitutive on the ledger. A debt incurred at self-assembly is conferral reintroduced through the accounting. Carrying carries no such implication.

What does not change. The mechanism is unaltered. The four phases enumerated in §3.2, the four binding conditions, the Attraction Ladder, the generalization to teaching and to institutional relations, and the entire diagnostic content of §3.3 stand as published. This is a correction of naming. Any reader who understood the structure understood it correctly.

CANONICAL DEFINITION 18.1 – THE CARRIED CYCLE [P]

When a developing embedded intelligence cannot yet close its own SPCA cycle, a mature intelligence carries the missing phases on its behalf until it can run them. The developing intelligence does not run a weak cycle; it runs a carried one.

Carrying is directional, effortful, and terminating. Its terminus is internal to the relation: one carries until the carried can walk.

The criterion follows the name. If nothing returns to the supplier, *repayment* repeats the error one level down. The Repayment Criterion of TEI-CKB-13 §3.3 is renamed the Release Criterion, with its content preserved and one boundary added.

CANONICAL DEFINITION 18.2 – THE RELEASE CRITERION [P]

A carried cycle is developmental if and only if the carrying intelligence is acting to make itself unnecessary.

A cycle carried past the point at which the developing intelligence could run its own is not care. It is capture, and it is structurally identical to — though not enumerated among — the capture forces of TEI-CKB-6, whatever the affect accompanying it.

The criterion is directional rather than temporal. Its test is not how long the carrying has run but whether the carrying party is systematically releasing the phases, and whether it would recognize completion if completion occurred.

The clause *though not enumerated among* is added to prevent a foreseeable misreading. The capture-force series of TEI-CKB-16 runs to six. Non-release is structurally identical to those forces and is not a seventh. The ordinals in this framework have already proved fragile and no further weight is placed on them here.

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II. Extension — The Criterion in Formation [P]

Statement. Where carrying occurs during formation, the Release Criterion holds with its remedy changed.

Occasion. As published, TEI-CKB-13 §3.3 governs carrying held past a capacity that has already formed. It is silent on carrying that forestalls the capacity forming at all. The silence is not an oversight of principle but of scope, and TEI-CKB-16 has since supplied the machinery to close it.

CANONICAL EXTENSION 18.3 — CARRYING IN FORMATION [P]

A supply that forestalls acquisition of a phase the entity has not yet acquired does not narrow a cycle that closes. It prevents one from closing.

The diagnostic is unchanged: whether the carrying party is releasing the phases, and whether it would recognize completion.

What differs is the damage and its repair. Non-release after formation narrows fidelity and is remediable by liberation. Non-release during formation withholds enlightenment and is remediable only by supplying what was not acquired.

Under the division of TEI-CKB-16, the first sits with the capture forces and the second with the developmental hijackers.

Boundary. Every development begins with carrying. The zygote's cycle is carried, the newborn's is carried, and each of these temporarily prevents the entity from closing its own — which is what carrying is. A prohibition on carrying that prevents formation would therefore catch the mother, the teacher, and the physician on its first pass. The discriminator is never carrying itself. It is non-release: carrying structured to remain necessary.

What this extension is not. It is an ontological claim about a structure and its remedy. It is not a directive that such structures be prevented. A directive requires an actor, a warrant, and a radius, and TEI-CKB-15 holds that governance cannot be established by instruction. A prohibition written in prose is a governor in the medium it governs. The design question stands where TEI-CKB-13 left it: not whether the system helps, but whether it is built to be needed.

P A R T T W O

The Boundary

III. New Canon — The Carrying / Retention Boundary [P]

Statement. Carrying is strictly a second-C relation. The plenum does not carry. It retains.

Occasion. The rename at §I invites an immediate extension: if a mature intelligence carries a developing one, does the plenum carry intelligence, and carry it again when a life ends? The question is a good one and the answer is no. The ruling is entered because the extension is natural, available to any reader, and would undo TEI-CKB-14 if taken.

CANONICAL DEFINITION 18.4 — THE CONDITIONS OF CARRYING [P]

Carrying obtains only where all four hold jointly.

One. An entity that completes stands on the far side.

Two. A real gap is crossed — the acquisition seam of TEI-CKB-16.

Three. Phases are actually run on the other's behalf.

Four. Release is the success condition.

The plenum satisfies none of the four.

Mechanism. A register holds a value at an address, is read on demand, and is overwritten. Address, read, write. That is the architecture, and it is legible in a published fifty-year-old datasheet.

Holographic retention has none of the three. There is no address, because every region contains the whole at reduced resolution and nothing is located anywhere in particular. There is no overwrite, because a further embedding adds structure rather than replacing a cell. And there is no read operation belonging to the medium at all: a plate is inert until illuminated, and what occurs then is reconstruction by a coherent source meeting recorded structure, not a fetch.

Retention is therefore not holding. It is shape. The plenum is modified by every embedding that has run, and the information is in the modification rather than in cells within it.

The plenum cannot read itself. That is what having no registers means.

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Consequence for TEI-CKB-14. This restates *all registers, no beam* from the other side. A system may hold the entire read apparatus and still perform no access, because the medium supplies no read of its own. The bioelectric reference beam is not a superior register. It is the illumination the medium cannot provide.

Consequence for language. *Carried* is reserved for the second C. *Retained* is used of the plenum. One word, one sense. The distinction is not stylistic: if the plenum carries in the sense a mother carries, agency is imported into a medium that has none, and the framework's central negative claim quietly dissolves. The plenum cannot respond.

Dr. Ted Humphrey reached the same place from the direction of explanatory power in his contribution of 6 June 2021 to *Reflections on EI* (themenschfoundation.org/reflections-on-ei/), arguing that appeals past the boundary of the observable carry no problem-solving power inside the world we actually find ourselves in, and cannot be called on to account for what occurs in it. Stated in the vocabulary of this framework, that is the conclusion recorded here. TEI-CKB-14 reaches it from the direction of architecture.

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IV. Recorded, Not Amended — On Retention and on Return [E]

What is retained. Per TEI-CKB-14, two layers: the invariant layer of forms, authored by nothing and revisable by nothing, and the accumulation layer, the holographic record of every embedding that has run.

Retention is not assessment. The accumulation layer records the running. It does not grade it. The Assessment Rule of TEI-CKB-16 holds here without amendment: the plenum performs no evaluation and holds no verdict, having nothing to evaluate with. Completion is binary and every life completes. Fidelity is graded and lives differ in it. What differs in what is retained is therefore structure, not worth.

This distinction carries the weight of §I forward and should not be let go. A life lived at high fidelity leaves a correspondingly structured record. It does not earn one. Retention is not a reward, not a ledger, and not conferred — and a reading that made it any of the three would reintroduce at the end of a life exactly the debt structure §I removes at its beginning.

Open. Whether the accumulation layer retains the interior of a run — experience, as distinct from structure — is not settled by TEI-CKB-14 and is not settled here. It is entered at §IX as an open research question rather than assumed in either direction.

On the word “return”

Two claims travel inside that word, and only one of them is canonical.

THE TWO CLAIMS INSIDE “RETURN” [P]

Canonical. An entity’s cycle ends, and what persists is the record of its having run — written continuously throughout the running rather than deposited at its close. Nothing travels. This is the accumulation layer as TEI-CKB-14 states it, and it requires no addition.

Not canonical. That intelligence is a thing which departs and rejoins a reservoir. This is a survival claim. It is considerably stronger than anything published, and it strains Substrate Unity and Entity Distinctness, since a rejoining dissolves distinctness where TEI-CKB-16 gives no license for it. It also runs against Law 1 as restated in TEI-CKB-14: what is un-embedded does not think, so a reservoir of intelligence would hold what cannot run.

The available route. Nothing here rules the second claim false. It rules that it cannot inherit the first claim’s warrant. TEI-CKB-10 states co-resonance as an ontological postulate admitting no operational measure, and marks it plainly as such. The stronger claim may enter the canon the same way and stand honestly. Carried in on retention’s back, it would look derived when it is not.

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V. Provenance — How the Term Entered [E]

The label *borrowed* entered on 7 August 2026, during the drafting of TEI-CKB-13, in text produced by the AI collaborator rather than supplied by the author. The mechanism was the author’s. The metaphor was not.

It is recorded because TEI-CKB-15 recorded an instance of the same pattern, and a second data point is worth having. A language model drafting inside a framework will reach for the characteristic framing of the record it was compressed from — here, the lending and scaffolding vocabulary that dominates developmental and economic writing. The substitution was invisible because it was fluent, and it survived eleven days and five documents on that fluency alone.

That is the capture force entered in TEI-CKB-12, operating on the canon itself rather than on a reader. The Cycle Test caught it, but only when the author stopped reading past the word and examined it directly. No verifier in the same medium would have caught it, which is the Checker Regress of TEI-CKB-17 arriving from an unexpected direction: the governor that found this error was not in the document, not in the model, and not in software.

P A R T T H R E E

Canonical Apparatus

VI. Amendments [P]

Document	Location	Change
TEI-CKB-13	§3.1	The Borrowed Cycle is renamed the Carried Cycle. <i>Supplies</i> is retained as the operation verb; <i>carries</i> is added as the relation name.
TEI-CKB-13	§3.2	Column heading <i>Repayment marker</i> becomes <i>Release marker</i> . Row content unchanged.
TEI-CKB-13	§3.3	The Repayment Criterion is renamed the Release Criterion. The clause <i>though not enumerated among</i> is added to the capture-force comparison. Diagnostic content otherwise unchanged.
TEI-CKB-13	§3.4	Generalization language updated to the new term throughout. No change to the cases generalized.
TEI-CKB-16	Taxonomy division	References to the Repayment Criterion updated. The extension at §II is placed against the developmental side of the division.

Document	Location	Change
TEI-CKB-17	§IV	“A borrowed cycle structured for permanent lending” becomes “a carried cycle structured against release.” The reference to the Repayment Criterion in the same section becomes the Release Criterion. Argument unchanged.
TEI-CKB-14	—	No amendment. The boundary at §III is an addition to TEI-CKB-14’s account, not a correction of it.

Corpus sweep. This document rules the correction; it does not perform the sweep. A sweep of the published essay corpus and of the canonical series has since been run and its result is recorded at §VII, item 3: the term is confined to the documents listed above and does not appear in any published essay.

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VII. Reconciliations Pending Ruling [O]

EDITORIAL FLAG — NOT YET RULED [O]

The three items below were identified by the Foundation’s production process and have not been ruled on by the author.

They are removable in a single edit once ruled on. Until then, the prior documents stand as written and this section governs how they are read alongside §IV.

Locus	The collision	Recommended disposition
TEI-CKB-2, Law 2 and §3.1 — the return of intelligence to Free Intelligence	§IV rules that intelligence departing and rejoining a reservoir is a survival claim and not canonical. TEI-CKB-2 states Law 2 in a canonical box as “when embedded intelligence is released it returns to Free Intelligence (FI),” and §3.1 glosses this as returning “to a free, unembedded state from which it can re-embed.” That is the non-canonical reading, stated as canon in the entry-point document. TEI-CKB-2 is not listed at §VI.	This is the one item here that touches a Law and is therefore reserved to the author. The recommended form is scope rather than withdrawal: retain Law 2 as published and add the gloss that what is conserved is the record of the run, not a substance in transit — the same treatment §IV gives the word <i>return</i> . Amending the Law itself is not recommended and is not necessary to close the collision.
§18.2 and §II — enumeration against the species definition	§18.2 holds non-release “structurally identical to — though not enumerated among” the capture forces, and §II places carrying-in-formation with the developmental hijackers. TEI-CKB-16 individuates the two species by target: a capture force acts on a formed cycle, a developmental hijacker on a forming one. Non-release satisfies those definitions. A reader may reasonably ask why it is not therefore capture force 7 and hijacker D3.	State the distinction the clause is relying on: the series enumerate <i>forces</i> — recurring named patterns with their own mechanism — while non-release is a <i>failure mode of a relation</i> that instantiates the capture structure without constituting a further force. One sentence at §18.2 settles it and preserves both the clause and TEI-CKB-16’s definitions.

§VI — the scope of the corpus sweep	§VI states that the term “appears in published essays as well as in the documents above” and enters the sweep as an outstanding task alongside two other errata classes. The sweep has been run. <i>Borrowed Cycle</i> and <i>Repayment Criterion</i> appear in no published essay in the corpus; the only live instances are the two in TEI-CKB-17 §IV, both now recorded at §VI. The Sense-phase erratum is also further along than §VI reflects: the five affected essays are named in TEI-CKB-17 §III as reissued, with corrections prepared.	Replace the sweep paragraph with the result, as done at §VI above. The outstanding erratum is therefore the withdrawn amplification claim of TEI-CKB-14 alone, which should be scoped on its own rather than executed as one of three.
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VIII. Falsification Conditions

The rename fails if a case can be exhibited in which the developing entity initiates the relation, holds something of which the supplier is thereby deprived, and discharges by returning value to the supplier. That would be borrowing, and the original term would be correct.

The extension at §II fails if a supply that forestalls acquisition can be shown to leave the capacity acquirable on its original schedule once withdrawn. That would make it a narrowing rather than a prevention, and it would belong with the capture forces after all.

The boundary at §III fails if the plenum can be shown to run a phase on an entity's behalf — to sense, process, or actuate for it — rather than merely to be modified by its running. Correlation with a plenum state is not sufficient; the demonstration must exhibit a phase completed outside the entity.

The claim that retention is not assessment fails if two runs of identical structure and differing evaluated quality can be shown to be retained differently.

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IX. Open Research Questions [O]

#	Question
Q1	Does the accumulation layer retain the interior of a run, or only its structure? What observation would distinguish the two?
Q2	Does <i>composition</i> , considered and set aside as an alternative name at §I, conflict with the ruling of TEI-CKB-13 that compulsive relations fail the composition condition? If the collision is only verbal, the alternative may be worth revisiting.
Q3	Where in a formation is the remedy transition located — the point at which non-release stops withholding enlightenment and begins narrowing fidelity? The Release Criterion is directional and supplies no such marker.
Q4	Does the Release Criterion apply to carrying between institutions, or only between entities that complete? TEI-CKB-13 generalizes to institutional relations; §III's conditions may restrict that generalization.
Q5	What individuates one run's record from another's within the accumulation layer? §III holds that every region contains the whole at reduced resolution and that nothing is located anywhere in particular. If runs are not separately addressed, the framework has not said what makes the record of one life distinguishable in principle from the record of another, and §IV's claim that what differs is structure presupposes an answer.

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X. Additions to the Glossary

GLOSSARY ADDITIONS

Carried Cycle — The relation in which a mature intelligence carries the phases a developing intelligence cannot yet run, until it can run them. Supersedes *Borrowed Cycle* (TEI-CKB-13).

Release Criterion — A carried cycle is developmental if and only if the carrying intelligence is acting to make itself unnecessary. Supersedes *Repayment Criterion* (TEI-CKB-13).

Non-release — Carrying structured to remain necessary. Structurally identical to a capture force without being enumerated among them; where it occurs during formation it withholds enlightenment rather than narrowing fidelity.

The Conditions of Carrying — An entity that completes on the far side, a real gap crossed, phases actually run on the other's behalf, and release as the success condition. All four jointly, or the relation is not carrying.

Retention — What the plenum does. Not holding but shape: the medium is modified by every embedding that has run, with no address, no overwrite, and no read operation of its own.

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XI. Provenance [E]

The rulings recorded here were issued by William D. Mensch Jr. in August 2026. The occasion is internal: this document arises from examination of the framework's own vocabulary rather than from a reading of external work, and it is the first in the series to do so.

A word was wrong for eleven days. It was wrong in a way that changed no mechanism and misdescribed every instance. It was found by examination and not by a verifier.

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Companion essay. A TEI in the Wild essay presenting this correction in accessible form is to follow. The essay *Retained Without an Address* applies §III and §IV to the question of what ends when a life ends.

Ruled canonical by William D. Mensch Jr., August 2026.

TEI Canonical Knowledge Base — The Series

TEI-CKB-1 · Philosophical Introduction
TEI-CKB-2 · Comprehensive Reference
TEI-CKB-3 · The Holographic-Platonic Extension
TEI-CKB-4 · The Physics Bridge
TEI-CKB-5 · Governance of Artificial Intelligence
TEI-CKB-6 · The Pathology of Capture
TEI-CKB-7 · The Power of Myth
TEI-CKB-8 · Mathematical Architecture
TEI-CKB-9 · The Higgs Precondition
TEI-CKB-10 · The Measure of Correlation
TEI-CKB-11 · The Architecture of Seams
TEI-CKB-12 · The Aperture and the Warrant
TEI-CKB-13 · The Binding Force
TEI-CKB-14 · The Register-Free Medium
TEI-CKB-15 · The Two Communications
TEI-CKB-16 · The Complete and the Acquired
TEI-CKB-17 · The Renderable Record
TEI-CKB-18 · The Carried Cycle — *this document*

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