Mapping Manuscript Migrations: an international project funded by the Trans-Atlantic Platform

Toby Burrows
Mapping Manuscript Migrations: Digging Into Data For The History And Provenance Of Pre-Modern European Manuscripts

Abstract

Hundreds of thousands of pre-modern European manuscripts have survived until the present day. As the result of changes in their ownership over the centuries, they are now spread all over the world. Collectively they constitute a great cultural and scholarly treasure. There are many sources of data relating to them, and new sources continue to proliferate in the digital environment. This project will link disparate datasets from Europe and North America to provide an international view of the history and provenance of these manuscripts. The aggregated data will enable researchers to analyse and visualize these topics at scales ranging from individual manuscripts to thousands of manuscripts. Our research will address their origins and movements, and the collectors and owners involved in their history. We will be able to show how these manuscripts have traveled across time and space to their current locations, where they continue to find new audiences.

Principal Investigators

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Partner Investigators

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University of Oxford

Dr Lynn Ransom
University of Pennsylvania

Professor Eero Hyvonen
Aalto University

Dr Hanno Wijsman
IRHT
The Project

• Collect and transform heterogeneous data to a common Data Model

• Expose the combined data in a Linked Data environment

• Implement a software interface for browsing and searching the combined data

• Explore research questions relating to the history and provenance of manuscripts on a large scale

• Visualize the data
  • geographical relationships
  • network relationships
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Sources</th>
<th>Data Model</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schoenberg Database of Manuscripts</td>
<td>Own data model</td>
<td>225,000 records containing provenance-related observations of manuscript histories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bodleian Library Medieval Manuscript Catalogues</td>
<td>Text Encoding Initiative (TEI)</td>
<td>9,500 catalogue records; about 1,000 with detailed provenance information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibale (IRHT)</td>
<td>Own data model</td>
<td>Bibale: more than 5,000 MSS with provenance information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium (IRHT)</td>
<td>Own data model</td>
<td>Medium: brief records for more than 109,000 MSS, with links to other sources of information</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Research Questions

• A general analysis of the history and movement of medieval and Renaissance manuscripts over the centuries, including such questions as: how many manuscripts have survived; where they are now; and which people and institutions have been involved in their history;

• A more specific analysis of the mobility of manuscripts and its traceability, within and from French space, since the Wars of Religion;

• A comparison of the respective significance of institutional and individual manuscript collectors in the 19th and 20th centuries;

• Trace the history and movement across time and space of a group of manuscripts, selected using one or more of the following criteria: place of origin; current location; language; subject; text; period of origin; current or previous owner(s); in the same collection at the same time
## Phillipps MS 8025 bis

**Phillipps number**: 8025 bis  
**Material**: Vellum  
**Folios**: 43 leaves  
**Height**: 390 mm  
**Width**: 300 mm  
**ID**: /mss/philipps/8025b  
**Notes**: Known as: The Crusader Bible. Has Phillipps number on the volume, but does not appear in his Catalogus

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<th>[Sold]</th>
<th>[Owned]</th>
<th>[Produced]</th>
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<td>25</td>
<td>1 - 11 of 11</td>
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<th>Date End</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>1300</td>
<td></td>
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<td>1604</td>
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<td>Krakow (PL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1916</td>
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<td>New York City (US)</td>
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Mitch Fraas (2013) “Movement of books from medieval libraries in the MLGB3. Medieval locations (red), Current locations (blue)”
http://mappingbooks.blogspot.co.uk/2013/11/the-dispersal-of-medieval-libraries-of.html
Mitch Fraas (2014) “Pre-1600 manuscripts in the United States and Canada (detail)”
http://mappingbooks.blogspot.co.uk/2014/11/mapping-pre-1600-european-manuscripts.html
Mitch Fraas (2014) “Past possessors of Penn’s codex manuscripts in yellow linked with others who possessed the same manuscript”
http://mappingbooks.blogspot.co.uk/2014/01/charting-former-owners-of-penns-codex.html
Mapping Manuscript Migrations

• More information at:
https://www.oerc.ox.ac.uk/projects/mapping-manuscript-migrations
(Project Web site coming soon)

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• Trans-Atlantic Platform:
  http://transatlanticplatform.com

• Digging into Data:
  https://diggingintodata.org