

The Models of Authority Project (MoA)

Extending the DigiPal Framework for Script and Decoration

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What is the MoA Project?

The project's research questions lie in the contents, script and physical appearance of the surviving corpus of **Scottish royal charters** from 1100–1250. Through close examination of the **diplomatic and palaeographic features** of the charters, the project team are exploring evidence for developments in the **perception of royal government** during a crucial period in Scottish history by looking at the **choice of visual models** behind royal and local documents. Funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council, it finishes on **31 July 2017**.

Bringing Text to MoA/DigiPal

Features of handwriting depend not only on the type of manuscript and social context of production, but also on the text itself. In order to address the research questions, the **DigiPal framework** has been extended by **adding a generalised textual component**, such that **arbitrary marked-up texts** (transcription, translation, codicological description, etc.) may be **associated with image segments**, in parallel to the structured palaeographical markup. This allows one to **explore relationships between script and text**, such as

- **View samples of script** according to diplomatic function (address clause, witness list, ...)
- Present an **image of the page** alongside and **synchronised with corresponding texts** (transcription, translation, codicological description...)
- Leverage existing **visualisations** to explore elements in diplomatic formula

| | Cat. Num. | Document Type | Repository City | Repository | Shelfmark | MS Date | Text Type | |
|---------------------|-----------|--|-----------------|------------|---------------------------|--|-------------|---------------|
| Result Type (7) | View | ND App., no. 167 POMS Document 3/93/2 | Charter | Durham | Durham Cathedral Archives | DDC 1.1.Sacr.12 | 1198 x 1233 | Transcription |
| Manuscripts | | | | | | | | |
| Images | | | | | | | | |
| Scribes | | | | | | | | |
| Texts | | | | | | | | |
| Graphs | | | | | | | | |
| Clauses | | | | | | | | |
| Titles | | | | | | | | |
| Document Type (5) | View | ND App., no. 172 POMS Document 3/566/1 | Charter | Durham | Durham Cathedral Archives | DDC 4.3.Sacr.1 (previously, Misc. Ch. 715) | 1189 x 1207 | Transcription |
| Charter | | | | | | | | 123 |
| Brieve | | | | | | | | 4 |
| Settlement | | | | | | | | 4 |
| Brieve-Charter | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Notification | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Repository City (3) | | | | | | | | |
| Edinburgh | | | | | | | | 109 |

Filtering Images by Text Type

Linking text, image region and document metadata allows **complex searches according to project-specific criteria** which in turn enable (for instance) comparison of the **visual form of different parts of the text**. For instance, the address clause at the start of the charter is often written in a distinctive style, with characteristic elongation and additional decoration of letters. The new MoA framework allows one to **view and compare these portions of the document**, filtering and ordering results according to date, type of document, the role of the person issuing the document (royal, ecclesiastic), repository and so on. This then allows the project team to **trace the dissemination of new developments in the visual appearance of charters**.

Presenting Texts and Images

A **new editor/viewer** allows one to select from a range of different texts and images that are associated to each other, such as an image of a page, a transcription of the text, a translation of the text, or a codicological description of the page. Texts can be marked up to **highlight segments**, and these in turn can be **linked to image regions**. The user can **alter the display** (eg. highlighting clauses, showing or hiding expanded abbreviations etc.), can **synchronise panes** (so moving to a new page image automatically updates the text and translation), and so on. The range of texts, images and markup can all be **customised according to the needs of the project**.

The screenshot shows the MoA editor/viewer interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Transcription' and 'Display' tabs. Below that, a manuscript image is displayed with a blue selection box around a portion of the text. Below the image, there's a transcription pane with the text: 'Edgar rex scotorum. Omnis per regnum suum scotis & anglis salutem. Sciat is me ad dedicationem unisse ecclesie Sancte Marie apud Coldingham. que quidem dedicatio ad dei laudem & ad meum placitum grata omnibus & accepta honorabiliter est adimpleta. & ego eidem ecclesie super altare obtuli in dotem. & donau iuillam totam'. To the right, there's a translation pane with the text: 'Edgar king of Scots to all Scots and English throughout his kingdom, greeting. Know that I came to the dedication of the church of St Mary at Coldingham. This dedication was fulfilled to the glory of God and to my pleasing, was acceptable to all and honourably received. And I have offered to the same church upon the altar as an'.

Annotation

Structured Markup of Images

The screenshot shows the MoA annotation tool. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Manuscript image', 'Annotations (0)', 'Search (1)', 'Image Overlay', and 'Other Manuscript Images (1)'. Below that, a manuscript image is displayed with a blue selection box around a portion of the text. The text in the image is 'ales ibi oblationu portiones fu' and 'noiat canonice oem oblatione'.

Description

Embedding Annotations in Text

Another feature of style we see from continental traditions of documentary elements of certain letters that descended below the baseline (such as f, s, e). Examples of this can be seen in NLS Adv. MS 15.1.18, no. 10:



Contextualisation

Creating Knowledge through Interaction

The screenshot shows the MoA contextualisation tool. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Agreement (8/9)', 'Brieve (2/2)', and 'Charter (42/58)'. Below that, a manuscript image is displayed with a blue selection box around a portion of the text. The text in the image is 'ales ibi oblationu portiones fu' and 'noiat canonice oem oblatione'. To the right, there's a list of document types: 'Diploma (1/1)', 'Inquest (1/1)', 'Memorandum (1/1)', and 'Settlement (1/2)'.



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Visit us at modelsauthority.ac.uk, or search for DigiPal on GitHub and DockerHub