



The Schoenberg Institute
for Manuscript Studies

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA LIBRARIES

Annual Report

November 1, 2016, to October 31, 2017

Guided by the vision of its founder, Lawrence J. Schoenberg, the mission of the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies at Penn Libraries is to bring manuscript culture, modern technology and people together to bring access to and understanding of our intellectual heritage locally and around the world.

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Introduction

The goals of the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies, as outlined in the strategic plan of 2015, are:

- To promote pre-modern manuscript studies at Penn.
- To create opportunities for scholarly material and digital research.
- To become a global leader in and exemplary resource for open data.
- To stay current with innovative digital access & research in a rapidly changing technological environment.

In our fourth year, we have continued to succeed in each of these goals. SIMS has helped to attract graduate talent to various faculties of the School of Arts and Sciences. Further, our impact on the field is more widely reflected in our being cited as leading the way in the field of digital manuscript studies by the editors of the first Digital Humanities Supplement of *Speculum*, the journal of the Medieval Academy of America (<http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/toc/spc/2017/92/S1>), published in October 2017. *Manuscript Studies*, our own journal now entering its third year of publication, produces high quality original scholarship on the world's premodern manuscripts, and its readership is steadfastly growing. Our data Portal OPenn hosts data from ever more institutions, including now the Huntington Library in California and the John Rylands Library in Manchester. We continue to keep abreast of the latest technological developments, most obviously in our championing of Fragmentarium, a platform for reuniting disbursed manuscripts on the web initiated by our long-term collaborator Christoph Fluëler at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland. We also delight this year in the success of Erin Connelly, SIMS CLIR fellow in data curation, who continues to research and discuss the contribution that medieval medicine can make to modern science. She broadcasts (NPR), writes (Scientific American), and speaks on this subject on both sides of the Atlantic.

The context for the study of the pre-modern manuscript at the Penn is changing rapidly, and for the better: the recent hires of medievalists and early modernists in Art History, English, History, and Music have created important faculty collaborations and more opportunities to engage students. As the Price Lab for the Digital Humanities develops a full head of steam, the future of manuscript studies at Penn remains bright. At the same time, we are making alliances that anchor us firmly in an international context. For example, the Schoenberg Database is now part of a Trans-Atlantic Platform Digging Into Data Challenge-funded project involving the Oxford e-Research Centre, the Bodleian Libraries, the Institut de Recherche et d'Histoire des Textes in Paris, and Aalto University in Finland, and we are ensuring that our data is available for such projects as the Digital Library of the Middle East.

One year ago, the major threat to the field of medieval studies appeared to be financial. Certainly government funding for the arts is in peril under the current administration, but the true threat to our community appears deeper than that. Medieval Studies is a political minefield. As white nationalists adopt our iconography and falsify our history, the Schoenberg Institute, which has a public profile as well as an academic one, might find itself unavoidably drawn into a highly charged debate. SIMS was created in 2012 by Larry and Barbara working in partnership with Carton Rogers, Vice Provost and Director of Penn Libraries. This year Carton retires, and he leaves the SIMS in a strong position financially and programmatically. Barbara and the staff of SIMS look forward to the years ahead under new leadership, building from the firm foundation laid by Larry and Carton.

William Noel

Director, Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies

2016-2017 Staff

William Noel, Director

Matija Budisin, SDBM NEH Project Assistant (to June 30, 2017)

Emma Cawfield, SDBM Project Assistant

Erin Connolly, CLIR Fellow in Medieval Data Curation

Jessie Dummer, Digitization Project Coordinator

Doug Emery, Digital Content Programmer Analyst

Benjamin J. Fleming, Indic Manuscripts Global Access Project Cataloger (to November 30, 2017)

Mitch Fraas, Curator, Special Collections

Benjamin Heller, Project Programmer, Schoenberg Database of Manuscripts

Nicholas Herman, Curator of Manuscripts

Amev Hutchins, Manuscripts Cataloging Librarian

Daniel Mackey, 2016-2017 Graduate Student Fellow

David McKnight, Director, Rare Books and Manuscripts Library

Dennis Mullen, Digitization Specialist

Dot Porter, Curator, Digital Research Services

Lynn Ransom, Curator, SIMS Programs

Emily Shartrand, 2017-2018 Graduate Student Fellow

Programs

SIMS continues to develop its roster of programs designed to engage our local, regional, national, and international constituencies. These include fellowships, our journal Manuscript Studies, now in its second year, and the Schoenberg Symposium, now in its 10th

Fellowships

Visiting Research:

The SIMS Visiting Research Fellowships encourage junior, senior, and independent scholars to conduct research at SIMS relating to our pre-modern manuscript collections. Fellows are encouraged to interact with SIMS staff, Penn faculty and students, and other medieval and early modern scholars in the Philadelphia area, and they are expected to present their research at Penn Libraries either during the term of the fellowship or on a selected date following the completion of the term.

2016-2017 Fellows:

- Aleksandra Bunčić, Hebrew University of Jerusalem “Illuminating the Skies: Jews, Science and an Astronomical Anthology (LJS 57) in Medieval Catalonia” (October 2016).
Outcome: Working public seminar with LJS 57, Vitale II Media Lab, Kislak Center, October 27, 2016. 25 attendees.
- Justine Walden, University of Toronto: “Europe’s Roots: Religious Others in Late Medieval Christian Europe” (March 2017).
Outcome: Using the SDBM to gather and contribute data on the production of non-humanist texts in Florence in the 15th century, and will present at the 2017 Schoenberg Symposium, November 3, 2017, in a paper entitled “Religious Pluralism *Avant la Lettre* in Florentine Manuscripts.”

2017-2018 Fellows:

- Stefano Dall’Aglia, The University of Edinburgh, “Preachers’ Lost Voice: The Roman Inquisition and Oral Sermons in Early Modern Italy” (November 2017).
- Toby Burrows, University of Western Australia Library, “Manuscripts of Sir Thomas Phillipps in Philadelphia” (May 2018) [moved from 2016-2017 program].
- Jack Hartnell, University of East Anglia, “The Mathematics of Everyday Life: Calculation, Illustration, and Social Formation in MS LJS 27” (June 2018).

Graduate Student Fellowship

2016-2017 Fellow:

Daniel Mackey, “Digitally Documenting Aristotle Commentaries: Documenting the Renaissance Reception of Aristotle’s *De Anima* Using TEI/XML: Encoding Texts and Their Metadata,” Post-Baccalaureate Program in Classical Studies, Penn.

Outcome: Dan Mackey worked with 2015-2016 Visiting Research Fellow Jeffrey C. Witt to digitally transcribe and document sections of two of Penn’s Renaissance *De Anima* commentaries as well as their metadata, specifically: Ms. Codex 855 (attributed to one Placidus

Aegidius Melander and the only known witness), and Ms. Codex 769 (anonymously attributed). The transcription is largely completed but work towards its completion has been interrupted due to significant external factors. Fortunately, Dan has entered the PhD program in Classics at Penn, and will continue working on this project.

2017-2018 Fellow:

- Emily Shartrand, “Integrating the John Frederick Lewis Collection at the Free Library of Philadelphia into the Fragmentarium Online Platform,” PhD Candidate, Art History, University of Delaware.

Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies & Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies Distinguished Fellow in Jewish Manuscript Studies

SIMS and the Katz Center formalized the fellowship to continue it for three years. Each year we invite a distinguished scholar to work with our Hebrew manuscript material. The fellowship provides up to \$3500 in travel and accommodation and an honorarium of \$2500. In exchange we ask the fellow to 1) be onsite for up to 9 days; 2) present a public lecture sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program, 3) film a short MOOC to be distributed on the Ed.X platform in the “History through Jewish Manuscript Studies” series, and 4) publish findings in either *Manuscript Studies* or *the Jewish Quarterly Review*.

- **2016-2017 Fellow:** Alessandro Guetta, INALCO Paris, Professor of Jewish Intellectual History, Departement d'études hebraïques et juives. In residence from June 24-June 30, 2017. His public lecture will take place February 27, 2018. His research will center on a copy of Malkiel Aschkenazi's *Tavnith HaMishkan* and *Chanukath HaBayith* (now CAJS Rar Ms 460) (Mantua, early 17th century).
- **2017-2018 Fellow:** Judith Olszowy-Schlanger, Professor of Medieval Hebrew Paleography, École Pratique des Hautes Études (Sorbonne), Paris. In residence, April 15-25, 2018, with a lecture to be held on April 25. The fellowship will allow her to survey the paleography of our Hebrew manuscripts.

Publications

Manuscript Studies: The Journal of the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies

Manuscript Studies has seen healthy growth. In 2017, SIMS published two issues of *Manuscript Studies*. The Spring 2017 issue, devoted to a survey of collections of Thai manuscripts, was guest-edited by Professor Justin McDaniel, Department of Religious Studies at Penn. The Fall 2017 issue, our first “open” issue of unsolicited submissions is now published. The manuscript of the Spring 2018 issue has just been delivered to Penn Press, and we are acquiring Articles, Reviews, and Annotation pieces for Fall 2018. The editors have accepted a proposal for a third special issue to be published in Spring 2019 that will focus on manuscript culture in early modern India from Arthur Dudley and Neeraja Poddar.

In June, we officially launched the open access version of Manuscript Studies on Scholarly Commons, Penn’s institutional repository for open access scholarly publications (see http://repository.upenn.edu/mss_sims/). The Articles and Annotations from the Spring 2016 issue were posted in June, and the Fall 2016 issue will be posted in November 2017. According to our agreement with Penn Press, Articles and Annotations are made open access one year after the publication date. We will continue to post issues in Scholarly Commons, though it should be mentioned that Penn is reconsidering its relationship with the backend software, which is powered by [bepress](#), which was recently bought out by Elsevier and may therefore shift its open access policy.

Readership Statistics:

Full statistics from Penn Press’s mid-year report are provided in the Appendix, but a few highlights may be useful here:

	2016	2017
Subscribers (up to 6/1/ 2017)	34	54
Project Muse (articles accessed (up to 6/1/ 2017)	41	219
Scholarly Commons downloads (up to 10/25/2017)	n/a	328

Schoenberg Symposium on Manuscript Studies in the Digital Age

Convened: The 9th Annual Schoenberg Symposium, “Reactions: Medieval/Modern,” was held November 17-19, 2016. 18 speakers considered various ways in which people have reacted to the manuscript book, from medieval times to the present. For the full program, go to:

http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/lectures/ljs_symposium9.html

Organized: The 10th Annual Schoenberg Symposium, “Intertwined Worlds,” to be held November 2-4, 2017. 17 speakers will consider the confluence of expressions of belief, ritual, and social engagement emerging in technologies and traditions of the world's manuscript cultures. For the full program, go to:

http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/lectures/ljs_symposium10.html

Projects

Genizah (new)

Penn Libraries has long been invested in the study of the Cairo Geniza and has over 600 fragments from it in the Katz Center which were digitized many years ago by SCETI. More recently, Arthur Kiron and SIMS have been instrumental in bringing together key players in the modern study of the Geniza. In this last year, we have provided advice, council, and cash after Laura Eckstein, co-ordinator for JudaicaDH in the Department of Teaching, Research and Learning Services of Penn Libraries, successfully applied to Zooniverse for a grant to fund a project to crowdsource the decipherment of the Cairo Geniza. This collaborative project, headed by Penn Libraries but involving The Jewish Theological Seminary, Cambridge University Library, Princeton, and The John Rylands Library in Manchester is now underway. In the first phase, the crowd is being asked to broadly classify the fragments by script and by type. The second phase, which starts in April, will invite the crowd to transcribe. If the crowd can transcribe the Cairo Geniza, the crowd can do anything. Certainly we have succeeded in capturing the crowd's imagination. In just a couple of months over 100,000 classifications of manuscript fragments have been made by citizens around the world. This is a fascinating project that pilots new approaches to digital scholarship and leverages many different locations of expertise within the library and beyond.

Fragmentarium (new)

SIMS is partnering with Fragmentarium (<http://fragmentarium.unifr.ch/>), an international digital research lab for medieval manuscript fragments run by a research team at the University of Fribourg. Officially launched in Saint Gall, Switzerland, on September 1, 2017, the Fragmentarium platform enables libraries, collectors, researchers and students to publish medieval manuscript fragments to catalogue, describe, transcribe, assemble, and re-use them online. Over the course of the 2017-2018 academic year, SIMS Graduate Student Fellow Emily Shartrand (PhD Candidate, University of Delaware) will work on a case study of the roughly 2,300 fragments of western medieval manuscripts collected by John Frederick Lewis of Philadelphia and now housed at the Free Library of Philadelphia. Emily Shartrand and Nicholas Herman attended a workshop in Wolfenbüttel, Germany, in June 2017 related to the project. Will Noel and Nicholas Herman attended a planning meeting and launch of the platform at Saint Gall, Switzerland, in September 2017. SIMS intends to be a long-time partner in this project.

Bibliotheca Philadelphiensis

During 2017 we completed the first year of the three-year, CLIR funded project *"Bibliotheca Philadelphiensis: Toward a Comprehensive Online Library of Medieval and Early Modern Manuscripts in PACSCL Libraries in Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware."* The project aims to digitize the western medieval manuscripts in Philadelphia and make the images and metadata available online under open licenses (CCBY for the metadata, with the images in the Public Domain).

Principal Investigators: Lois Black, Lehigh University (Lead PI); Dot Porter (SIMS), and Janine Pollock (Free Library of Philadelphia).

The project started April 1, 2016. Through September 2017, the following goals have been met:

- 220 manuscripts have been photographed at Penn, and additional photography is happening at Temple University and Lehigh University.
- The BiblioPhilly page on OPenn went online in May: http://openn.library.upenn.edu/html/bibliophilly_contents.html; it currently hosts 57 manuscripts.
- Additional cataloging of manuscripts has been undertaken by Penn staff at Temple University.
- VisColl Collation models are being made for each manuscript for which collation can be determined.

SIMS staff are central to this effort. Not only is Dot Porter the PI, but the technical infrastructure has been developed by Doug Emery. Amey Hutchins, Nick Herman, and Erin Connolly are providing manuscript descriptions. Dennis Mullen developed the website: <http://bibliophilly.pacscl.org/>.

The Beehive

The Beehive (Ms. Codex 726) is the commonplace book of Daniel Francis Pastorius, founder of Germantown. It is one of Penn Libraries great treasures. In 2016, SIMS began work in collaboration with Brooke Palmieri (PhD Student at the Centre for Editing Lives and Letters at University College London and Penn alumna), Ben Albritton (Stanford University), and Doug Emery, to create a Mirador instance of the Beehive, with the aim of annotating it to provide an index to the entire text in order to make it work as Pastorius intended. In 2017, the project team tested and honed our annotation model for mapping the manuscript. Building on those refinements, the project moved into a “production” mode in Fall 2017. CLIR postdoctoral fellow Lindsay van Tine and Reading Room director John Pollack joined the project to coordinate student workers and develop a system to complete our mapping of the manuscript. We look forward to working on the Beehive project – first indexing and then playing with the data – in years to come.

The Needham Calculator

With the help of part-timer George Gordon, Will Noel built the Needham Calculator (www.needhamcalculator.org), which allows catalogers of paper books, whether print or manuscript, to successfully diagnose both the size of the paper sheet and the format of the book before 1500. It has been celebrated on the web, and Will has presented the project to The Grolier Club, at a Material Text Seminar, and at the recent RBS Conference “Bibliography Among the Disciplines.” He is now busy applying it to single sheet drawings and metalcuts in preparation for the Sandars Lectures in Cambridge he will give in 2019.

Schoenberg Database of Manuscripts (SDBM)

On June 30, 2017, The SDBM completed its third and final year of the three-year, NEH-funded project “The New Schoenberg Database of Manuscripts: A Finding Aid for the World’s Manuscript Books.” The project successfully redeveloped the SDBM into an online, user-maintained, open-access, collaborative research tool for finding and indexing the world’s manuscripts. The New SDBM was officially launched in May 2017 at the 52nd International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, MI.

The New SDBM’s success is ultimately measured by the activity of our user-community. To date, since the New SDBM beta launch on October 15, 2015, we can report the following statistics:

- 197 registered users
- 9498 new Entries created by non-SDBM staff
- 4890 actions by non-SDBM staff performed on all records (e.g. data revisions, comments, linking Entries, Name Authority creation and review)

Additionally, the proposal submitted in May 2017 for the Trans-Atlantic Partnership Digging Into Data Challenge submitted by SDBM Advisory Committee member Dr. Toby Burrows, University of Western Australia, was successful. The project aims to create an open linked data environment for manuscript research. Partner institutions include the Institut de Recherche et d'Histoire des Textes, the Semantic Computing Research Group at Aalto University, the Bodleian Library, and the e-Research Centre at Oxford University.

VisColl: Collation Visualization Project

In the spring of 2013, Dot Porter, Doug Emery, Dennis Mullen, and Alberto Campagnolo (Library of Congress) developed a system for generating visualizations of a physical manuscript’s collation. The system, called VisColl, consists of the following:

- A data model for modeling of a manuscript, based on quires, leaves in quires, and typology for the leaves (original, missing, added, replaced)
- Software for building models in a tabular format, published online and expressed in a custom XML schema
- Software for generating visualizations from that model, via another online form

Goals met in 2017 include:

- An updated data model, which enables users to define taxonomies and then map terms onto quires, leaves, or sides of leaves
- Supports more sophisticated physical structures, specifically subquires, or quires nested within quires
- Successful collaboration with the Old Books New Science team at the University of Toronto, directed by Alex Gillespie, who used the VisColl data model in the design of their collation modeling software for a project on the Canterbury Tales manuscripts.

Currently the visualization output combines collation diagrams and bifolia views. Sample visualizations are publicly viewable on the development site

<http://dorpdev.library.upenn.edu/collation/>. The open-sourced code with complete documentation is also available on GitHub: <https://github.com/leoba/VisColl>.

This work will continue in 2018 and we anticipate several conference presentations and publications relating to VisColl.

Kalendarium

Begun in March 2014, Kalendarium is an unfunded, international project to build a crowd-sourced tool for collecting and identifying the world's medieval liturgical calendars. The project includes participants from the University of Pennsylvania, Stanford University, the Morgan Library, Radboud University Nijmegen, the University of Antwerp, and the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Kalendarium is intended to aid users in identifying their calendars and adding to a growing database of the world's medieval calendars. In 2017, the project team developed a conceptual model for the application building on its previous research and experimentation. In October 2017, SIMS hired programmer George Gordon on a part-time basis to build Kalendarium based on our new conceptual model.

Current collaborators include: Roger Wieck (Morgan Library), Kathryn Rudy (University of St. Andrews), Johan Oosterman (Nijmegen), Mike Kestemont (Antwerp), Ben Albritton (Stanford), Rob Sanderson (Stanford).

DM

DM is a Mellon and NEH-funded project to create a digital environment for the study and annotation of images and texts. It provides a suite of tools enabling scholars to gather and organize the evidence necessary to support arguments based in digitized resources. Previously known as Digital Mappamundi and hosted by Drew University, DM was originally designed by Martin Foys (formerly Drew University, now University of Wisconsin Madison) for use with medieval maps, but its functional flexibility has the potential to make it an excellent tool for all image-based objects. In 2017 development on DM 1.0 was completed, and the code will be launched publicly in January 2018. SIMS will host four projects on a DM instance hosted at Penn. Those projects are:

- *Virtual Mappa*: A collaboration with the British Library, providing simple annotations for about 3000 inscriptions and features on a cohort of digital images of ten early English medieval maps of the world (currently hosted here: <http://dm.performantsoftware.com/workspace/#965fe731>)
- Old English and Anglo-Latin Belltokens Edition (Martin Foys): an edition of a short text survives in both Anglo-Latin and in an Old English translation of the Anglo-Latin. (currently hosted here: <http://dm.performantsoftware.com/workspace/#6kgzvltt>)
- Four Anglo-Carolingian Mini-Editions from Cotton Vespasian MS D. xv (Martin Foys): a "deep edit" of three manuscript pages on a late tenth-century Anglo-Latin manuscript, and the

four short texts they contain (three of which have never been identified in Anglo-Saxon England before), along with associated marginalia and other features. (currently hosted here: <http://dm.performantsoftware.com/workspace/#i2lptr1n>)

- Digital edition of the *Chronique Anonyme Universelle* (Lisa Fagin Davis): a richly-annotated digital edition of the *Chronique Anonyme Universelle*, a lavishly illustrated scroll history of the world from Creation to the fifteenth century. Originally published as a DVD to accompany Davis's book *La Chronique Anonyme Universelle Reading and Writing History in Fifteenth-Century France* (Brepols, 2014)

Development on DM 2.0, funded and carried out by the University of Wisconsin, will begin in early 2018.

Manuscript Digitization and Processing

Digitization of Pre-1601 Manuscripts at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies

Manuscripts cataloger Amey Hutchins worked with Heidi Lerner, Metadata Librarian for Hebraica and Judaica at Stanford University, and Shelton Lykes, Middle East Library Specialist, Penn, to catalog the pre-1601 manuscripts held at the Library of the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, in preparation for their digitization. **14 Hebrew** manuscripts, **10 Arabic** manuscripts, **3 Persian** manuscripts, **3 Latin** manuscripts, **2 Spanish** manuscripts, **1 Ge'ez** manuscript, **1 Turkish** manuscript, and **1 Italian** manuscript, a group dating from the 13th through the 16th centuries, were cataloged and digitized.

Digitization of Pre-1800 Manuscripts Added to the Kislak Center Since 2012

The digitization of pre-1800 manuscripts at the Kislak Center was largely accomplished through NEH grants awarded in 2009 and 2011. This year SIMS initiated a project to digitize the approximately **80 manuscripts** either newly acquired or newly cataloged from existing collections since 2012. Of those 80 manuscripts, 9 of them were removed from the project for conservation reasons. SCETI has completed the photography for all of the pre-1800 manuscripts and there are now 53 facsimiles appearing on Penn in Hand and 45 in OPenn. By the end of the calendar year, all 71 manuscripts will be available on Penn in Hand and in OPenn.

New Manuscripts Processed

Amey Hutchins continues to move acquisitions through processing to make records available in the Penn Libraries online catalogue. The past year's work included the following:

- 2 pre-modern bound codex manuscripts for the Kislak Center (in German and Hebrew) and 1 pre-modern manuscript leaf for the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies
- Collaborations with other Penn Libraries staff to create catalog records for Japanese and Hebrew manuscripts and a DVD of a BnF manuscript purchased for faculty research.

OPenn

OPenn: Digital Primary Resources Available to Everyone, launched in May 2015, continues to provide open access to selected digital assets in both human-readable and machine-readable formats. OPenn's digital data sets consist of master TIFF files, web JPEG images, thumbnail images, and XML manuscript descriptions. All sets are available as free cultural works and as such are released into the public domain or under Creative Commons CC0, CC-BY, or CC-BY-SA licenses. These licensing structures permit users to have unmediated access to any data we provide, from a single image to the entire data set. OPenn is a major step in the Libraries' strategic initiative to embrace open data. All images and metadata available on this site may be freely studied, applied, copied, or modified by anyone, for any purpose. It is crucial to the mission of SIMS and the Penn Libraries to make these materials of great interest and research value easy to access and reuse.

As of October 17, 2017, there are **5,366 manuscripts** with images and accompanying metadata available on OPenn, comprising **762,177 unique page images** and totaling **58 terabytes of data**. OPenn provides full access to 4,303 manuscripts from Penn's Kislak Center, including LJS manuscripts (302), fragments from the Cairo Genizah (477) and pre-1601 manuscripts (26) from the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, and Indic manuscripts (1787). OPenn also provides access to manuscripts from other institutions such as the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (37), the Walters Art Museum (421), the Jay I. Kislak Foundation (7) and Hebrew manuscripts from the John Rylands Library at the University of Manchester Library Special Collections (8).

For the ongoing SIMS project Bibliotheca Philadelphiensis, manuscripts will continue to be added from 15 institutions across the Philadelphia area through March 2019. Currently there are 52 manuscripts available from the Free Library of Philadelphia and 9 from the Othmer Library at the Chemical Heritage Foundation, constituting 1TB of data and 16,500 page images.

OPenn is home to the products of six National Endowment for the Humanities digitization and access grants. In simple financial terms, leaving aside the investment in unsponsored projects, OPenn presents **\$1,800,000 of tax payer investment**, which was matched by the institutions that made the data.

A further development, led by Dot Porter, is a collaboration with Professor Jane Greenberg, iSchool, Drexel University. Professor Greenberg received an LIS Education and Data Science-for-the National Digital Platform (LEADS-4-NDP) grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The grant will provide SIMS with a 10-week summer intern, from Drexel University's Information Science PhD program, who will work with staff at SIMS to clean up the cataloging data in OPenn.

PACSCL Diaries Project on OPenn

Manuscripts available on OPenn through the PACSCL Diaries Project include many previously unknown documents as well as the celebrated Union League's Tanner diary, a firsthand account of events surrounding the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Currently there are **63 diaries** from **16 institutions**, including Penn Libraries; Abraham Lincoln Foundation of the Union League of Philadelphia; Barbara Bates Center for the Study of Nursing; Bryn Mawr College Special Collections; Drexel University Archives; Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College; German Society of Pennsylvania; Historical Society of Pennsylvania; J. Welles Henderson Archives and Library of the Independence Seaport Museum; Legacy Center, Drexel University College of Medicine; Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia; Penn Museum Archives; Quaker and Special Collections, Haverford College; Rare Collections Library of the State Library of Pennsylvania; Special Collections, Lehigh University Library; and the Library Company of Philadelphia.

Indic Manuscripts Global Access Project

The University of Pennsylvania's Preservation and Access Grant (PW-51547-15) entitled Providing Global Access to Penn's Indic Manuscripts, circa 1527-1930 (bulk 1700-1850) was completed within the scheduled three year period of the award: 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2017. According to the original terms of the grant the Rare Book and Manuscript Library proposed to catalog, rehouse and scan 1728 Indic manuscripts dating from 1527 to 1935. Indeed, an additional six manuscripts were cataloged under the terms of the grant. After the completion of this project, we now have cataloged and digitized a total of **2926 manuscripts**. Thus, the number of manuscripts cataloged during the project represents 59% of the Indic Manuscript Collection in total which are now cataloged in MARC. These records were uploaded to OCLC where the records can be searched along with the other 1198 Penn Indic manuscript records including 85 Indic manuscripts from a separate digitization project. As noted in the past, Penn's Indic manuscript collection is the largest collection of its kind in North America.

Exhibitions

Intertwined Worlds, August 23-December 22, 2017, Goldstein Family Gallery. Curated by Benjamin J. Fleming.

Reactions: Medieval/Modern, August 25-December 16, 2016, Goldstein Family Gallery. Curated by Dot Porter. Online exhibition, developed by Dennis Mullen, was launched in 2017 and is available here: <http://sceti.library.upenn.edu/reactionsexhibit>.

Loans:

Cultures in the Crossfire: Stories from Syria and Iraq, held at Penn Museum, April 8-November 28, 2017.

Teaching & Outreach

SIMS staff continued to be actively involved in teaching and providing support for a number of courses and workshops. SIMS staff taught two Rare Book School classes at Penn Libraries. The former Paleography course, originated by Amey Hutchins and Alexander Devine, became the “SIMS Manuscript Skills” and continues to be offered through the Graduate Division of the School of Arts and Sciences on a noncredit basis similar to summer language courses. SIMS staff also continued to provide teaching support for faculty from Penn and other universities in the Philadelphia area in class visits to view collections.

Local Elementary School Class Visits

Since 2015, Dot Porter and Deborah Bishov, Teaching and Research Technologies Librarian, have offered a program for young children to introduce them to the wonders of medieval manuscripts. Dot uses the well-known and beloved children’s book *Marguerite Makes a Book* by Bruce Robertson (J. Paul Getty Museum, 1999) as the “textbook” to introduce children to the concept of a hand-produced book and get them ready for seeing the real thing.

Schools served this year:

- Penn Children's Center (4-5 year olds, one class), *Introducing Medieval Manuscripts (Books of Hours)*, May 2017 (Dot Porter)

SIMS Manuscript Skills Summer Course 2017

In Penn’s first summer session, SIMS staff Nicholas Herman, Amey Hutchins, Will Noel, and Dot Porter led the fourth offering of our six-week course introducing graduate students to hands-on work with medieval manuscripts. Students came not only from the University of Pennsylvania, but also Bryn Mawr College, Loyola University-Baltimore, and Temple University, from the disciplines of Art History, Classics, English, and French. Students responded positively to the course:

- “It let me do an additional level of in-depth research that I may not otherwise have been able to do.”
- “There was a good balance between learning material and applying it.”
- “This course, coupled with previous experience, has allowed me the opportunity to decide which areas I will focus on in future endeavors (library school, special collections).”
- “I often work from established editions. Working with the manuscript has helped me get a clearer sense of how people would have used these texts. It is easy to take this for granted.”
- “I think this course should be taken by every medievalist...I just wish I had taken it earlier on and would take another class with you if you offered it.”

Non-SIMS Courses taught by SIMS staff:

- ARTH343 (Penn History of Art Course): Illuminated Manuscripts in Philadelphia Area Collections. Spring Term, 2017. Instructor: Nicholas Herman (10 students enrolled)
- Rare Book School Course: Medieval Manuscripts in the 21st Century. July 2017. Instructors: Will Noel and Dot Porter

Course and student support by SIMS staff:

- Ada Kuskowski (History, Penn): War and Conquest in the Middle Ages, January 2017 (Nicholas Herman)
- Ann Matter (Religious Studies, Penn): The Bible in the Middle Ages, October 2016 (Nicholas Herman)
- Maeve O’Donnell (Art History, Bryn Mawr): Discovering Manuscripts, April 2016 (Nicholas Herman)
- Sarah Guerin (History of Art): Medieval Art, February 2017 (Dot Porter and Will Noel)
- Peter Cobb (Classical Studies, Penn), Material Past in the Digital World, September 2017 (Dot Porter)
- Meetings with prospective PhD students in History of Art, English, and Comp Lit (Will Noel & Nicholas Herman)
- Development of medieval manuscript materials sample kit for teaching (Nicholas Herman & Sarah Reidell)
- Kara McShane and Susanna Throop (English and History, Ursinus College), Bears Make History: Digital Entrepreneurship in the Archive & Online, September 2017 (Dot Porter)

Virtual Classroom Visits

Virtual Classroom Visits launched in 2016. Taking advantage of the technology in Vitale II, during a Virtual Classroom Visit, a curator at Penn will display and interact with books from our collection, while the class watches and asks questions via a video feed. This makes it possible for

classes from across the country (potentially in other parts of the world) to learn about Penn collections and learn from SIMS curators.

- Megan Cook, Colby College (ME), October 2017
- Taryn Chubb, East Central University (OK), September 2017

Sponsored Lectures & Collaborations

- Conference: Charles IV: An Emperor in Europe (1316-2016), held October 13-14, 2016; organized by Professor Julia Verkholtantsev, Department of Russian and East European Studies.
- Lecture: Francesco Marco Aresu, Assistant Professor of Italian and Medieval Studies, Wesleyan University, "*Giovanni Boccaccio's Teseida: Composition – Circulation – Reception*," held February 16, 2017, Class of 1978 Pavilion, in partnership with Professor Eva del Soldato Center for Italian Studies at Penn. Featured LJS 254.

Collections Management

Manuscripts Inventory

In November and December 2016, Amey Hutchins worked with other staff members from SIMS and Kislak's Special Collections Processing Center to conduct an inventory of the bound manuscripts in the Lawrence J. Schoenberg Collection and the Kislak Center's Ms. Codex collection. In the year since the previous inventory, the manuscripts had moved to their permanent home in the Kislak Center stacks. For the second year in a row, all manuscripts were accounted for. A similar full inventory will occur at the end of even calendar years, with a mini-inventory in odd calendar years of all items cataloged and added to the collection within the previous year.

Codex Condition Survey

A condition survey was not conducted in 2016.

Acquisitions and Deaccessions

Purchases:

- Account book of shipmaster Sebastian Schindler, bound in a wrapper made from a 12th century manuscript leaf, Switzerland, 1586 (SIMS/Rosenthal funds)
- Legal document on parchment, cursive writing in sepia ink, France, dated 1324 (Rosenthal funds)
- A one-folio manuscript fragment of Avicenna's Canon of Medicine, in Latin, France, c. 1350
- Philosophical and Ethical Treatises, in Hebrew, Spain, c. 1370 (jointly purchased with Katz Center funds)
- Book of Hours for the use of Bourges with a companion volume written by its modern owner, France, c. 1480 and c. 1900 (SIMS/Rosenthal funds)
- Fragmentary strip from a vellum liturgical manuscript used as a printing mask or Frisket, France, probably 15th century
- Perpetual calendar from 1490, manuscript leaf in paper, Italy, c. 1490 (Rosenthal funds)
- Bulla 30 Nov. 1482 "Fidei catholicae" indulgentiarum, for promoting the war against the Turks (Rosenthal/Kislak Center funds)
- Parchment document signed by Francis I of France, dated 1524 (Rosenthal funds)

Grants

Awarded:

- T-AP Digging into Data Challenge Grant. Submitted by Dr. Toby Burrows, University of Western Australia and Oxford University. Partnering institutions: The Institut de Recherche et d'Histoire des Textes, the Semantic Computing Research Group at Aalto University, the Bodleian Library and the e-Research Centre at Oxford University, and the Schoenberg Database of Manuscripts. US funding agency: Institute of Museum & Library Services. Principal Investigator at Penn: Lynn Ransom. Amount: \$175,000.

Active:

- Council on Library and Information Resources. "Bibliotheca Philadelphiensis: Toward A Comprehensive Online Library of Medieval and Early Modern Manuscripts in PACSCL Libraries in Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware" (April 1, 2016, - March 31, 2019). Award to Lehigh University, University of Pennsylvania is a co-applicant. Co-principal Investigator at Penn: Dot Porter. Amount: \$499,086
- Council on Library and Information Resources. Grant to support a data curation fellow at the University of Pennsylvania, in order to develop emerging leaders in the field and to encourage permanent staffing solutions within academic libraries. Erin Connelly. (July 1 2016-June 30, 2018). Amount: \$154,800

Submitted:

- National Endowment for the Humanities, Digital Humanities Advancement Grant: "Advancing MESA." Co-Principal Investigators: Dot Porter and Timothy Stinson, North Carolina State University.

Completed:

- National Endowment for the Humanities, Department of Preservation and Access, Humanities Collections and Reference Resources. Implementation grant for "The New Schoenberg Database of Manuscripts: A Research Tool for Tracking the Current and Historic Locations of Manuscripts" (September 1, 2014, - September 30, 2017). Principal Investigator: Lynn Ransom. Amount: \$300,000
- National Endowment for the Humanities, Department of Preservation and Access, Humanities Collections and Reference Resources. Implementation grant for "Providing Global Access to Penn's Indic Manuscripts, ca. 1527-1930 (bulk 1700-1850)" (July 1, 2014-June 30, 2017). Principal Investigator: David McKnight. Amount: \$230,000.

Website & Social Media

The Schoenberg Institute's [website](#) continues as one of our leading tools for outreach. In addition to providing information about the Schoenberg Institute activities, the website offers dynamic content through blog posts, a tumblr site, a twitter feed, a calendar of SIMS-related events, and a link to the [SIMS YouTube channel](#).

Web Site

<i>2017</i>	<i>2016</i>
20,757 views (79,746 views since 2013)	60,421 views
217 posts	177 posts
82 registered followers	48 registered followers

YouTube Channel

<i>2017</i>	<i>2016</i>
203 videos in 11 playlists	184 videos in 10 playlists
11,812 (37,287 views since in 2013)	11,049 views
270 subscribers	193 subscribers

Twitter:

<i>2017</i>	<i>2016</i>
2175 followers	1607 followers
6108 tweets	3,847 tweets

Tumblr.com (upennmanuscripts.tumblr.com; started May 2015):

<i>2017</i>	<i>2016</i>
2492 posts	1433 posts
9761 followers	4408 followers

*Tumblr posts are made by Dot Porter and graduate students Mariah Min, Amy Chen, and Kyra Web (University of Pennsylvania) and are cross-posted on Twitter and Facebook.

Facebook

<i>2017</i>	<i>2016</i>
1451 likes	1202 likes

SIMS Staff Conference Representation and Professional Activity

Conference representation:

- *Beyond Words: A Symposium* held in conjunction with the exhibition *Beyond Words: Illuminated Manuscripts in Boston Collections*, Boston, MA, November 3-5, 2016 (Nicholas Herman)
- *Colour: The Art and Science of Illuminated Manuscripts*, Cambridge University, UK, December 9, 2016 (Nicholas Herman)
- *Mirador, Images, and the Future of Digital Research on the Web*, Stanford University, May 2-4, 2017 (Dot Porter and Will Noel)
- 92nd Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, April 6-9, 2017 (Dot Porter and Lynn Ransom)
- 2016-2017 Mellon Sawyer Seminar Lecture Series: "Cultural and Textual Exchanges: The Manuscript Across Pre-Modern Eurasia" April 13, 2017 (Lynn Ransom)
- Universal Manuscript IDs planning meeting, Institut de recherche et d'histoire des textes, Paris, April 26, 2017 (Nicholas Herman)
- International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI May 11-14, 2017 (Dot Porter and Lynn Ransom)
- Fragmentarium Case Study Workshop, Wolfenbüttel, Germany, June 1, 2017 (Emily Shartrand and Nicholas Herman)
- IIF Annual Meeting, The Vatican, June 5-9, 2017
- *Layers of Parchment, Layers of Time: Reconstructing Manuscripts 800 – 1600*, Cambridge University, UK, June 23, 2017 (Nicholas Herman)
- Open Repositories 2017 Conference, Brisbane Australia, June 27-30, 2017 (Doug Emery, Emily Morton-Owens, Dot Porter)
- Questions for John Lowden Study Day, Courtauld Institute of Art, London, UK, June 30, 2017 (Nicholas Herman)
- 2017 Oxford Center for Judaic and Hebrew Studies Summer Workshop on Hebrew Manuscripts, Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, July 2017 (Amey Hutchins)
- KeystoneDH, Philadelphia, PA, July 12-14, 2017 (Dot Porter)
- Fragmentarium 2nd planning meeting, Saint Gall, Switzerland, August 30-September 1, 2017 (Nicholas Herman and Will Noel)
- CARMEN: The Worldwide Medieval Network, Annual Meeting, Ghent, Belgium, Sept 22-23, 2017 (Lynn Ransom, as a delegate of the Medieval Academy of America)
- Book History & Digital Humanities, A Conference at the Center for the History of Print & Digital Culture, Madison WI, September 22-23, 2017 (Dot Porter)
- Rare Book School Bibliography Among the Disciplines Conference, Philadelphia PA, October 12-14, 2017 (Will Noel and Dot Porter)

Publications:

- Nicholas Herman, “Just Reward? Reflections on (and New Evidence for) Jean Bourdichon’s Administrative Role at Court,” in *The Artist between Court and City (1300–1600)*, eds. Philippe Lorentz and Dagmar Eichberger (Petersberg: Michael Imhof Verlag, 2017), 55–67.
- Nicholas Herman “Bourdichon héraldiste,” in *Tours 1500: Art et société à Tours au début de la Renaissance*, eds. Marion Boudon-Machuel and Pascale Charron (Turnhout: Centre d’Études Supérieures de la Renaissance/Brepols, 2016), 129–146.
- Nicholas Herman, Catalogue entry for “Book of Hours: Use of Rome, Jean Bourdichon,” in *Pages from the Past: Illuminated Manuscripts in Boston-Area Collections*, eds. Lisa Fagin Davis, Anne-Marie Eze, Jeffrey F. Hamburger, Nancy Netzer, and William Stoneman (Boston: McMullen Museum of Art, 2016), 124–25.
- Dot Porter, Alberto Campagnolo, Erin Connelly, “VisColl: A new collation tool for manuscript studies,” *Codicology and Palaeography in the Digital Age 4*. Ed. Hannah Busch, Franz Fischer, and Patrick Sahle. Norderstedt, Germany: BoD, 2017. 81-101.
- Lynn Ransom, Catalogue entry for “Leaves from the Boston- Cambridge rosary psalter,” in *Pages from the Past: Illuminated Manuscripts in Boston-Area Collections*, eds. Lisa Fagin Davis, Anne-Marie Eze, Jeffrey F. Hamburger, Nancy Netzer, and William Stoneman (Boston: McMullen Museum of Art, 2016): cat. no. 117.

Professional affiliations:

- Digitizing Hidden Collections, Council on Library and Information Resources (Will Noel, Review Panel)
- Footprints Project: Jewish Books Through Time and Place, Columbia University (Mitch Fraas, Board Member)
- Digital Medievalist (Lynn Ransom, Member, Executive Board Member)
- Digital Scriptorium (Lynn Ransom, Secretary, Board of Directors)
- Delaware Valley Medieval Association (Dot Porter, President)
- Manuscripts Special Interest Group, Text Encoding Initiative (Dot Porter, Convener)
- Medieval Academy of America Digital Humanities and Multimedia Studies Committee (Dot Porter, Member)
- Medieval Academy of America Committee on Centers and Regional Associations (CARA) (Dot Porter, Executive Committee Member)

Affiliations

In addition to the above projects and programs, SIMS continues to form and maintain affiliations with several communities within the University of Pennsylvania and with one outside group. These affiliations provide opportunities and access to groups and events that have shared interests in aspects of manuscript studies.

Islamic Manuscript Association (new)

In the spring of 2015, SIMS became a member of the Islamic Manuscript Association. For more information on this group, visit <http://www.islamicmanuscript.org/home.aspx>.

Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies

Through Advisory Council member Arthur Kiron, Schottenstein-Jesselson Curator of Judaica Collections, we maintain ties with the Katz Center, which houses an important collection of Judaica in manuscript form.

History of the Material Text Seminar

SIMS staff participate in the weekly meetings of the Seminar, directed by Roger Chartier, John Pollack, Jerome Singerman, and Peter Stallybrass.

Penn Paleography Group

The Penn Paleography Group is a self-directed association of graduate students from a variety of disciplines who meet regularly to further their interests in and study of paleography. It is now under the leadership of Penn graduate students Nathalie Lacarriere (French and Francophone Studies), Carlos Pio (Hispanic and Portuguese Studies), and Sarah Wilma Watson (English).

Appendix: Manuscript Studies Readership and Distribution

Downloads from Manuscript Studies 1.1 on Scholarly Commons website & Penn Press Mid-Year Report (following)

Full Text Downloads for 2017-06-06 through 2017-10-25 for Manuscript Studies

Title	Total
(In)Completeness in Middle English Literature: The Case of the Cook's Tale and the Tale of Gamelyn	45
Citation and Alignment: Scholarship Outside and Inside the Codex	26
Manifesto	22
The Handwritten and the Printed: Issues of Format and Medium in Japanese Premodern Books	35
The Materiality of South Asian Manuscripts from the University of Pennsylvania MS Coll. 390 and the Rāmamālā Library in Bangladesh	63
Towards a Universal Catalogue of Early Manuscripts: Seymour de Ricci's Census of Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts in the United States and Canada	53
Transcription, Translation, and Annotation: Observations on Three Medieval Islamic Medical Texts in UPenn MS Codex 1649	46
Will that Surrogate Do?: Reflections on Material Manuscript Literacy in the Digital Environment from Islamic Manuscripts at the University of Michigan Library	38
Total	328