

# Manuscripts Online Project Meeting

Friday 6th July 2012, 12:00  
Humanities Research Institute, Sheffield

Present: Michael Pidd, Kathy Rogers, Matthew Groves, Orietta Da Rold (via skype), Wendy Scase, Linne Mooney, Estelle Stubbs, Jeremy Smith, John Thompson, Peter Findlay (JISC)

## Search engine and user interface

MG demonstrated the proptotype website and search engine.

Colleagues discussed the need for character substitution rules (eg. jand i, u and v). **Action: JS to provide a summary of rules**

It was suggested that we enhance our placename gazetterer through contact with the English Placename Survey, the Domesday Gazetteer and the Gough Map (<http://www.goughmap.org>): **Action: MP initiating contact**

It was suggested that the TNA API might be used to extract a further gazetteer of placenames from the TNA's online collections.

It was agreed that internal testing would start during July, with individual members of the project team being assigned specific test scenarios. Similar test scenarios would be allocated to participants of a Sheffield-based user focus group during July/August. **Action: SH to organise focus group**

**Post Meeting Update:** Resource descriptions for seven datasets have been prepared by SH. These will be distributed to the team for revisions in due course.

## Data Analysis and Indexing (NLP)

Discussion about which metadata fields should be excluded from indexing. **Action: team members to inform KR about which fields should not be indexed in their assigned datasets. MP, SH and KR will approach team members individually.**

Half of the NLP issues raised by ES have now been resolved. KR is working on the remaining 50%. Most issues resolve around the identification of single person names.

Team members will be approached individually to review and sign off the NLP samples for their assigned datasets prior to ingesting the indexes into the search engine.

It was agreed that the NLP would address issues relating to manuscript names and shelf-marks. It was noted that manuscripts are referenced in many different ways in the datasets and that all of these aliases need cross-referencing to an index of MS names.

## **Web 2.0 specification**

There was discussion of the facility to enable registered users to add comments (a 'scribble pad') to search result items. These comments can be made public or private, as determined by the user.

## **International Linking and Dissemination**

The Mellon Foundation's funding of a project called MESA was acknowledged. The project agreed to keep in touch with MESA and explore opportunities for collaboration as the project develops.

The Quadrivium Workshop was discussed and a paper tabled by OD. The workshop will take place in Sheffield on 1st - 2nd November. MP agreed to give a talk about the digital humanities.

The final conference was discussed briefly. OD tabled a paper which the project team will discuss via email.