DigiPal | Digital Resource and Database of Palaeography, Manuscripts and Diplomatic
http://digipal.eu/

DigiPal Workshop

8 June 2012

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KING'S College LONDON

Digital Humanities

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Objectives

- To get a feel for what the DigiPal project is doing
- For prospective users:
  - To see how it might be useful for you
  - To see what would need to be changed for your needs
  - To suggest how to improve what we have already
- For the DigiPal 'core' team:
  - To see what works and what doesn't
  - To see what we need to improve
  - To test the system under different users
- For you to all meet each other

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Schedule

- Search interface
- Annotation tool
- Data Model: Items
- Data Model: Characters
- Where next?

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Existing Interface

- Go to 'DigiPal Database'
  - Try searching for manuscripts (e.g. by place, shelfmark etc.)
  - Try searching for scribal hands (e.g. by place, etc.)
  - Try filtering hands by allograph (at the bottom of the search results)
  - Please *don't* try the 'Image Database' just yet

- *Please be aware that this is very much an 'alpha' version and still has a long way to go!*

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Existing Interface

- Have a look at the Image Database
  (This page can be quite slow to load!)
  - Clicking on images brings up the full-size image
  - Clicking on the *captions* brings up the Image Annotation Tool
- **Be careful: the image annotation tool is connected directly to the live database, so any changes will be permanent!** If you accidentally change something then reload the page immediately.

Annotation Tool

- Save (S)
- Zoom (Z)
- Drag (W)
- Select (F)
- Rectangle (R)
- Polygon (P)

- Duplicate (D)
- Transform (T) [I.e. adjust sides]
- Modify (M) [I.e. adjust corners]
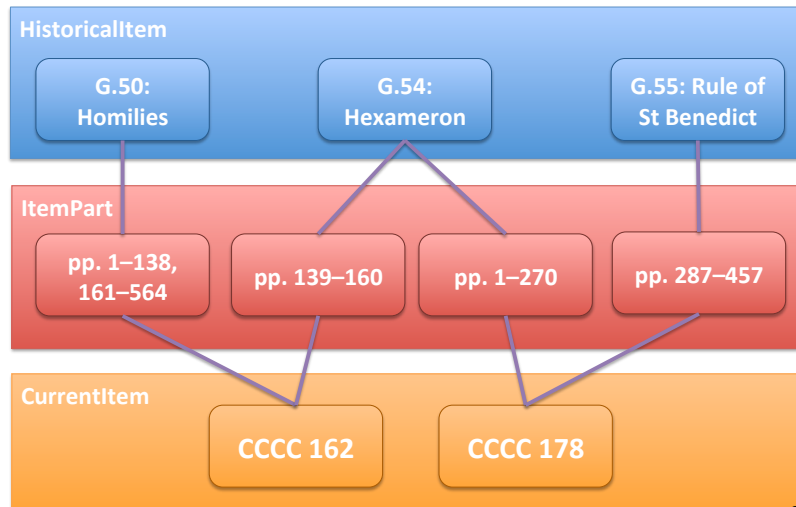- Delete (backspace)

Items

- **Item**: 'A single exemplar of a [text]' (FRBR).
  Corresponds to a physical object (book, tablet, etc.)

- **G.50: Cambridge, Corpus Christi College 162, pp. 1–138, 161–564** Homilies (most by Ælfric)
- **G.54: Cambridge, Corpus Christi College 178, pp. 1–270 [with CCCC 162, pp. 139–160]** Ælfric, *Hexameron*, …
- **G.55: Cambridge, Corpus Christi College 178, pp. 287–457** *Regula S. Benedicti*
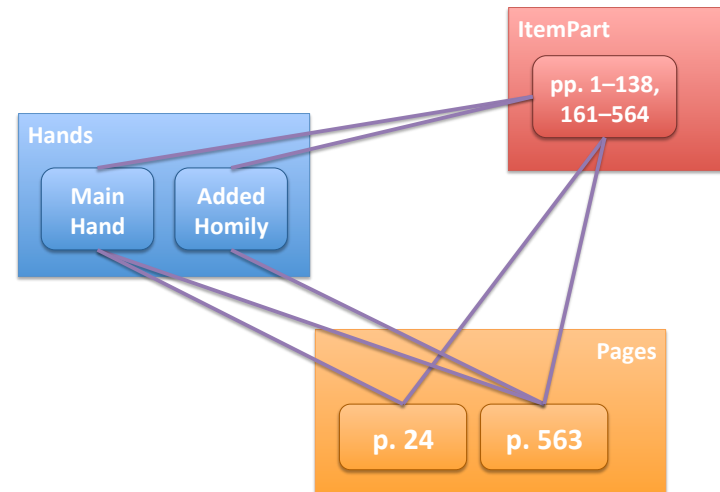
Items

- **Item**: 'A single exemplar of a [text]' (FRBR).
  Corresponds to a physical object (book, tablet, etc.)

- **Historical Item**: a complete object as it existed at an arbitrary historical point in time (a book, a tablet, etc.).
  Usually corresponds to a catalogue entry (Ker, Gneuss, Sawyer…).
- **Current Item**: a complete object as it exists today.
  Usually corresponds to a single shelfmark/accession number.
- **Item part**: one or more parts of an item (e.g. set of folios, fragment of a manuscript, fragment of a tablet).
  Item parts should be as inclusive as possible to allow mapping from a historical item to a current item.

Slide 9

HistoricalItem
- G.50: Homilies
- G.54: Hexameron
- G.55: Rule of St Benedict

ItemPart
- pp. 1–138, 161–564
- pp. 139–160
- pp. 1–270
- pp. 287–457

CurrentItem
- CCCC 162
- CCCC 178

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Slide 10

ItemPart
- pp. 1–138, 161–564

Hands
- Main Hand
- Added Homily

Pages
- p. 24
- p. 563

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Slide 11

Components and Features

- Each allograph/idiograph/graph is made up of a set of common **components**.
- Each component can have one or more **features**.
- E.g. **b** has an *ascender* and a *bowl*;
  - An *ascender* can be long or short; wedged, clubbed, flat-topped forked or tapering; straight or curved; etc.
  - A *bowl* can be round or square; etc.

- NB that this applies at all levels:
  E.g. Insular **b** normally has wedged ascenders (allograph), but a given scribe may habitually write it with forked ascenders (idiograph), but one particular case might be clubbed (graph).

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Slide 12
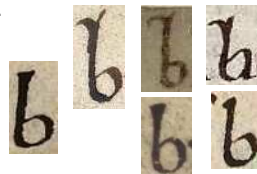
'Letters'

- **Characters** (sign): More or less a set of letters in the abstract, but also includes punctuation and abbreviations. So **a**, **b**, **c** etc. but also full stop, question mark, accent mark (´), etc. NB that nothing is said about what the character looks like, so *a* and **a** are the same character.
  (But what about a and A?)
- **Allographs**: A set of recognised variant ways of writing the same character (e.g. *a* and **a**, or Caroline and Insular **d**).
  (But how do we define 'recognised'?)
- **Idiographs**: A set of variant ways that a particular individual has of writing a given allograph.
- **Graphs**: A set of physical letters on the page.

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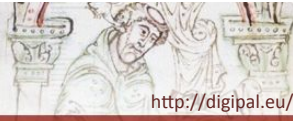
Question: Does this model generalise beyond handwriting?

- 'Abstract' -> Border
- 'Allo' -> Foliate border, interlace border, …
- 'Idio' -> One artist's way of doing foliate borders
- 'Concrete' -> A particular instance of a foliate border by that artist

- Does this make any sense at all??

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