

The DigiPal Project for Script and Decoration

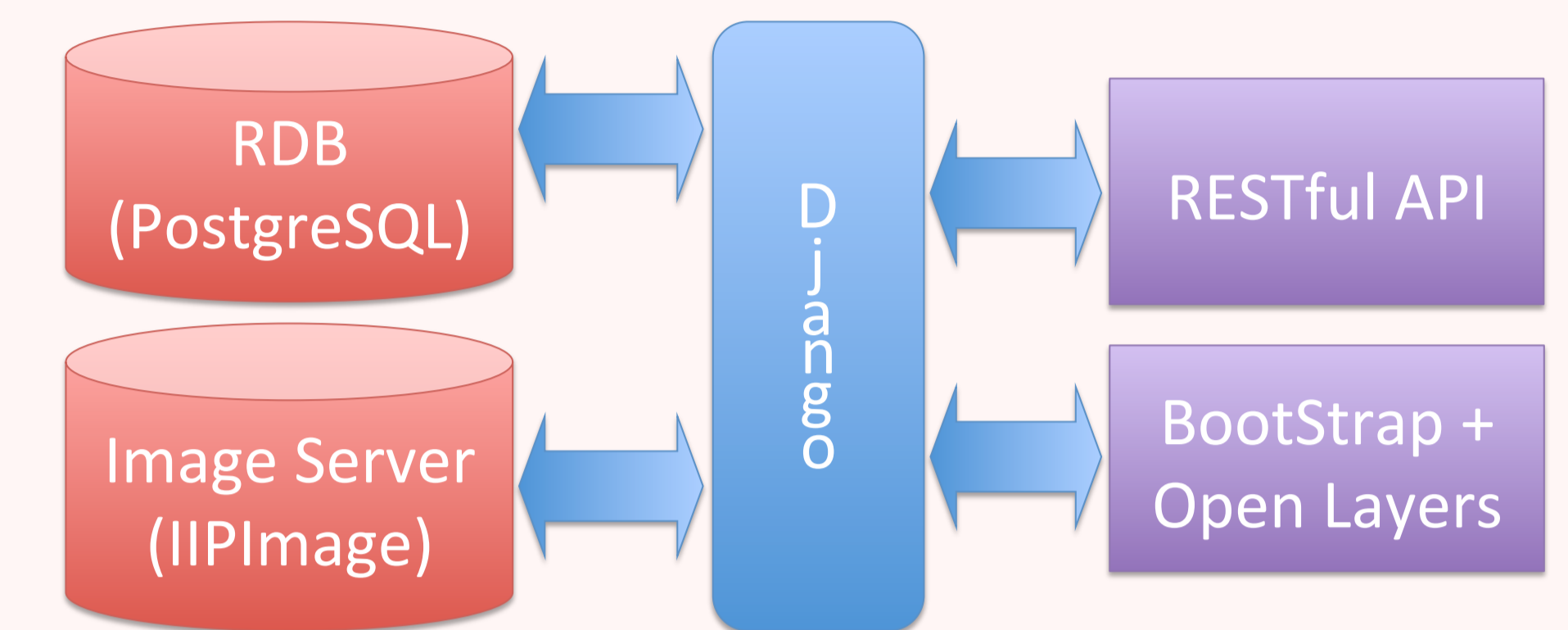
Peter A. Stokes, Stewart Brookes, Giancarlo Buomprisco, Debora Matos, Geoffroy Noël, and Matilda Watson
Department of Digital Humanities, King's College London

What is the DigiPal Project?

The core project aims to bring new methods in Digital Humanities to the study of medieval handwriting in its diplomatic and manuscript context by combining images and their constituent letter-forms. Designed to enable the presentation of palaeographical evidence as clearly and convincingly as possible, it is also being extended for use by Art Historians for the study of decoration. Funded by the European Research Council, it finishes on 30 September 2014.

The DigiPal Architecture

DigiPal is based on Django/Mezzanine, with a responsive user interface built on Bootstrap, JQuery and OpenLayers. It requires a relational database and image server; currently these are PostgreSQL and IIPImage though in principle others could be used. It is available as a Django project app, as a Django app within a larger Django project, or a fully-functional application running in a Virtual Machine. It also provides a RESTful API for direct querying of the data model. Further documentation is available from the GitHub repository.



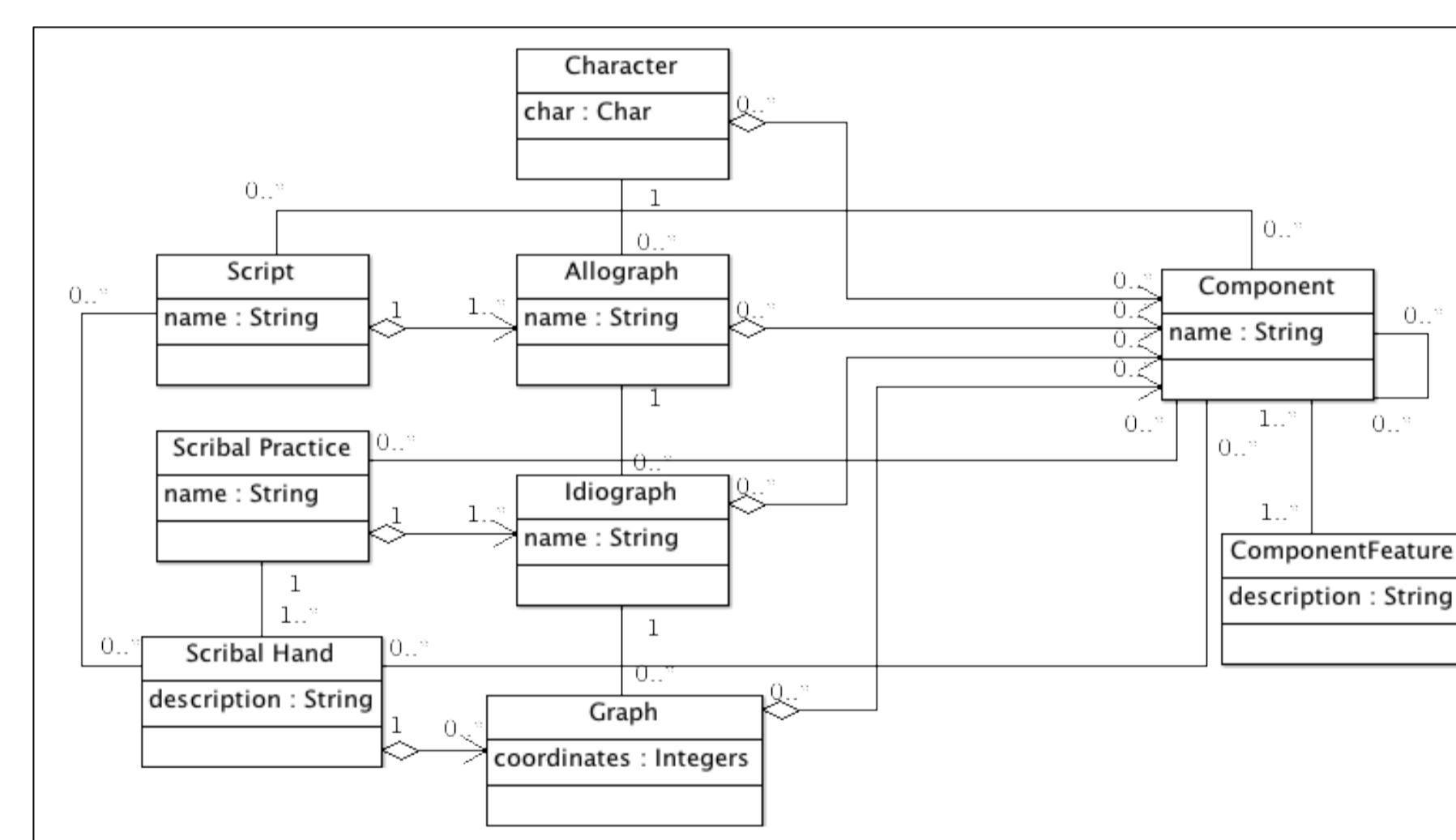
The DigiPal Framework

The project includes a generic, open-source framework for the **description**, **exploration** and **communication** of visual evidence through highly structured annotations. Although designed for handwriting, it is highly generalised and so is being used successfully for different alphabets (Latin, Hebrew and Greek), different materials (parchment and stone) and also decoration. It comprises:

- A new generalised model for describing handwriting and decoration
- An annotation tool for structured descriptions
- An interface for exploration, experimentation and knowledge creation
- User-created collections and deep stable URLs for citation and sharing
- A RESTful API for harvesting content, advanced querying or custom UIs

The framework is under development until 30 September 2014, but beta releases are available for download from GitHub or functioning at www.digipal.eu.

Modelling Formalising Handwriting and Decoration



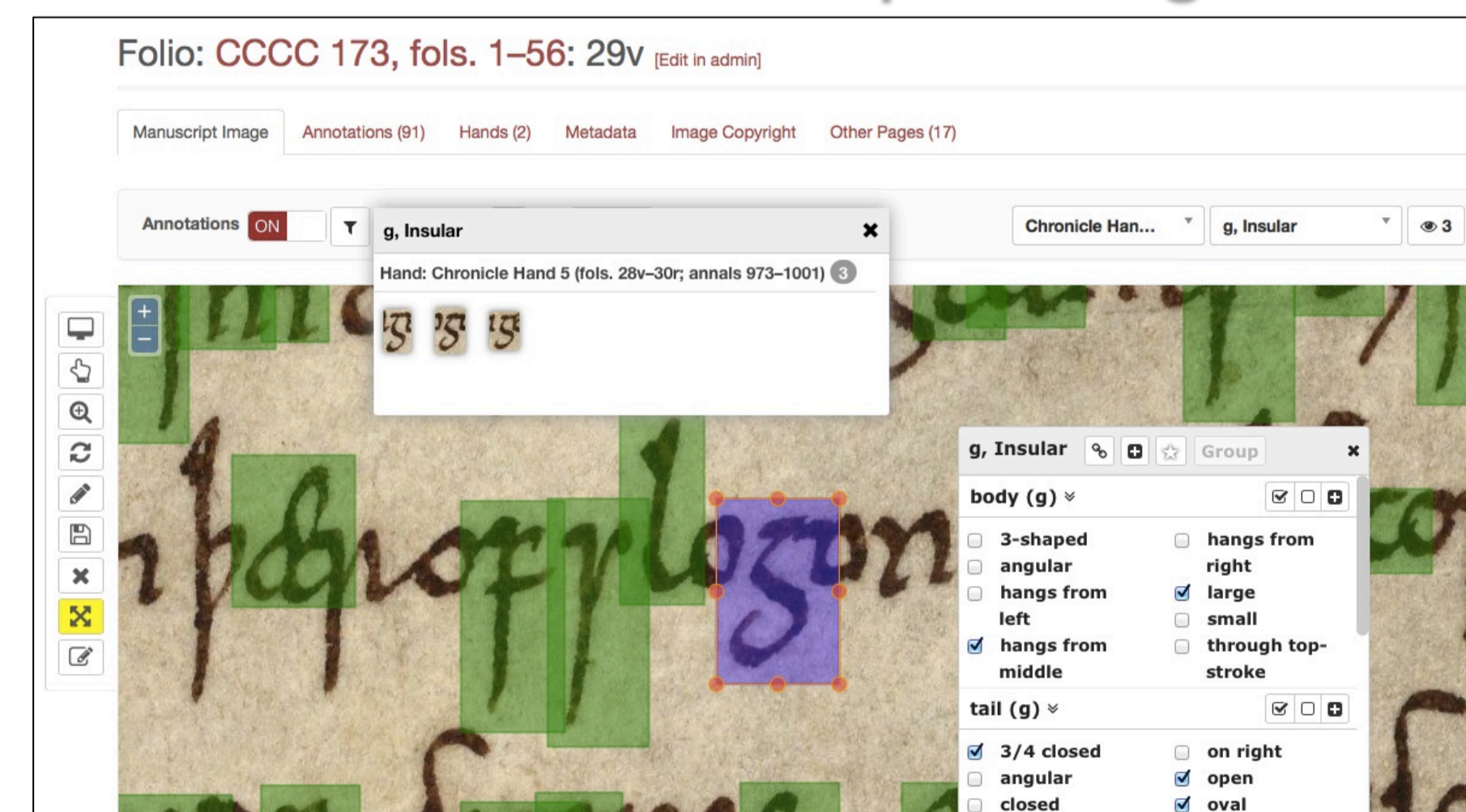
Beyond DigiPal

The framework is being used in a number of current and planned projects:

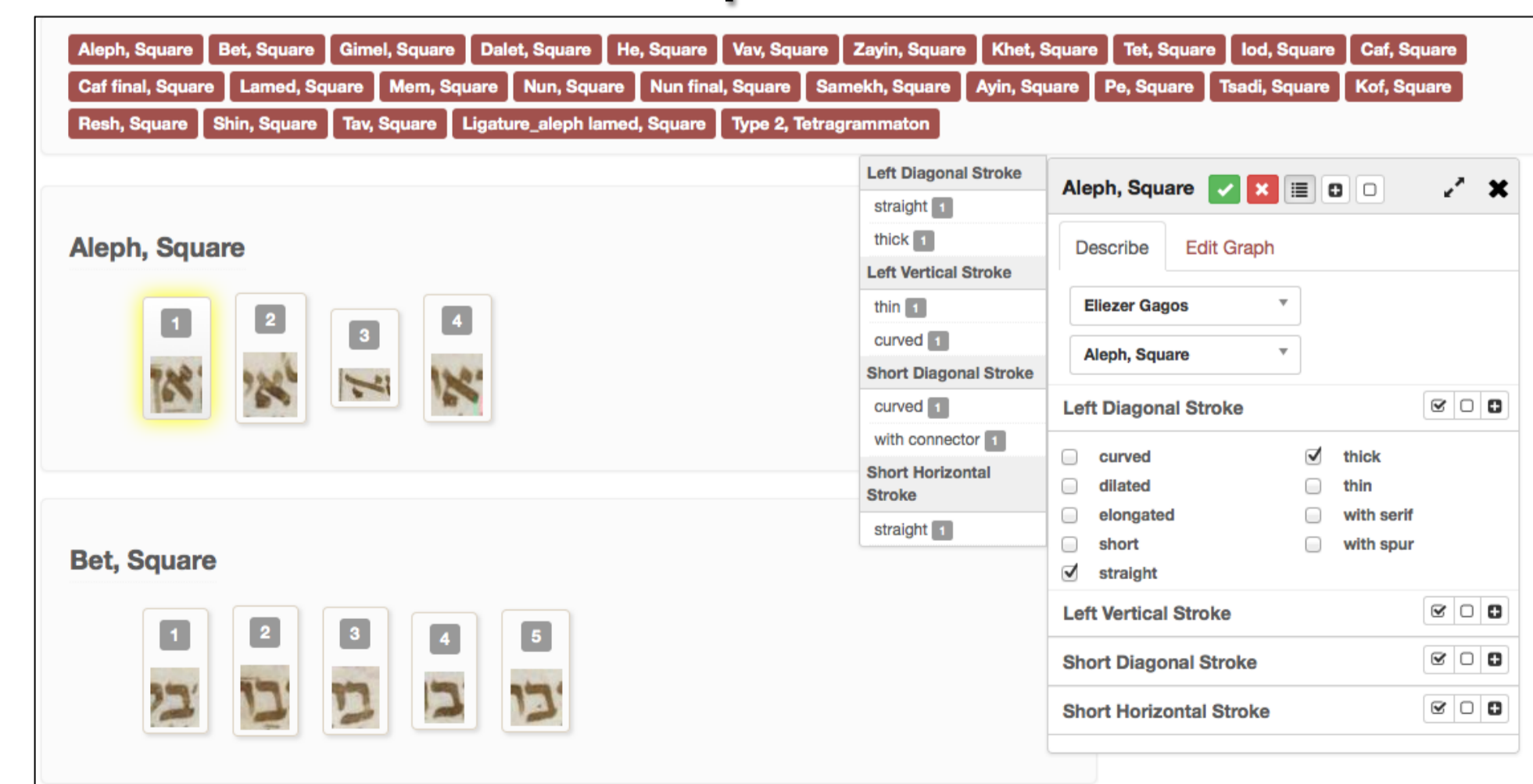
- DigiPal:** English Vernacular minuscule from the eleventh century
- ScandiPal:** Eleventh-century Latin fragments from Scandinavia
- SephardiPal:** Fifteenth-century manuscripts in Hebrew from the Iberian Peninsula
- InsPal:** Inscriptions in Greek and Latin (and both) from the province of Thracia
- Polices pour les Inscriptions Monétaires:** Coins from the Bibl. nationale de France
- Models of Authority:** Twelfth-century cursive charters from Scotland
- The Conqueror's Commissioners:** Palaeography and codicology of Exon Domesday
- The workshop of Matthew Paris at St Albans, 1230–1259**

These all extend the framework in different ways, and two (*Models of Authority* and *Conqueror's Commissioners*) are collaborative projects with substantial research grants in their own right, extending development until at least January 2017.

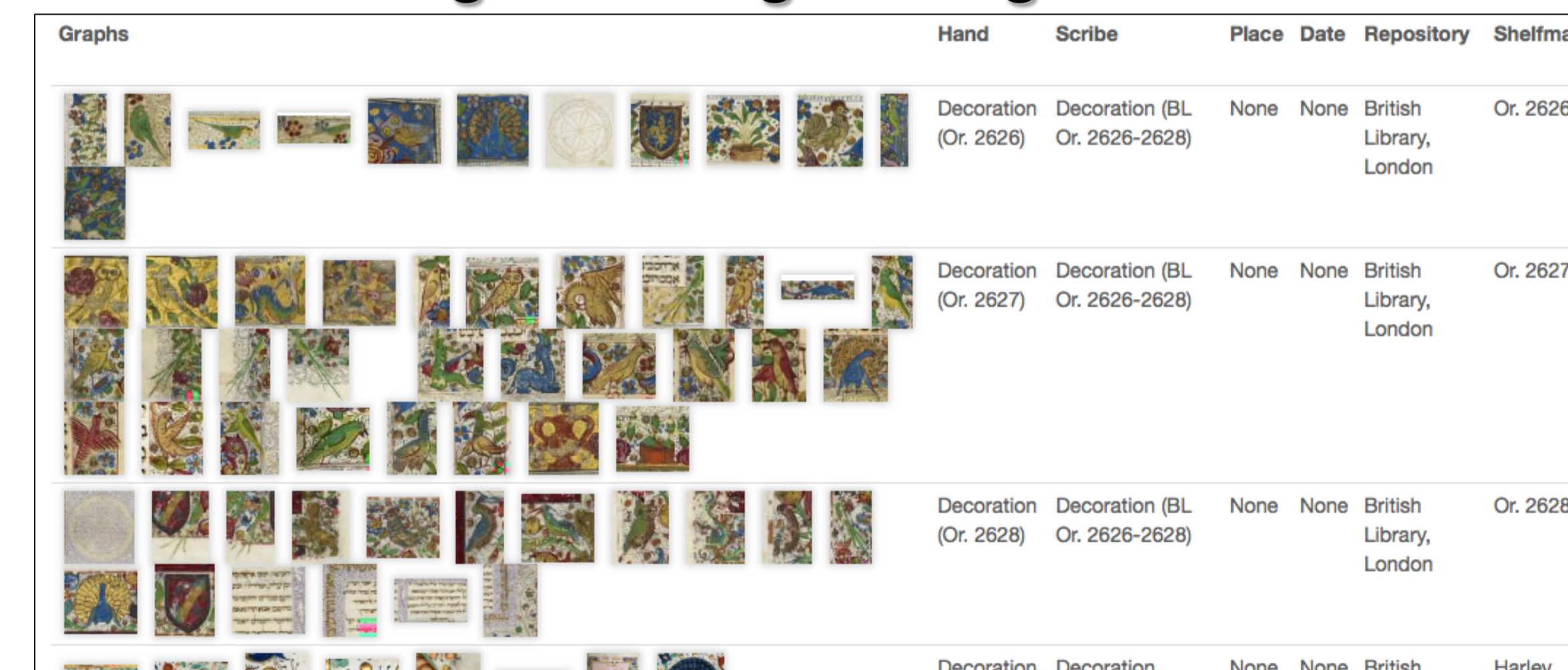
Annotation Structured Markup of Images



Description Labels for Interpretation and Recall



Exploration Creating Knowledge through Interaction



Communication Evidence in Support of an Argument

