Annotated Manuscripts in the IIIF Environment

Sayeed Choudhury
Tamsyn Rose-Steel
Stephen G. Nichols
Johns Hopkins University
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Presentation Outline

• Infrastructure
• International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF)
• IIIF compliant infrastructure and tools
• Annotation use cases
• Scholarly implications
• Ending thought about sustainability
Infrastructure instead of tools...

- Asking about tools is a little like asking about what kind of cars we want to use or drive...
- ...without first asking about what kinds of roads or highways or bridges we need to build
- Standards, tools and services will change or even come and go
- But infrastructure persists over much longer timeframes
IIIF (International Image Interoperability Framework) has the following goals:

• To give scholars an unprecedented level of uniform and rich access to image-based resources hosted around the world.

• To define a set of common application programming interfaces that support interoperability between image repositories.

• To develop, cultivate and document shared technologies, such as image servers and web clients, that provide a world-class user experience in viewing, comparing, manipulating and annotating images.
JHU Infrastructure

- JHU Archive
- FSI Image Server
- JHU IIIF Image Service
- JHU IIIF Presentation Software
- Mirador or some other IIIF viewer
Demonstrations

• Prototype Shared Canvas viewer developed in 2013

• IIIF-compliant Mirador viewer with content from Archaeology of Reading (AOR)

• IIIF-compliant Mirador viewer with content from Roman de la Rose, Christine de Pisan and AOR
Digital Library of Medieval Manuscripts
Digital Library of Medieval Manuscripts

Roman de la Rose

Christine de Pizan
The Johns Hopkins Digital Library of Medieval Manuscripts makes it possible for people all over the world who have never seen a medieval codex to explore the exciting world of pre-print culture. It allows students to see at first hand how medieval people wrote, read, and illustrated their books with scenes of daily life. It offers scholars who have spent their careers in manuscript repositories the opportunity to study high-resolution facsimiles of hundreds of manuscripts without ever having to leave their office. Above all, this collection shows that manuscripts were complex artifacts whose production demanded intricate organization—"choreography of the page"—involving close collaboration between artists skilled in calligraphy, painting, and graphic design, all working within the circumscribed space of a parchment page or folio. Thanks to the historical range of the artifacts curated by this site, viewers can follow the progress of medieval book production from the thirteenth century to the transition to printed books in the early sixteenth century. Visitors to the site will also be able to experience the evolution and modes of manuscript painting and decoration by studying illustrations and page design of the manuscripts it hosts.

This digital library exists thanks to the Sheridan Libraries of Johns Hopkins University working in partnership with the Bibliothèque nationale de France with funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.
Use cases

• In our view, use cases are more than a couple of sentences

• They are structured descriptions with specific steps, actors, preconditions, outcomes, etc. from which software developers can ultimately derive requirements

• We use a template developed from well-established software development practices of the Data Conservancy
Roman de la Rose (Romance of the Rose)
by Guillaume de Lorris and Jean de Meun
trans. Frances Horgan

Image: Philadelphia Museum of Art,
The Philip S. Collins Collection, 1945-65-3, f.13v
A *Rose* by any other metadata...?

...exploring citation and relationships using semantic annotations
Questions

• How do scholars and students want to use this resource?

• What can we do in the digital environment that we cannot do with the original manuscripts?
Examples of kinds of annotations in Arsenal 5203

Whole page:
- Image has a unique identifier automatically assigned.
- Page is annotated as being the first folio of the *Confort d’ami* – the identifier that marks this will have to carry over multiple pages.
- A whole page annotation may also indicate things such as whether it is the hair or flesh side of the parchment.

Illumination:
- Whole picture can be marked out and annotated with commentary etc.
- Subsection of the illumination could also be an annotation – for example costume, damage or other details, with links to other examples.

Marginalia and decorations:
- Links can be created to other manuscripts with similar styles.
- Types of marginal decorations can be indicated – for example animals (or parts thereof) could be identified.

Other factors:
- Notes and marks by other users. MS J, for example, has a great deal of red marks in the margins. These indicate citations or important textual point; at times they bleed through onto other pages and this needs clarification; at times they are lost in the margin and this needs to be indicated by someone who has studied the manuscript.

Recognized as individual lines by SC
- ‘Special text’, such as rubrics can be designated as such within a transcription (so they can be searched on separately to body text)
- Decorated initials can be identified as part of the body text but also given a special status within the text – i.e. the user has the opportunity to assign a status to an initial as a special textual feature and give it descriptions and tags.
- Transcriptions can be annotated over several pages. The unique identifier for the annotation as full transcription has to remain the same, however, sub-identifiers will be needed for folios, columns, and lines – therefore I can navigate to and pull up the transcription for a particular column or line very quickly, as well as being able to pull up the entire transcription.
- Intertextual references – *CD* contains many biblical and mythological references. These can be connected with references in other manuscripts to demonstrate textual cultures, or to sources such as the Bible (either an example in SC or one of the many online transcriptions).
**Title:** User annotates and tags instances of the character ‘Fortune’ in the text and images of a manuscript

**Description:** Main actors: user and SC viewer interface. The user annotates and tags instances of the name ‘Fortune’ and images of Fortune; they provide references to articles on Fortune in the Roman de la Rose in JSTOR.

**Trigger:** The user is researching description and depictions of Fortune in the Roman de la Rose. Discovering that these instances are not yet annotated, the user decides to annotate and tag them in order to facilitate their research.

**Preconditions:** The user logged in. They have open a MS image that they wish to annotate. Images have unique identifiers and annotations, when created, are assigned unique identifiers.

**Steps for main success scenario:**
1. The user identifies the manuscript images that contain text or illuminations relating to the allegorical figure of Fortune.
2. The user designates a folder for these images in their online workspace to facilitate their work with the images.
3. The user works through the textual and visual references, annotating them with explanations, commentary, links to articles, links to other media such as video or audio commentary. In each case they tag them with appropriate metadata.
4. Having created the annotations and tags, the user then sets about creating semantic links between the annotations as they see fit. For example, the user may wish to link all depictions of Fortune that show her with a wheel, or link from descriptions of Fortune in manuscripts with one version of the text to a manuscript with a different version of the text.
5. Once the user has created these annotations, tags and links, they can find this work in a number of ways: either by visiting their folder and opening the images, or by searching using the term ‘Fortune’ and other tags they may have applied.

**Postconditions:** The user has a set of materials for research and teaching which are annotated, tagged, semantically linked and easily discoverable.

**Author:** Tamsyn Rose-Steel
Making sense of multiple annotations

Annotations on this image with 'core' tags – click tags to turn on annotations
- Transcription 1
- Translation 1
- Translation 2
- Translation 3
- Text summary 1
- Text summary 2
- Image description
- Page Layout
- Scribe
- Decoration and marginalia

Other annotations on this image – click tags to turn on annotations

Order tags by:
- Alphabetical
- Most popular
- Art
- Literature
- Codicology

Article Scipio Steve Nichols
Ovid Sylvia Huot
Contractions Dream Love
Sarah Kay Narrative First Person
### Rose relationships in Gephi

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The network of relationships between characters in the first part of the *Roman de la Rose* up to the description of the Spring of Narcissus.
Diagram of relationships between annotated objects on a canvas

Demonstration of annotating textual targets with intertextual or thematic relationships, in this case an exploration of Guillaume de Machaut’s use of ‘thought’ as a concept within his poetry.

Example 1: Machaut MS A
BNF fr. 1584 f.177v (detail)

Annotation unique ID: Example1
Image unique ID: BNF fr 1584 f.177v
Annotation author unique ID: TRS
Object content ID: Machaut Lo1
Tags: Penser, Thought, Incipit, Machaut, Loanges, Lo1
Link to another annotation: Example 2
Annotation content: Link to article authored by Tamsyn Rose-Steel on intertextual and thematic relationships in Machaut’s poetry that references Lo1. Article is concerned with Machaut’s use of the concept ‘thought’ and particularly what he believes should not be thought about.

Example 2: Machaut MS A
BNF fr. 1584 f.180v (detail)

Annotation unique ID: Example2
Image unique ID: BNF fr 1584 f.180v
Annotation author unique ID: TRS
Object content ID: Machaut Lo21
Tags: Penser, Thought, Machaut, Loanges, Lo1
Link to another annotation: Example 1
Annotation content: Link to article authored by Tamsyn Rose-Steel on intertextual and thematic relationships in Machaut’s poetry that references Lo21. Article is concerned with Machaut’s use of the concept ‘thought’ and particularly what he believes should not be thought about.
Thank you!

Dr Tamsyn Rose-Steel
CLIR/Mellon Fellow in Data Curation for Medieval Studies
Digital Research and Curation Center and
Department of German and Romance Languages and Literatures
Johns Hopkins University

manuscriptlib.org
romandelarose.org

@rosediglib
@TamsynMedieval

T.Rose-Steel@jhu.edu
Critical Edition: text, variants, and emendations
LE BOGH DE LA NOIR

Mont le misanthrope bien l'usage,
Qu'il fasse à sa semblance,

Qu'il de simple conomme,
Il la chevaucher à manger
Tout est con l'une rendue.

En se met en sable tourné;
Si quelqu'un que mont se peint;
De faire à tous petits liens,
E d'apporter e même e salme.
Et ne la gaine a prêter;

A telle faveur semblant accorder,
Dans un a bonnes empreintes.
E est revêtu avec les fers,

Si nul qui c'est asse par grasse,
Ain semblait de prendre laine,
T'avoir de couleur e marine.
A il en embrasée l'heure
Depuis de pouvoir.

Cet homme garant est de la vie
Amalégla, en di l'Ivangelie.
1. What are Medieval Manuscripts?

Complex handwritten artifacts

- Illumination/image: Poet/Christine de Pisan
- Rubric
- Decorated initial
- Marginal decoration: Vineleaf/fleur-de-lys
- Text in elegant scribal hand
- Text Column delineators

2 perhaps three artisans involved: scribe, illuminator, decorator
Welcome to the Roman de la Rose Digital Library, a joint project of the Sheridan Libraries of Johns Hopkins University and the Bibliothèque nationale de France. The creation of this resource and the digitization of manuscripts from the BnF was made possible by generous support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The goal of the Roman de la Rose Digital Library is to create an online library of all manuscripts containing the 13th-century poem Roman de la Rose. We currently have digital surrogates of more than 130 Roman de la Rose manuscripts, and our collection continues to grow.

This Digital Library features new content and enhanced functionality, and builds upon the previously developed prototype Roman de la Rose Digital Surrogates of Medieval Manuscripts. We are continuing our relationship with the founding partners of the Digital Surrogates project, including the Walters Art Museum, the Bodleian Library, the Morgan Library & Museum, and the J. Paul Getty Museum, while working with an ever-broadening group of new institutions and private collectors who have contributed digital images of their manuscripts. Through the efforts of our project team and advisory committee, the Digital Library has been developed as a resource for scholars in a variety of disciplines, as well as for a wider public. All users must review and accept our terms and conditions.

The collections, services, and infrastructure of the Roman de la Rose Digital Library are intended to be dynamic. We look forward to engaging the community to help us consider new content and different features to be added over time, which will be discussed on the site’s blog. In order to maintain and build the Roman de la Rose Digital Library, we will need support from this community. Please consider making a donation.
Poem Divided into Narrative Sections permits algorithm to match sections from one ms. To another
Clicking on Narrative Section ID accesses thumbnail Images and MS identifiers for MSS on the Site
Manuscripts =
books with a difference
What difference?

“manuscript” ↔ human activities

writing, painting, editing ↔ viewing, reading, thinking

manuscript page = a space of social media

a. Religious texts
b. Secular moral works
“Doing Things with Manuscripts:”

*Digital Projects*

King Charles V’s Library, Authority, & Christine De Pizan
Digital Research Agendas

King Charles VI

Christine de Pizan, Europe’s first Professional woman writer

BL, Harley 4431, f. 95 Paris, 1406-1410
Düsseldorf AB142, f. 11v, Paris, 14e Siècle

Philadelphia Museum of Art, 1945-65-3, f. 3v
Paris, 1440-1480
Roman de la Rose, B.M. Dijon 525, ff. 5r-v
Mathias Rivalli, copiste
Sustainability

• Importance of infrastructure as it relates to sustainability

• Roman de la Rose digital library has existed since mid-1990s with migrations across multiple technical tools, platforms, standards, etc.

• Allows scholars to dive deeply into data (e.g., set theory applied to Rose manuscripts)
Acknowledgements

• Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for generous support of Roman de la Rose digital library, Digital Library of Medieval Manuscripts, Archaeology of Reading and prototype Shared Canvas viewer

• Sheridan Libraries for ongoing support of Roman de la Rose digital library and Digital Library of Medieval Manuscripts

• SPLICE design group for new concept of Digital Library of Medieval Manuscripts