

The Models of Authority Project (MoA)

Extending the DigiPal Framework for Script and Decoration

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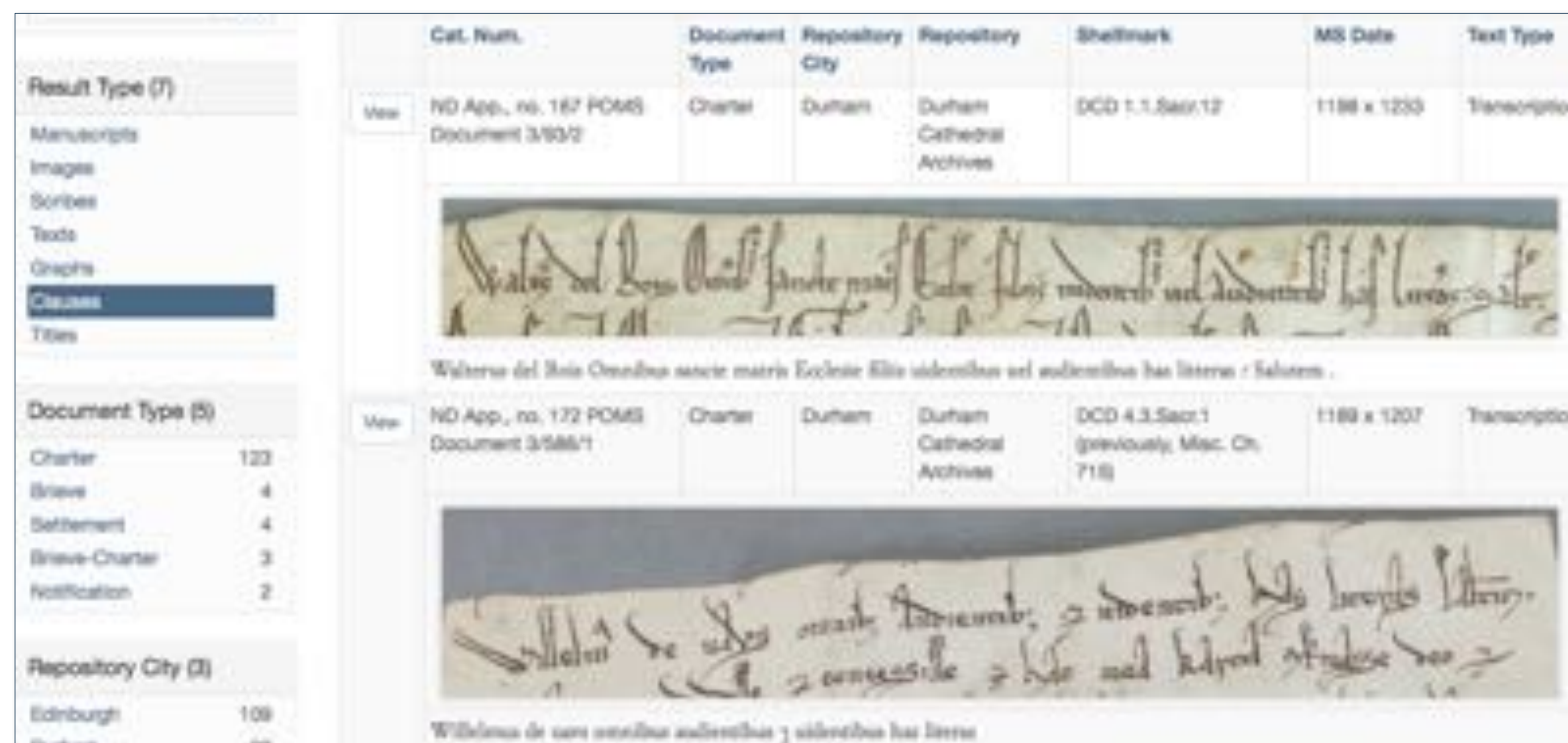
What is the MoA Project?

The project studies the contents, script and physical appearance of the corpus of Scottish royal charters which survives from 1100–1250. Through close examination of the diplomatic and palaeographic features of the charters, the project will explore the evidence for developments in the perception of royal government during a crucial period in Scottish history by looking at the choice of visual models behind royal and local documents. Funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council, it finishes on 31 July 2017.

Bringing Text to MoA/DigiPal

Features of handwriting depend not only on the type of manuscript and social context of production, but also on the text itself. The DigiPal framework has therefore been extended by adding a generalised textual component, such that arbitrary marked-up texts (transcription, translation, codicological description, etc.) may be associated with image segments, in parallel to the structured palaeographical markup. This allows one to explore correlations between script and text, such as

- View samples of script according to diplomatic function (address clause, witness list, ...)
- Present an image of the page alongside and synchronised with corresponding texts (transcription, translation, codicological description...)
- Leverage existing visualisations to explore elements in diplomatic formula

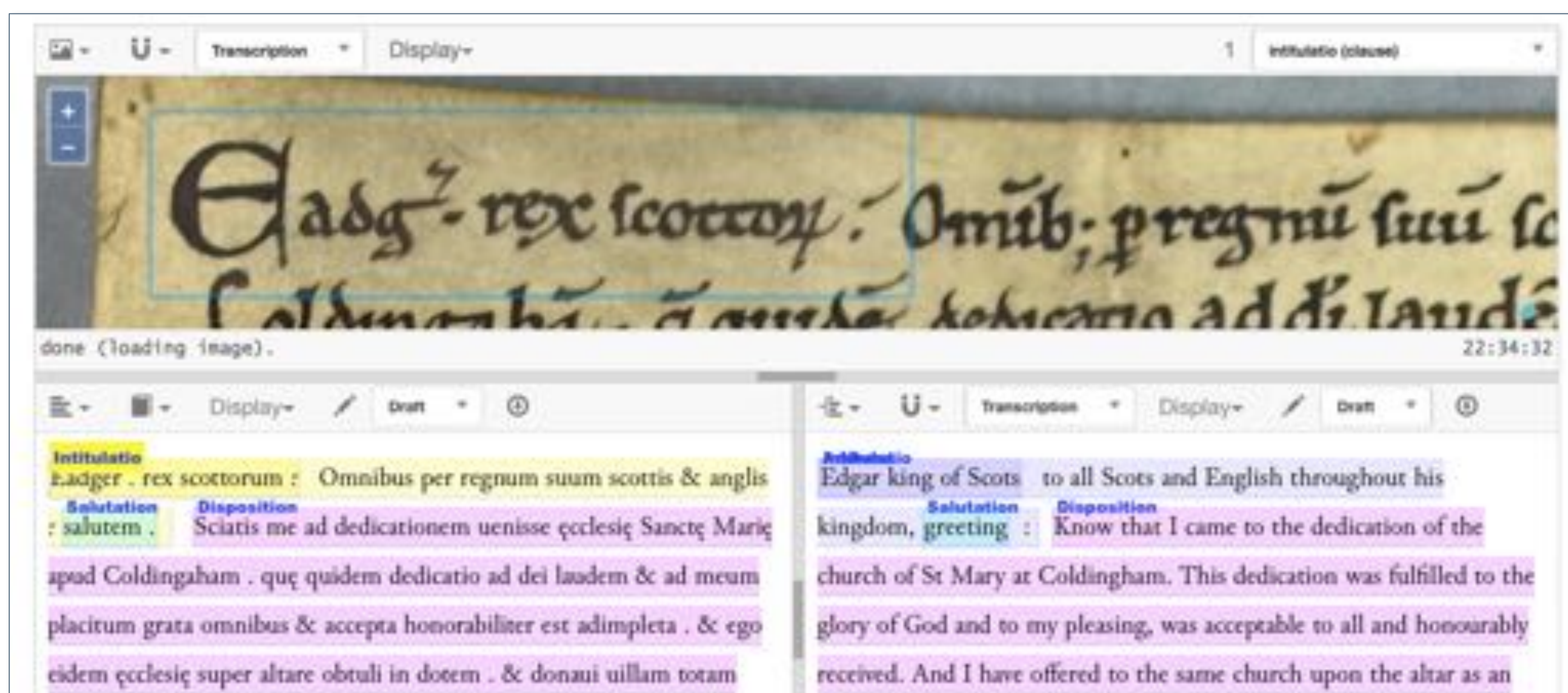


Selecting Images by Text Type

Linking text, image region and document metadata allows complex searches according to project-specific criteria which in turn enable (for instance) comparison of the visual form of different parts of the text. For instance, the address clause at the start of the charter is often written in a distinctive style, with characteristic elongation and additional decoration of letters. The new MoA framework allows one to view and compare these portions of the document, filtering and ordering results according to date, type of document, the role of the person issuing the document (royal, ecclesiastic), repository and so on. This then allows the project team to map the dissemination of new developments in the visual appearance of charters.

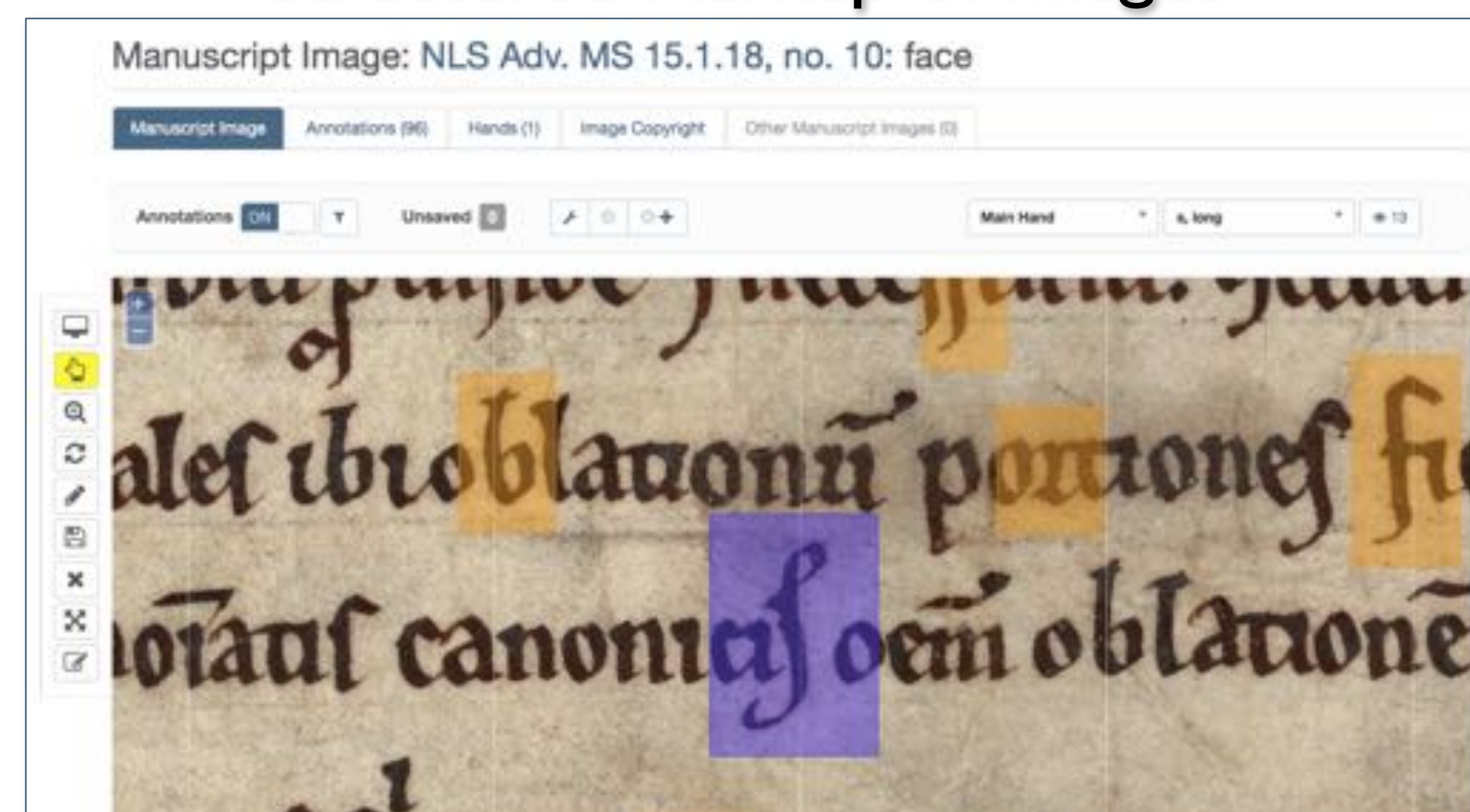
Presenting Texts and Images

A new editor/viewer allows one to select from a range of different texts and images that are associated to each other, such as an image of a page, a transcription of the text, a translation of the text, or a codicological description of the page. Texts can be marked up to highlight segments, and these in turn can be linked to image regions. The user can alter the display (e.g. highlighting clauses, showing or hiding expanded abbreviations etc.), can synchronise panes (so moving to a new page image automatically updates the text and translation), and so on. The range of texts, images and markup can all be customised according to the needs of the project.



Annotation

Structured Markup of Images



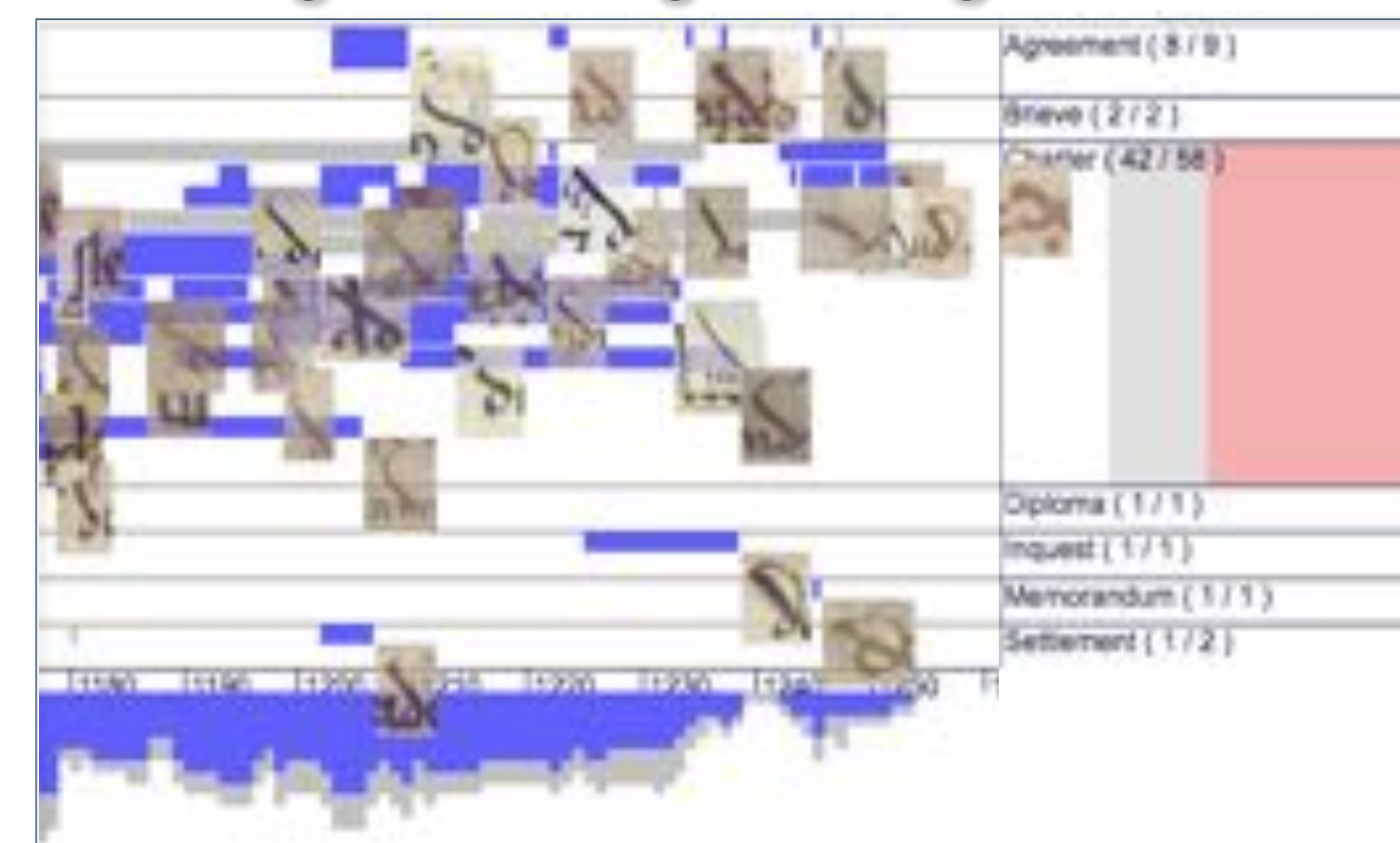
Description

Embedding Annotations in Text



Contextualisation

Creating Knowledge through Interaction



Arts & Humanities
Research Council

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