

Outcome Report for *Vetusta Monumenta*[Ancient Monuments]: A Digital Edition Project

Project Leaders: Noah Heringman (English), Anne Myers (English), Kristen Schuster (SISLT)

Original Description:

Working with a team of library technology specialists and an interdisciplinary editorial board from three campuses, we are creating a digital edition of a rare and valuable eighteenth-century print series held in Ellis Library, *Vetusta Monumenta* (vol. 1-3). The edition will feature a state-of-the-art online user interface that combines interactive, high-quality scans of the pages with searchable scholarly commentary to accompany each plate, translations, and more. The edition will be published online by the University of Missouri Libraries in collaboration with the Society of Antiquaries of London. This project has a track record of involving students and represents a strong opportunity for collaborative learning and professional skills development for students in English, Information Science and Learning Technologies (SISLT), Classics, Art History, and Computer Science, among other disciplines.

Note: We are requesting an extension till 30 September, 2015 to spend the remaining funds (ca. 25% of the grant), for reasons explained below.

Brief Summary of Outcomes:

The project is now live at scalar.missouri.edu. We strongly encourage IIF committee members to view the project by logging in with the following credentials.

username: lake.crystal@gmail.com; password: vetustaMonumenta

Note the capital “M” in the password. There will be a public launch later this year, but for now it’s better both for us and for A & S Computer Support to require users to log in. In the briefest possible terms, we have created exactly the user interface we need for the project—with high-resolution images, zooming, embedded metadata, network visualization, and complex text-image interaction. At the same time we have tripled the amount of scholarly content, with sixteen commentaries now live as well as all the translations and transcriptions for the first volume.

Our progress was made possible by four primary student collaborators, two of whom were paid by this grant, and many unpaid contributions from our off-campus faculty collaborators; volunteer student contributors in SISLT and Art History and English; Arts & Science Computer Support; the team of developers at USC producing Scalar, the CMS we used; and others. Two English majors and one graduate student made major contributions to the project, as recognized on our contributors page. In addition, co-PI Kristen Schuster (a PhD student herself) logged many many hours of volunteer work from MA students in the SISLT program and we did a test run of our project in the classroom in Michael Yonan’s Art History 3730 class in October, receiving valuable feedback. Last May we hosted a symposium involving local students, faculty, and staff as well as our two faculty collaborators from Ohio and Canada, and last month we brought in a USC faculty member and developer of Scalar, the CMS we are using for the project. In fact, one of the best outcomes for the campus is that all faculty and students now have access to Scalar for their digital humanities projects; there is now at least one additional A & S team (Michael Marlo’s) using Scalar for a project. (For an introduction see scalar.usc.edu.)

Detailed Outcomes

1) Apart from the editorial team itself, we have a growing international base of contributors and reviewers for the project (hailing from the University of Regensburg, Germany, and the Society of Antiquaries of London, among other institutions). Some two dozen scholars internationally now have login credentials for the site and are helping us to prepare it for the public launch. In the short and the long run, this network will bring greater international visibility to the University of Missouri.

2) For students on our campus, we can offer this project as a teaching and learning tool for courses in art history, history, English, archaeology, engraving, and book history, among other subjects. The value of the project lies not only in the specific content but in the example that it sets of a curated digital humanities project built on student-faculty collaboration right here on our campus. We will be happy to do class visits with the project and explain to students and faculty how they can use this resource, get involved in building it, or build one of their own.

3) As we hoped in writing our proposal for the IIF, we are now in a position to submit proposals for major extramural grant funding for this project. This is because there is a project there now for reviewers to look at. We were unsuccessful in our first attempt in September 2014, when we tried for an ACLS Digital Innovation Fellowship, but the ball is rolling and we will be applying for an NEH Scholarly Editions grant in December. We intend to use portions of any grant funding that we get to continue involving students in the project.

4a) In our proposal (p. 1) we said this: “If we are funded for the first half of calendar 2014, our first practical goal will be to scan the third volume, install our new content management system, and begin uploading the first volume (once fully catalogued and annotated) to the web.” Since we didn’t get the funds until February 2014, it took a little longer to get organized, but we did in fact accomplish these goals by the end of 2014.

4b) At this point (May 2015), we have close to half of volume one uploaded in full (with images, metadata, and commentary). The images for vol. 2 are being catalogued, and the completed high-resolution scans of vol. 3 have been archived and are in the process of being converted to jpegs for use online. And of course we have a growing team of students and scholars, locally and internationally, researching and writing the commentary for all these images and their accompanying texts. Admittedly, this scholarly component (including peer review) will take the most time, but we do anticipate a launch of vol. 1 in its entirety (70 plates) by the end of 2016. [At present commentaries on 22 plates are live, three less than we anticipated in our proposal.]

5) Participant Outcomes

a) Brad Fuller (BA 2013) was admitted to the University of Texas (Austin) PhD program in English after submitting a portfolio based on a research paper he wrote for this project.

b) Co-PI Kristen Schuster (PhD expected 2016) has given four professional presentations related to this project (including one invited trip to King’s College, London) and has had an article about it accepted for publication. (At one of these talks she was also invited to apply for a job.) These are great credentials for a rising graduate/professional student.

6) Measurable Results and Timeline Revisions

The most direct measure would be to compare the current online version (scalar.missouri.edu) to what we showed your committee at our presentation in Fall 2013 (See also the “evaluation criteria” section of our proposal.) We did not meet all the timeline criteria we set up in our proposal, but this is largely due to a misunderstanding on our part as to when the grant would begin. We were notified in January 2014, at a time when the students we wanted to work with had already set up their schedules for the semester. Consequently, we could not get all the students we initially wanted and those we did get (including Schuster) could not work as many hours as anticipated. We ended up using the summer and the 2014-2015 school year to meet our goals. But now, as indicated in the preceding summary (4b), we have done so, including the 22 commentaries ready for peer review.

7) Extension Request

Our main budget item is wages for our student contributors. Because they have not been able to work as many hours as anticipated, we have about \$3300 remaining. Our core team of Schuster, Broaddus, and Hobbs is available to work over the summer, and in some of the preceding items we have outlined the ongoing work for which they are needed. Therefore we are requesting an extension on the remaining funds till 30 September 2015.

8) Use of information technology

Scalar is a dedicated content management system for use with digital humanities projects. With the help of A& S Computer Support and MU’s Digital Humanities Commons (Twyla Gibson, Director), we have made this resource available for the campus. We believe that no project comparable to ours exists yet in the UM System, but anticipate that that will change. Prof. Michael Marlo (English) and his team are already using Scalar to mount a very different kind of project documenting African languages. For users of *Vetusta Monumenta* itself, of course, our project represents a huge advance over both inaccessible paper copies and the low-quality pdf’s available (for a fee) on the ECCO database. We have ample new evidence to support the following claim from our proposal: “When the commentary is completed and the edition goes live, it will provide a valuable primary source for research in a very active area of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century studies, as witnessed by many recent exhibitions and publications such as *Making History: Antiquaries in Britain* (2007).”

BUDGET SECTION

Personnel and responsibilities

Please note that Elise Broaddus, another PhD student in English, replaces Julie Christenson, who had been listed on the original proposal; also Katie Hobbs, an MU English major (BA 15) was paid for a small amount of research time out of the grant.

Budget

Personnel:

Spring 2014

\$1,388.30 paid to Kristen Schuster (103 hours @ 13.50)

Summer 2014

--\$1,852.30 paid to Kristen Schuster (137 hours @ 13.50)

--\$2,865.64 paid to Elise Broaddus (200 hours @ 13.50)

(Note: Elise worked 20 hrs/week from 15 May thru 1 August on Latin translations; total includes FICA benefits.)

--\$195.30 paid to undergraduate Katie Hobbs (18.5 hours @10.50)

Fall 2014

\$1,117.80 paid to Kristen Schuster (83 hours @ 13.50)

Spring 2015

\$391.50 paid to Kristen Schuster (29 hours @ 13.50)

(Note: Schuster's hours sharply reduced because of exams and dissertation proposal.)

Subtotal for Personnel: \$7,810.84

Additional note concerning extension request: because of semester commitments and Graduate School rules, Schuster is able to work more hours during the summer. This summer we can also again employ the other students, who have no available hours during the semester.

Consultant Fee

For this budget item we organized a symposium and paid travel expenses to our two off-campus collaborators in May 2014. Actually, we had to get additional funding (from Research Council) to cover these costs, so as not to go over our \$1000 budget stated to you. This \$1,000 was spent on travel for the following two collaborators:

Crystal B. Lake, Assistant Professor of English, Wright State University, Dayton, OH

Matthew M. Reeve, Associate Professor of Art History, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario

Airfare for Reeve, Toronto-St. Louis	365.74
Airfare for Lake, Dayton-St. Louis	432.00
Lodging for Reeve, University Place (2 nights)	176.00
Lunch for participants	25.46

Note: Schuster secured SISLT funds to bring the expert consultant originally mentioned in our proposal. She was able to invite Craig Dietrich (USC), one of the Scalar developers, in April 2015.

TOTALS

Personnel: \$7,810.84 spent--as of 5/1/15--out of \$11,145 awarded.

Consultant/Travel: \$999.20 spent out of \$1000 awarded.