

Urban Manuscripts Project: fieldnames

Parent tables:

1. Manuscript Classmark

Purpose

Lists all of the manuscripts contained in the database according to their shelfmarks (city or town of archive, name of archive, collection and then number). Want this to be a drop-down list, so users can click on the classmark and retrieve all the information in the manuscript table.

DateCreated

Either the exact date if known, or a rough estimate. Often given within a quarter century, so s.xv1 means the first quarter of the fifteenth century. This is terminology familiar to intended users.

Period

Refers to the period within which a manuscript was produced. Broken down into half-centuries, 1250-1300; 1300-1350 and so on. Want this to be a drop-down list so users can click on one of the periods and retrieve a list of all the manuscripts produced within that period

SecundoFolio

Refers to the first couple of words on the second folio/page of the manuscript. This information has not always been recorded in the database. It is important because it enables researchers to identify manuscripts mentioned in wills. A will would often only refer to a manuscript by the first couple of words of its second page, rather than by a title, presumably because the first page of manuscript was vulnerable to tearing and general wear and tear.

Contents

General description of the type of texts contained in the manuscript. Often referred to in terms of genre ('medical'; 'law' etc) but if a particular work or the works of a particular author, that is mentioned in the contents field

Ornament	Contains information relating to the decoration in the manuscript: whether it contains pictures, whether capitals are illuminated and if so in what colour etc. It is important because it indicates the type of manuscript it was, how expensive it might have been etc
Measurements	Always given in mm, with the height of the manuscript first. This enables judgements to be made concerning the intended use of a book - if it is very large, it is likely it was intended for public display, for example, whereas books small enough to fit in a pocket suggest a more personal use. Again, the size also indicates the cost of the book.
NoCols	Number of columns. Indicates whether the text was written in long lines or in separate columns. Important because it tells us how texts would have appeared on the page.
LinesPerCol	Indicates really how large handwriting was, or if the margins were left very wide. Again, a manuscript with more lines per column would have been cheaper to produce and purchase. This information is also useful because it enables researchers to ascertain how much text is missing if a page/folio is missing from the manuscript.
RulingComments	This field contains information relating to written space (the measurements in mm of the text blocks on each page) and whether the page has been ruled or not. The words 'pricking' or 'prickholes' refer to the holes made on the edge of each page which would enable the page to then be ruled. 'Drypoint' means that the ruling was not done in ink. On occasion, the amount of 'verticals' (vertical lines) and 'horizontals' (lines drawn across the page) which make up the 'frame' is recorded. This enables researchers to tell whether space was explicitly ruled for commentary down the margins of the page.

Material	Three options: Paper, Parchment, and Mixed Paper and Parchment. This again is important because it indicates the cost and intended audience of a manuscript. A paper manuscript would have been less expensive than a parchment one. I'd like these to be in a drop-down list, so that users can see all the paper, parchment, or mixed manuscripts in the database.
NoLeaves	Number of leaves. The amount of pages in each manuscript. The numbers given in lower case roman numerals refer to the flyleaves of the manuscript (leaves added as wrappers and to protect the manuscript); the arabic numerals refer to the main body of the manuscript
NoQuires	'Quires' refer to the separate units of a manuscript; each manuscript was bound in separate quires and then joined together with the rest.
Collation	This records how the manuscript was actually put together. Each quire is referred to in sequence and by roman numerals in capitals; this is followed by an arabic numeral which refers to the number of pages (leaves) in that individual quire. Sometimes this will be followed by brackets (for example I8 (-8)) This means that the eighth leaf of the first quire is now missing. This information is important for establishing omissions in the text. It can also enable us to work out whether the manuscript was put together over time or at one time. For example, sometimes manuscripts were put together in booklets: separate units which may have circulated separately and were then put together to form a single book. The terminology used here follows standard practice.
Watermarks	Only applicable to paper manuscripts. If possible, the watermarks have been identified using published handlists of watermarks.

Binding post-medieval.	Watermarks enable manuscripts to be (roughly) dated. N/A means not applicable. Indicates whether the binding was medieval or post-medieval.
Other comments information.	Contains miscellaneous, non-standardised information.
SourceofMSinfo	Abbreviated according to Bib ID in the 'Bibliography' table. This is not linked to the bibliography table, and can't be because it often contains multiple references.
Double checked? Notes	Will be removed from database Will be removed from database

2. Text1

<u>RefID</u>	Purpose Unique reference given to each text. Often referred to according to extant published catalogues. For example IMEV (Index of Middle English Verse); IPMEP (Index of Printed Middle English Prose). If the text is not identified in these catalogues, it has been designated an 'UMP' ('Urban Manuscripts Project') number -the user guide will contain some explanation of these references.
SecondaryRef 1	As above
SecondaryRef 2	As above
SecondaryRef 3	As above
StandardTitle edition, if there is one.	Following the title it has been given in an
AltTitle 1	Alternative title by which it may be known
AltTitle 2	Alternative title by which it may be known
Language	TAKEN FROM THE LANGUAGE FIELD IN THE LANGUAGES TABLE - LOOK UP TABLE. The original language in which the text was written
DateCreated	If known
Category	A rough description of the type of text it is - religious, medical etc. This is especially important for lesser known texts or texts that are unique to the manuscripts. I want this to be a drop-down list, so that users can

Notes	<p>click on 'literary texts' for example and see all the texts in that category contained in manuscripts in the database.</p> <p>Contains miscellaneous, non-standardised information relating to editions of the texts, the number of lines of a text and so on.</p>
3. Owners	
<u>Owner ID</u>	Purpose Unique number, automatically set by the
software	
Name	Names have been entered as found in the manuscript. I'd like owners' names to be in a drop-down list, so that users can click on a name and see all the manuscripts owned by that individual.
Gender	M for Male; F for Female; B for Both; U for
Unknown.	
Occupation1	Information entered if known - important because it gives users a sense of the types of manuscripts particularly occupational groups owned
Occupation2	
Comments	Additional information concerning the owner
4. Producers	
<u>Producer ID</u>	Purpose Unique number, automatically set by the
software	
Standard name	I'd like producers' names to be in a drop-down list, so that users can click on a name and see all the manuscripts produced by that individual.
VarName 1 name	Used if the producer is known by another
VarName 2 name	Used if the producer is known by another
Comments	Additional relevant information such as dates during which the producer was active

5. Authors	Purpose
<u>Author ID</u> software	Unique number, automatically set by the
Standard name	The most common name and spelling of name
by which the author of the text is known	
VarName 1	Used if the author is known by another name
VarName 2	Used if the author is known by another name

6. Town	
<u>Town name</u>	The list of towns included in the database. I want a drop-down list of the towns so that users can access all the manuscripts associated with a given urban centre.

7. RelMSS	
<u>RelClassmark</u>	Classmark of the related manuscript

8. Bibliography	
<u>Bib. ID</u>	This can either be an abbreviation of the full title of the publication or more commonly the Bib ID is made up of the authors' surname and the date of the publication.
Reference	Full bibliographic information

Child tables

9. Content	
<u>Classmark</u>	The classmark of the manuscript
<u>RefID</u>	The unique reference given to each text as in the Text table above.
Place in MS	The order this text appears in the manuscript, so is it first, second etc.
TitleMS	The title of the text as given in the manuscript, if it has one at all. This is important because often the titles scribes gave texts differs from their current titles
Folpagenos	The pages or folios that the text/item occupies. 'r' refers to the recto of the leaf

<p>Incipit the manuscript</p>	<p>(the first side of the leaf) and 'v' to the verso (its reverse side) The first line of the text as it appears in</p>
<p>Explicit</p>	<p>The last line of the text as it appears in the manuscript (these last two fields are important because they enable scholars to identify texts)</p>
<p>Main Language</p>	<p>In which the text is written</p>
<p>Other Lang 1 the text</p>	<p>The other language which might appear in</p>
<p>Other Lang 2 text</p>	<p>The third language which might appear in the</p>
<p>Other comments</p>	<p>Contains miscellaneous, non-standardised information relating to whether the text is complete or not; if there are marginal annotations or additions to the text.</p>
<p>Scribes and script</p>	<p>Describes how many hands can be found in the text; the scribe is named if known. The script is described using standard vocabulary used in manuscripts catalogue. This is important because it can help with the dating of the manuscript (scripts are fashionable or current at different times).</p>
<p>InfoFrom</p>	<p>Abbreviated according to Bib ID in the 'Bibliography' table. This is not linked to the bibliography table, and can't be because it often contains multiple references.</p>
<p>10. MS-Owner</p>	
<p><u>Owner ID</u> software</p>	<p>Unique number, automatically set by the</p>
<p><u>Classmark</u> this person</p>	<p>The classmark of the manuscript owned by</p>
<p>Medieval? pre-c. 1520</p>	<p>Ticked if the owner owned the manuscript</p>
<p>Postmedieval? post-c. 1520</p>	<p>Ticked if the owner owned the manuscript</p>
<p>Comments</p>	<p>This field contains the 'evidence' for ownership; whether it's a coat of arms, signature or inscription etc</p>

Comment [SM1]: Not sure this works too well in the database - check

11. MS-Producer

<u>Producer ID</u> software	Unique number, automatically set by the
<u>Classmark</u> this person	The classmark of the manuscript owned by
Scribe? manuscript	Ticked if this producer wrote the
Artist? manuscript	Ticked if this producer decorated the
Binder? manuscript	Ticked if this producer bound the
Bookseller? Notes	Ticked if this producer sold the manuscript This field contains the 'evidence' for production; either a signature but might often refer to scholarship which has identified the illumination as the work of a particular producer etc

12. MS-Town

<u>Classmark</u> with the urban centre	The classmark of the manuscript associated
<u>Town Name</u>	The name of the relevant town
Owner? town	Ticked if the owner lived or worked in the
Producer? town	Ticked if the producer lived or worked in the
Content?	Ticked if the manuscript contains material relating to the town - for example London Chronicles or lists of mayors and sheriffs etc
Notes	The evidence for the manuscript's urban 'credentials': an inscription for example specifying the place of production

13. Owner-Town

<u>Owner</u> software	Unique number, automatically set by the
<u>Town Name</u>	The name of the relevant town

14. Producer-Town

<u>Producer ID</u>	Unique number, automatically set by the software
<u>Town Name</u>	The name of the relevant town

15. MS-Bibliog

<u>Classmark</u>	The classmark of the manuscript
<u>Bib ID</u>	Abbreviated according to Bib ID in the 'Bibliography' table and linked to that table
Facsimile?	Ticked if it is a reproduction of the manuscript
Edition?	Ticked if it is an edition of one of the texts contained in the manuscript
Pages	The relevant pages of the publication
ExtraRef	Rarely used, but contains any additional information

16. OwnerBibliog

<u>Owner ID</u>	Unique number, automatically set by the software
<u>Bib ID</u>	Abbreviated according to Bib ID in the 'Bibliography' table and linked to that table

17. ProducerBibliog

<u>Producer ID</u>	Unique number, automatically set by the software
<u>Bib ID</u>	Abbreviated according to Bib ID in the 'Bibliography' table and linked to that table

18. Text-author

<u>RefID</u>	Of the text. The unique reference given to each text as in the Text table above.
<u>AuthorID</u>	Unique number, automatically set by the software
Notes	Contains information relating for example to which version of the text s/he wrote
Author?	Ticked if this author wrote the text
Translator?	Ticked if this author translated the text

Certainty?
Ascribed- false

Several options: Certain; Uncertain; Ascribed;

19.MSReIMS

Classmark

RelClassmark

Owner?
ownership

Ticked if the manuscript is related due to

Producer?
production

Ticked if the manuscript is related due to

Content?
content

Ticked if the manuscript is related due to

Notes

Evidence

Entity-Relationship Diagrams

