

LangScape - End of First Year Report (October 2005)

See Progress Report December 16th 2004, in addition to which:

- The Access forms have been further developed to facilitate the inputting and editing of the texts and their related data. These forms write to a MySQL database and are linked to DBManager for database administration.
- Apart from a couple of visits to archives outside London scheduled for November, most of the boundaries from charters belonging to the following archives have been checked and corrected against manuscript and against the British Academy volumes, restoring the manuscript spacing and punctuation: Burton, Sherborne, Shaftesbury, Selsey and Abingdon. In addition, all the variant versions for the Abingdon and Selsey archives have been added from manuscript, and work is progressing on Rochester and Canterbury St Augustine's.

Also added to the database for these archives are i) hidage figures, ii) relevant material from the body of the charter, iii) information about variant manuscript versions, iv) information about the manuscript's status as single sheet or otherwise, and v) rubrics and endorsements.

Each text is being given a distinctive number which combines the Sawyer number with, where there is more than one boundary clause, the position of the boundary within the charter.

- The Post-Doctoral Research position was advertised in May 2005 and applicants were interviewed in July. We were delighted to appoint Peter Stokes, whose expertise in palaeography (with a PhD dissertation on English Vernacular Script of the late 10th/early 11th century), and in computer engineering, will be of enormous value to the LangScape project. He will commence as Research Associate later this month, increasing the 'man-hours' on the non-technical side of the project from the current 0.5 to 1.5 of a full post.

- A meeting of the International Advisory Committee is being organised for early next year; we are pleased to announce that Dr Della Hooke has agreed to join this body.

Joy Jenkyns
October 2005