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News About Digital Scriptorium

Digital Scriptorium Returns to Berkeley

The Digital Scriptorium, the University of California, Berkeley, and Columbia University announce the return of the Digital Scriptorium to its original home at Berkeley.

The Digital Scriptorium is an image and cataloguing database that unites the medieval and Renaissance manuscript holdings of a growing number of American libraries. It began in 1997 with the combined resources of Berkeley and Columbia; present membership includes thirty institutions with over 5000 manuscripts and 27,000 images, all freely available on the web. Member institutions include the Huntington Library, New York Public Library, the Houghton Library at Harvard, and the Ransom Center at the University of Texas.

"We look forward to expanding the membership of the Digital Scriptorium and to developing its Web 2.0 capabilities," says Thomas C. Leonard, University Librarian at Berkeley. "Since the base technology for the project originated on this campus, we are confident that the expertise of our staff will re-integrate the program smoothly into our present system, and that we will make the Digital Scriptorium even more useful to medievalists."

During its six-year tenure as host to the Digital Scriptorium, Columbia also contributed to the database's increasing strength. James G. Neal, Columbia's University Librarian, adds that "extensive work was carried out by our Libraries Digital Program Division to build a highly specific scholarly search engine, and the coverage of the database was significantly expanded." Columbia's Curator of Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts, Consuelo Dutschke, was re-elected in the annual Digital Scriptorium members' meeting to a second term as Executive Director; she will retain that post until September 2012.

The new URL for Digital Scriptorium, <http://www.digital-scriptorium.org> currently directs users to the Columbia site; when the transfer to Berkeley is completed in August of 2011, it will point seamlessly to Berkeley servers.

UC Berkeley boasts 30 individual libraries and more than 10 million items. Standing at the center of Berkeley's academic experience — and a prime destination for scholars worldwide — the Library has consistently been ranked No. 1 among America's public research university libraries. The Berkeley library has also been a pioneer in providing digital access to its collections. The UC Berkeley Library website at www.lib.berkeley.edu is the gateway to its services, collections and resources.

Columbia University Libraries/Information Services is one of the top five academic research library systems in North America. The collections include over 10 million volumes, over 100,000 journals and serials, as well as extensive electronic resources, manuscripts, rare books, microforms, maps, graphic and audio-visual materials. The services and collections are organized into 22 libraries and various academic technology centers. The Libraries employs more than 550 professional and support staff. The website of the Libraries at library.columbia.edu is the gateway to its services and resources.

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