



**Digital Scriptorium**  
**2026 Annual Meeting**  
University of Rochester  
Rochester, NY  
18 September, 2026

### **2025-2026 Director's Report**

As acting Executive Director of Digital Scriptorium, I am pleased to share this report highlighting Digital Scriptorium's growth and achievements over the past year and outlining the strategic directions for the coming year. In every way, DS has continued to advance its goals and mission to provide cross-institutional digital access to collections of pre-modern manuscripts in North America and to enhance access to and appreciation of these collections.

In writing this my fifth director's report, I have had a chance to reflect on the distance the organization has come since I started in 2022, from releasing the beta version of the new DS Catalog with about 8500 records to celebrating its 30,000th record entered earlier this summer. Digital Scriptorium now functions as an established and robust organization, and the relative brevity of this report reflects a change from an organization that no longer has to convince its stakeholders of its value to one that is confident in its worth and contributions to the field of manuscript studies. The DS Catalog continues to be used widely by researchers around the world. A grant awarded in 2025 from the National Endowment for the Humanities has allowed us to strengthen our financial reserves and hire a full-time Manuscript Data Curation Fellow (Kelly Tuttle) to support data management and provide critical cataloging support to several of our member institutions in the last year. Kelly Tuttle and L. P. Coladangelo, the DS Project and Data Manager, have led several free workshops this year for member staff and the wider manuscript studies community on, respectively, manuscript description of Islamicate manuscripts and DS data research and analysis. We have also initiated the first grant cycle from the William Noel Eureka Fund and awarded four grants to member institutions this past spring. Since 2022, we have more than doubled membership and revenues, thus securing the year-to-year sustainability of the DS Catalog and the organization beyond the term of the NEH grant, which ends in August 2027. At this meeting, we will vote to add five additional members, including two museums: The Morgan Library and Museum and the Getty Museum.

You will hear more details about everything I have just mentioned in the reports that follow. To conclude this report, I would like to briefly lay out our strategic directions for the year. As always, there are known and unknown challenges and risks on the horizon for which we need to

prepare. In the first place, we must remain attentive to the technical requirements of the DS Catalog and will be reviewing its software to assess for vulnerabilities and updating needs. Secondly, as an organization, we will be continuing work to increase membership to further strengthen our sustainability by building the community and coming closer to the goal of a true national union catalog. Finally, as Kelly Tuttle will report, we are also assessing the scope of manuscript materials that we include in the DS Catalog. Clarity in regard to scope has become an increasingly acute issue as the catalog continues to grow, and we want to ensure that the content of the catalog remains in line with our mission.

Otherwise, I feel like Digital Scriptorium has reached cruising altitude and we can sit back and enjoy the ride for a while (but keep your seatbelts on in case of unexpected turbulence). DS would not be where it is now without its phenomenal staff, L. P. Coladangelo and Kelly Tuttle, and the extraordinary leadership of the DS Board of Directors, led by Sue Steuer (Western Michigan University) as President, Emily Runde (Columbia University) as Vice President, Regine Heberline (Princeton University) as Secretary, myself (UPenn) as Treasurer, and Eve Wolynes (Kansas University), Anna Siebach-Larson (Rochester University), and Ron Patkus (Vassar College) as Directors at Large. We are also guided by the wisdom of the Strategic Advisory Committee, which is chaired by the indefatigable Lisa Fagin Davis (Medieval Academy of America), and includes Eric Johnson (OSU), Evyn Kropf (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Elizabeth Hebbard (Indiana University), Andrew Hicks (Cornell University), Kivilcim Yavuz (University of Leeds), and Megan Kelly (Newberry Library).

In closing, I wish to gratefully acknowledge the continued support of Penn Libraries, our partner institution, for providing the administrative and technical support to keep DS going and staff employed. A special thank you goes to board member Anna Siebach-Larsen at the University of Rochester and to Juilee Decker and Steve Galbraith at the Rochester Institute of Technology for organizing and hosting this meeting. We are deeply grateful for your warm and generous welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Ransom  
Acting Executive Director