



Special Collections Pedagogy Initiative

October 2019-July 2020 (for initial scoping events—estimated full project will be over several years)

This project seeks to enhance opportunities for Durham undergraduate and postgraduate students to make use of the University's extensive special collections materials. It will offer staff members who already use manuscripts and early printed books in the classroom as well as those interested in doing so the opportunity to share ideas with colleagues from the University and beyond. In dialogue with Palace Green Library, the project also seeks to develop strategies for archiving and making readily accessible teaching materials related to the library's holdings. Relatedly, we will seek to develop an outward-facing platform for showcasing and archiving student-generated materials such as virtual exhibitions and extended catalogue entries. Particularly because the digital humanities component of this project will require long-term planning and substantial resources, we will also explore funding opportunities beyond the university to continue this work.

Aims and objectives of the project

The current grant application is essentially for a series of scoping events to take place in the coming year. These will seek to

- identify Durham colleagues using/interested in using medieval and early modern special collection materials in their teaching;
- share and enhance special collections pedagogy through intra- and extra-mural exchange;
- begin to develop print and digital resources for teaching with Durham special collections holdings;
- begin to conceptualize an outward-facing online platform for presenting and archiving student projects (e.g., virtual exhibitions and extended catalogue entries) with special collections holdings to integrate with PGL web pages;
- plan future events including workshops and talks involving external experts to further these goals;
- plan longer-term extra-mural grant applications for developing digital humanities tools for special collections pedagogy.

Benefits to the applicant(s) and IMEMS beyond the immediate life of the project

- Better intra-mural networking of IMEMS colleagues interested in using special collections in the classroom
- Improving the skill-set of these colleagues through sharing practices internally and bringing in outside experts
- Potentially contributing to the curriculum of the MA in Medieval and Early Modern Studies
- Potentially useful for TEF
- Provide opportunity for participants and IMEMS to show leadership in developing digital humanities tools for enhancing special collections pedagogy
- Increased visibility for IMEMS, PGL and Durham more generally on this front