



## ***Working digitally with medieval and early modern texts in a qualitative perspective***

PhD Seminar 30 – 31 August 2012, organised by “The Danish Medieval Historiography Project”, The Saxo Institute, University of Copenhagen.

Scholars within the humanities have in recent years increasingly become aware of the potential offered by digital tools for qualitative research. Nonetheless, making use of these tools represents a challenge to many scholars. Consequently many have been reluctant to utilize them and therefore remain unaware of the benefits and insights that such tools can offer in their research.

The purpose of the seminar is to enable scholars in medieval and early modern history, philology, and literature to improve their knowledge of how to use digital tools for the purposes of qualitative research. With this seminar, we aim to help the participants in acquiring a familiarity with various digital tools, so that they can work competently with important existing digital text corpora, and acquire a theoretically founded but at the same time realistic understanding of the possibilities and challenges connected with creating digital archives.

### **Target group**

The seminar is intended for PhD students at all stages of their research, but particularly motivated MA students may also apply.

### **Format**

In a full two-day seminar, specialists in digitally based research on medieval and early modern law texts, charters, and narrative texts will give lectures on their subjects and demonstrate the basic methodological approaches to them. The participants will also have the opportunity to test some of the databases in practice, and to work on their own specimen texts.

### **Preparation**

An anthology of relevant articles and book chapters will be distributed in advance. Each participant must provide in advance a digital specimen of a text within their own field of research.

## Language

The seminar will be held in English, whereas the texts discussed can be in Latin or in the vernacular, including translations into modern languages.

## Programme

Thursday 30 August - *Medieval law texts and the transformation of texts for analytic purposes*

10.00-10.15 Welcome

10.15-12.00 "Digitising the Early English Laws", **Dr Jenny Benham**, University of East Anglia.

12.00-13.00 Lunch

13.00-15.00 "The computerized reader. Transformations and representations of text for the purpose of analysis", **Prof. Gunner Lind**, University of Copenhagen

15.00-15.30 Coffee break

15.30-17.00 Workshop

18.00 Dinner

Friday 31 August - *Charters and narrative texts*

10.00-12.00 "Towards a digital toolbox for the individual researcher working with charters", **Dr Peter Watson**, Oxford University.

12.00-13.00 Lunch

13.00-15.00 "Digital philology. The use of digital corpora in the editing of Latin narrative texts", **Prof. Karsten Friis-Jensen**, University of Copenhagen.

15.00-15.30 Coffee break

15.30-17.00 Workshop

18.00 Conference dinner

We do not charge a registration fee, and all meals during the seminar will be provided free of charge. It is possible to apply for a small bursary to cover parts of the accommodation expenses. We cannot cover travel costs for applicants.

The deadline for applications to participate is 1 June 2012, and should be emailed to [thomasholm@hum.ku.dk](mailto:thomasholm@hum.ku.dk)

Applicants are asked to provide:

- A short CV (no more than one page).
- A brief description of their research topic, including reflections on the range of digital tools they expect to obtain familiarity with.