

Svetlana Yatsyk
Postdoctoral Scholar
Translitteræ project
ENS – PSL, Paris

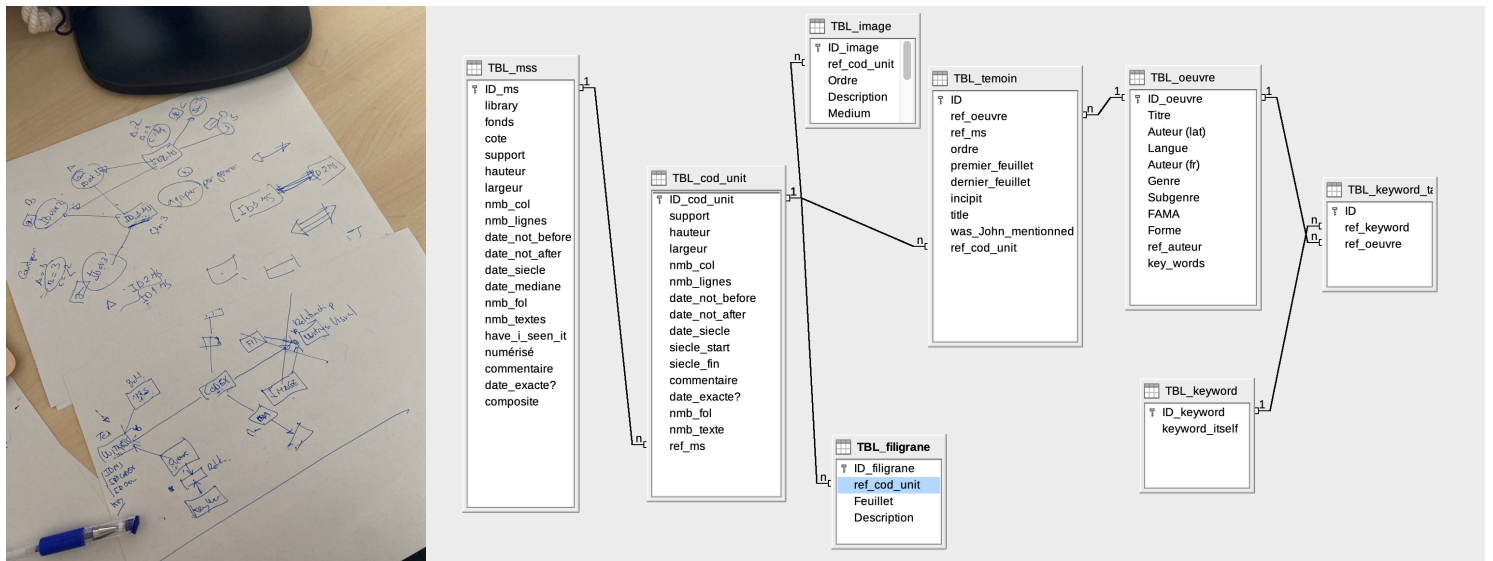
**CLS INFRA Fellowship
LiNHD, UNED, Madrid
06/05/2022 – 02/06/2022
Report**

By the CLS INFRA fellowship program in May 2022, I could spend one month at LiNHD, the UNED's Digital Humanities Innovation Laboratory. It was the first part of my research stay; the second one is scheduled for autumn 2022. This scholarship allowed me to improve the digital aspects of my project, collect data in the local archives, build academic relationships, and contribute to the description of some manuscripts held in the Spanish collections.

Database

My project this year is dedicated to *Breviloquium de virtutibus* by John of Wales. Unfortunately, there is no consensus among scholars on the genre of this text: some argue that it is a mirror of princes of florilegium, and others see it as a treatise on the cardinal virtues or a collection of *exempla*. In order to clarify the way the scribes and readers perceived its genre, I study *Breviloquium's* reception and circulation. To undertake such research, I am collecting information about the manuscripts in which *Breviloquium* circulated in a relational database¹.

The structure of my database was far from perfect, but thanks to the help of Professor Ros I changed it drastically. We chose to use the FRBR Model (Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records) as the basis.

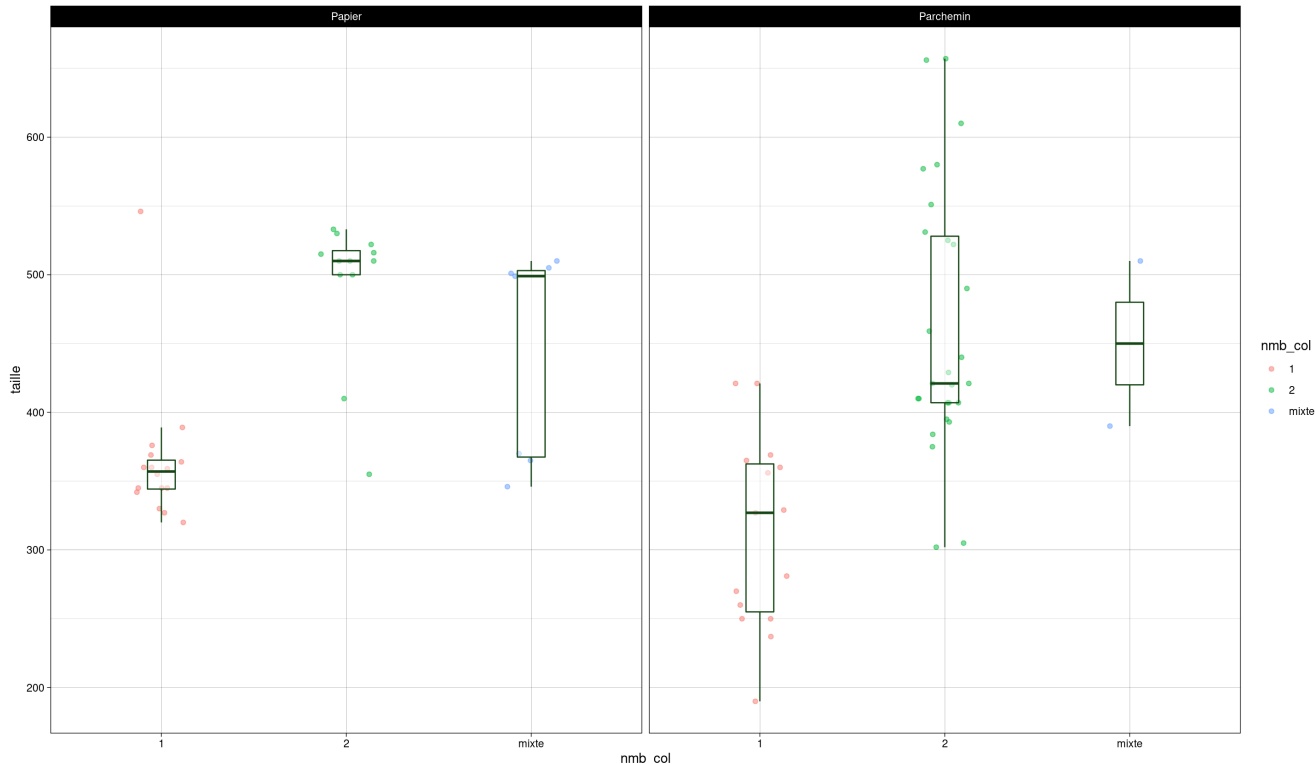


Structure: suggested by prof. Ros and implemented in the database.

I shared the preliminary results of the database analysis [at the School of Charters](#) and at the [International Medieval Congress in Leeds](#). Colleagues were highly interested in the research presented at Leeds and invited me to publish it in the journal *Scriptorium*.

¹ Professor Jose Luis Fernandez Vindel suggested to use a graph database instead of the relational one and introduced me to neo4j. I am already too far along in populating my database to change its form so radically, but I am seriously considering using a graphical database to describe the relationship between manuscripts containing *Breviloquium* in the future.

Here is an example of the study made possible by the application of statistical analysis² to the data collected in my database. This diagram represents the correlation of manuscript size (which I count by summing their height and width in millimeters) with text layout (one column, two, mixte) for parchment and paper manuscripts. As we see in this graph, small codices predominate among the manuscripts written in long lines, whereas among the manuscripts written in two columns, larger codices and mixed manuscripts are not so numerous as to warrant attention. We should not forget that manuscripts made of paper were more common in the 15th-16th centuries, while codices made of parchment are characteristic of earlier times. We see that there are considerably fewer texts written in two columns among paper manuscripts. This seems to confirm Bozzolo and Ornato's³ hypothesis that manuscripts began to gravitate toward a smaller format by the end of the Middle Ages.



Parchment and paper manuscripts : size / layout

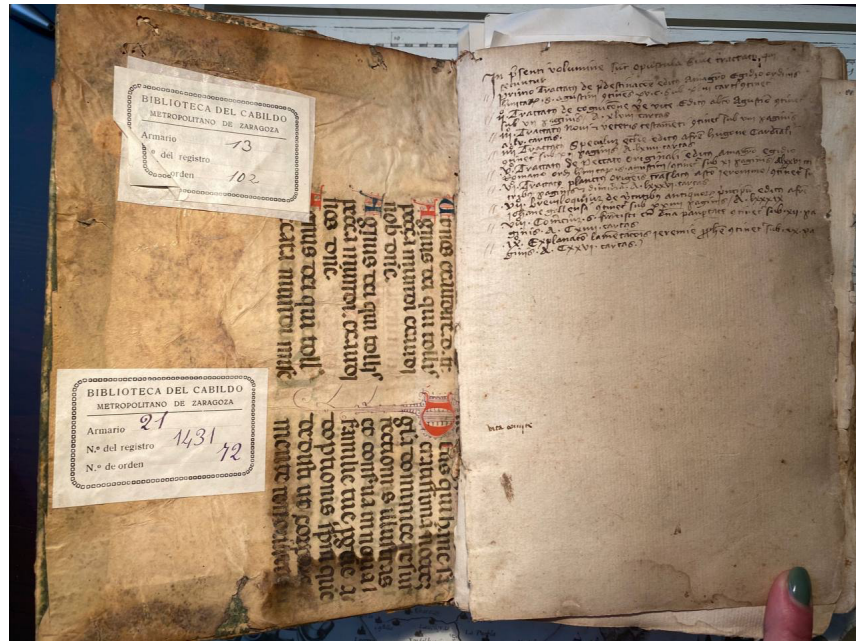
Archives

The time I spent in Madrid not only allowed me to change the structure of my database, but I also made significant progress in populating it. The scholarship allowed me to disconnect from the routines that slowed down my work in Paris, and I could entirely focus on manuscript descriptions. Not least in my work were the comfortable workspace on campus, the desk, and a large monitor that allowed me to work comfortably with spreadsheets. During my stay in Madrid, I described more than fifty manuscripts.

Trips to the archives were an essential part of my scholarship. *Breviloquium* had a marked influence on the Spanish Franciscans and other preachers; the archives of Escorial, Barcelona, Toledo, Valencia, and Zaragoza hold seven manuscripts containing this treatise, including very ancient ones, dating back to the 13th century. I have studied all of them except the codex kept in Barcelona, which has enriched my research.

² I use the programming language R, and specifically the packages tidyverse, FactoMineR and, of course, ggplot.

³ Bozzolo (Carla), Ornato (Ezio). Pour une histoire du livre manuscrit au Moyen Âge. Trois essais de codicologie quantitative. Paris, 1980.



Zaragoza, Biblioteca del Cabildo, MS 21.72, 15thc.

Moreover, in the catalogs of the archives of Toledo and Zaragoza, the description of the manuscripts containing, among others, *Breviloquium* was insufficient, and I managed to complete it. And in Valencia, I discovered an error in the catalog: according to it, there are three copies of *Breviloquium* in the archive of the cathedral of Valencia. However, research showed that *Breviloquium* could be found only in one of these manuscripts. The second contains another treatise by John of Wales, while the third has nothing to do with him.

Networking

The other most important and valuable result of my trip to Madrid was networking. Professor Ros introduced Nikolche Mickoski and me to colleagues at UNED. It was precious for me to meet the medievalist Enrique Jeres Cabrero who, in turn, introduced me to colleagues involved in the reception of Antiquity in the Middle Ages (mainly related to Alexander the Great and the Trojan War). For example, I was virtually introduced to Rosa María Rodríguez Porto, an associate editor of *troianalexandrina*. This encounter was delightful, helpful, and fruitful because it made it possible to ask this yearbook to publish the proceedings of the workshop “[The medieval view of the ancient writers](#)” held at the Sorbonne in June. I was also happy to meet Matthias Gille Levenson, who holds a scholarship at Casa de Velasquez. We share an interest in the HTR, and I have been following his collaborative work with my colleagues from the School of Chartres for quite some time, But we both needed to be in Madrid to finally meet in person.

Future

Since I received funding for two months but only spent one in Madrid, I hope to be able to return in the autumn. If so, I would be more than happy to present the results of my research to the UNED medievalist public. In addition, I would like to hold a roundtable discussion on the reception of John of Wales’ legacy in the Iberian Peninsula, in which I would like to invite Ana M^a Huélamo San José, Enrique Jeres Cabrero, and Maria Morras to participate.

Although my database has progressed considerably during my scholarship, it needs to be supplemented and expanded. For example, I would like to add a table with information about the authors of works adjacent to *Breviloquium*. This information is available on the website of the national library of France, and I would be grateful to my colleagues at LiNHD if they could help me download it.

To sum up, it was a fantastic experience. Thank you for the excellent opportunity, which my project has greatly benefited from. My highest gratitude to the DARIAH ERIC and the LiNHD team: not just for giving me a unique training opportunity, but also for showing so much sensitivity and accepting a Russian scholar in this turbulent time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be in Cyrillic script, located in the upper right quadrant of the page.