

**Roman de la Rose Digital Library:  
Communication and Outreach Plan**

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## I. Introduction

The Roman de la Rose Digital Library (the *Rose*) is a joint project between the Sheridan Libraries at Johns Hopkins University and the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF) in Paris. The project began in 1996 with the digitization of five manuscripts from the BnF. Fifteen years later, the *Rose* has a collection of near 150 digital manuscripts, and continues to grow. Naturally, the diversity of these manuscripts is of great interest to scholars whose visits to the website keep increasing. The purpose of this Communication and Outreach Plan is to lay out clear objectives, goals, and outcomes that will guide the *Rose* in establishing a more effective two-way communication between its website and its users. The *Rose* is providing scholars the opportunity to see and search dozens of Roman de la Rose manuscripts in one central place. The *Rose* Team wants to reach out to its users in order to get constructive feedback, and also to invite them to share their knowledge. A detailed action plan and an estimated budget will assist the *Rose* in becoming a truly interactive website where actual research and collaboration happens. Finally, an assessment plan will help determine whether an efficient and rewarding interaction between the *Rose* and its users has been achieved.

## II. Objectives

With the implementation of the plan, the *Rose* will

- increase its visibility among the scholarly community worldwide,
- increase its number of digitized manuscripts,
- gain critical support from a growing number of its users both in terms of financial contributions and volunteer work (transcriptions, translations, etc...),
- become a hub for scholars where they can easily access and compare various manuscripts, and where they can share their knowledge and work with each other,
- ensure its sustainability: The rich and constant interaction between the *Rose* and its users will generate an ever growing selection of resources and tools. Hence, the *Rose* will be indispensable to any scholar involved in medieval research.

## III. User Needs Assessment

- Identification of the *Rose*'s users:
  - Students
  - Professors from various backgrounds (Middle Ages texts, History, Social history, Art history, etc...)
  - Medievalists
  - Writers, poets
  - High school teachers
  - Intellectually curious people

The majority of users are from the United States, but the website is also visited by users from other countries such as France, Great Britain, Germany, and Australia.

- What are their needs?
  - Compare manuscripts side-by-side
  - Consult searchable manuscripts
  - Take notes and save their findings in a personal online workspace
  - Communicate with other scholars
  - Expand their resources
  - Do online collaborative research in a secure and private environment

#### **IV. Goals and Outcomes**

The *Rose* should strive to accomplish the following goals in order to become a more interactive site. Each goal is matched with three or more outcomes.

##### Goal #1: Reach out to the scholarly community worldwide

- The *Rose* will have a presence in social networks such as Academia.edu; Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn.
- The *Rose* will have its own Wikipedia page describing its content and purpose in English and in French.
- The *Rose* will have an increased presence in the Francophone and Anglophone Internet landscape by adding links to its website on relevant Wikipedia pages or other websites (see Appendix A).
- The launch of the journal “*Digital Philology, Studies in Medieval Manuscript Culture*” will generate more traffic on the *Rose* website. The blog will give access to articles’ headlines and abstracts.
- Articles referring to the role of the *Rose* will be posted on the social networks and on the blog.

##### Goal #2: Provide a space where scholars collaborate and share their research in a safe environment

- Users will be able to save each of their visits to the *Rose* using new tools such as what is called “Workspace” on the Friedberg Genizah Project (FGP) website: “This function enables users to save references to relevant fragments [of manuscripts] in a workspace that they can retrieve at any time during their browsing session as well as the next time they enter the website... Users can navigate among the website’s various functions with the entire workspace or with selected parts of it”  
(<https://fgp.genizah.org/GeneralPages/Help/CommonPages/WorkspaceHelp.aspx>)

Another model of workspace can be found on the Maryland Digital Cultural Heritage (MDCH) website (<http://collections.mdch.org/cdm4/favorites.php>). The

- “Favorites” section is a space where users can save images or full documents, and create notes that they would want to be able to access on their subsequent visits. Users also have the possibility to compare two images side-by-side, and make a web page of their favorites (see screen shot in Appendix C).
- Users will be able to create private Forums like on the FGP website: [http://www.genizah.org/Online\\_Research\\_Platform.htm?mode=demo](http://www.genizah.org/Online_Research_Platform.htm?mode=demo). Teams of researchers are created and work on a specific topic. They have a team leader who monitors and participates in the progress of the research. They are all members of a specific “Restricted Forum” which keeps their conversations private.
  - The improved *Rose* blog will become a real communication tool that will facilitate sharing of ideas and resources among the website’s users.
    - The blog will feature headlines in order to attract the users’ attention to the most recent posts and other posts that cover various scholarly interests (See MDCH’s blog: <http://www.mdch.org/blog/index.aspx>, or screen shot in Appendix C).
    - Attributing tags to the posts will help users find more easily and more quickly the topics that are of interest to them. A section called “Categories” or “Topics” or just a list of the main tags will be created in the margin (See MDCH’s blog).
    - The button “Subscribe to the blog” will be easy to locate and use.
    - The blog will feature a “Blog Roll” that will connect users to other relevant blogs and websites.
  - Users will be able to engage in interactive dialogues thanks to various options such as using the blog, Twitter, or joining a *Rose* Group on Facebook and/or Academia.edu.

Note: The Stanford Mellon technology team is working on the development of some of the interoperable tools (transcription, annotation, and analysis) needed to fulfill this goal (see Mellon Grant p. 53).

### Goal #3: Give access to a variety of resources to efficiently assist users in their research

- Users will be able to quickly access various types of information from the home page. This information will be organized into 4 sections (See Gallica: <http://gallica.bnf.fr/>, or screen shot in Appendix C):
  - Most popular manuscripts
  - New or Recent additions
  - Latest blog posts
  - Resources (see Appendix B for a list of resources).Each section will highlight a few specific links. They will also feature a “More...” link to connect users with other relevant information.

- Users will be able to access all the site's resources from their various mobile devices (smart phones, tablets, iPads) thanks to the development of special apps, or to the adoption of a new image viewer that is more cross-platform than the one that is currently used.
- Provided that the *Rose* develops the necessary tools, it will organize online exhibitions of the manuscripts from time to time (see examples of online exhibitions at <http://c9.mdch.org/> and <http://www.mdch.org/fire/> from the MDCH website, or at <http://expositions.bnf.fr/inde/feuille/01.htm> from the Bibliothèque nationale de France).

Goal #4: Involve users in keeping the site relevant, and increasing its resources

- Users will regularly give feedback about the *Rose*'s performance through the blog, one annual survey, and the "Contact us" link:
  - The annual survey will be conducted using Google Forms or Survey Monkey and will be posted on the *Rose* home page.
  - The "Contact us" link will lead users to David Reynolds' email. This will make the "Contact us" link more personal and real.
  - Users will also find a list of people or institutions in charge, like on the Primeros Libros site:  
[http://primeroslibros.org/about\\_contact.html?lang=en](http://primeroslibros.org/about_contact.html?lang=en)
- The researchers working as a team on the *Rose* website agree to let the *Rose* share their findings with whomever uses the site (see "FGP retains the rights to the teams' research material, and then makes it available online or in print to the academic world" retrieved on 06/12/11 from <http://www.genizah.org/about-SoA.htm>)
- Through the blog and the social networks, scholars will be invited to contribute to the content of the website by sharing some of their research material (bibliographies, articles, papers, etc...), transcribing manuscripts, and writing or translating manuscript descriptions. They will be given personal credit for their contribution.
- Users will also have the possibility to apply meaningful tags to the various resources.

## V. Action Plan and Timeline

Tasks	Responsibility	Timeline
<b>Home Page</b>		
Redesign home page: - Create 4 columns to highlight: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most popular manuscripts,</li> <li>• New or Recent additions,</li> <li>• Latest blog posts, and</li> <li>• Resources (See Appendix B).</li> </ul>	Mark Patton	2012
- Add the logos of the social networks on which the <i>Rose</i> is present (Facebook, Twitter, etc...).	Mark Patton	2011
- User Experience testing	User Experience (UX) Librarian	2011
Update the 4 columns on the home page.  <b>Note:</b> Updates for “Most popular manuscripts”, and “Latest blog posts” can be generated automatically (See Mark Patton to set it up).	<b>Nadia Altschul</b> , Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of German and Romance Languages, and Literatures; co-founder of the <i>Digital Philology</i> journal; member of the <i>Rose</i> Advisory Board. <b>David Reynolds</b> , Manager of Scholarly Digital Initiatives <b>Mark Patton</b> , Senior Software Engineer <b>Timothy Stinson</b> , Assistant Professor, Department of English, North Carolina State University, member of the <i>Rose</i> Advisory Board. <b>Advisory Board</b> (see <a href="http://romandelarose.org/#project">http://romandelarose.org/#project</a> )	As necessary, but at least once a month.
Post annual feedback survey, analyze the responses, recommend changes and improvements, and update the survey if necessary. (See example of a survey done by Digital Scriptorium from Columbia University: <a href="http://www.scriptorium.columbia.edu/survey/results.html">http://www.scriptorium.columbia.edu/survey/results.html</a> )	User Experience (UX) Librarian	By late 2012
- The “Contact us” link will be connecting users with David Reynolds’ email. - It will also list the names of the persons in charge of the manuscripts in the partner institutions.	Mark Patton  David Reynolds	Fall 2011
- Answer the requests or questions received via the “Contact us” link, and the blog.	David Reynolds	From Fall 2011 on



<b>Blog</b>		
<p>Redesign the blog:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have a column for headlines of recent posts.</li> <li>- List the most often used tags.</li> <li>- Create a Blog Roll (see Appendix B, Blog section)</li> <li>- Move the “Blog” link on the navigation bar. Place it above the “Help” link.</li> <li>- Keep the Archive link.</li> <li>- Archive all the monthly statistics, and start sending them to interested parties via email instead of using the blog.</li> <li>- Relocate the “Subscribe to the blog” button in a more visible space.</li> </ul>	<p>Mark Patton, or  David Reynolds</p>	<p>Fall 2011</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Call for articles and comments to post on the blog and post them.</li> <li>- Find resources by using Google Alerts, and by subscribing to RSS Feeds, and post them on the blog and on the “Resources” page.</li> </ul>	<p>Roman de la Rose Advisory Board</p>	<p>Spring 2012</p>
<p>Link articles’ headlines and/or abstracts of the articles published in the new journal: <i>Digital Philology, Studies in Medieval Manuscript Culture</i>, to the <i>Rose</i> blog.</p>	<p>Jeanette Patterson, Managing Editor of the <i>Digital Philology</i> journal</p>	<p>Starting Fall 2012. Then, as they become available.</p>
<p>Update the Blog Roll, and ask relevant blogs and websites to post a link of the <i>Rose</i>’s blog or home page on their site. (see Appendix A)</p>	<p>Several possibilities: Nadia Altschul Jeannette Patterson Someone from the Roman de la Rose scholarly community</p>	<p>Every 6 months</p>
<b>Marketing the <i>Rose</i></b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create Roman de la Rose Digital Library Groups in Facebook, Academia.edu, and Twitter; and maybe in LinkedIn.</li> <li>- Contribute content to these groups, including posts from the blog.</li> </ul>	<p>David Reynolds  David Reynolds Advisory Board Mathieu Bonicel from the Bnf</p>	<p>Fall 2011  On an on-going basis</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Set up a Wikipedia page about the <i>Rose</i>.</li> </ul>	<p>David Reynolds</p>	<p>July 2011</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Translate it into French and post it on Wikipedia.fr.</li> </ul>	<p>Sylvie Merlier-Rowen, Summer 2011 intern in the <i>Rose</i> Team</p>	<p>July 2011</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Update the English and French Wikipedia pages.</li> </ul>	<p>General audience + regular monitoring from the <i>Rose</i> Team</p>	<p>As necessary</p>

<p>Post a message on Facebook, Academia.edu, Twitter, and the blog to encourage scholars to contribute to the site by volunteering to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- add scholarly resources to the site’s list,</li> <li>- write or translate manuscript descriptions,</li> <li>- transcribe manuscripts.</li> </ul> <p>The message should direct them to register by filling out a volunteer form that could be created using a template from Google Forms.</p> <p>- The volunteers will be selected and approved according to their expertise.</p>	<p>Nadia Altschul</p> <p>Advisory Board</p>	<p>January 2013. Renew call for volunteers each time the pool of volunteers is shrinking.</p> <p>Frequency of the selection process is to be determined</p>
<p>Publicize articles referring to the role of the <i>Rose</i> (for example, include links to these articles on Facebook and the blog).</p>	<p>Advisory Board</p>	<p>As they become available</p>
<p>Post information about the <i>Rose</i> on the Sheridan Libraries’ home page, in the Spotlight and the Blog sections (i.e., insert a link to the <i>Rose</i> blog; post an article about a manuscript addition, etc...)</p>	<p>David Reynolds</p>	<p>Start date: Fall 2011, and then, as necessary</p>
<p>Organize exhibitions of the manuscripts on the <i>Rose</i> website. This could be a collaborative project between several institutions.</p>	<p>See examples in Goal #3. This is a desirable project that requires intellectual planning and technical resources that are not available at this point. Annual or semi-annual interns could start building up this option one step at a time.</p>	<p>TBD</p>
<b>Facilitate team work</b>		
<p>Create new tools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Personal “workspace” or “favorites”</li> <li>- Private forums</li> <li>- Transcription tool</li> <li>- Image viewing and annotation tools that can also be used on mobile devices (smart phones and tablets)</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Consider adapting features from the open-source project “<a href="#">Perseus Hopper</a>”, and analyze the progress of <a href="#">Project Bamboo</a>.</p>	<p>Computer Science student from JHU and/or intern with IT skills</p> <p>Image viewing and annotation tools are being developed by a team from Stanford University (see Mellon Grant document p. 53).</p>	<p>Start date: 2013</p>
<p>Modify “Terms and Conditions” to note that the <i>Rose</i> “retains the rights to the teams’ research material...”</p> <p>(For a model, see <a href="http://www.genizah.org/about-SoA.htm">http://www.genizah.org/about-SoA.htm</a>)</p>	<p>Johns Hopkins Legal Counsel</p>	<p>To do in anticipation of scholars using the <i>Rose</i>’s infrastructure and resources to do their research.</p>

**VI. Budget**

**Fringe benefits and indirect costs are not included in the cost estimates.**

**A. Initial Expenses and Time Commitment**

Budget Categories	Time Commitment	Cost	Total	Comments
Redesign of the home page	10 working days	80 hours @ \$24	\$ 1,920.00	Annual salary based on an average of \$50,000*.
+ User Experience testing	3 working days	24 hours @ \$22.60	\$ 542.40	Annual salary based on an average of \$47,000.
Change the “Contact us” Link and add names of responsible parties at partner institutions	1 working day	8 hours @ \$28.80	\$ 230.40	Annual salary based on an average of \$60,000.
Redesign of the blog (see details in Action Plan)	2 working days	16 hours @ \$28.80	\$ 460.80	Annual salary based on an average of \$60,000.
Create Roman de la Rose DL Groups in social networks.	3 hours	3 hours @ \$28.80	\$ 86.40	Annual salary based on an average of \$60,000.
Set up an English and French Wikipedia page.	2 working days	No cost	No cost	Performed by the summer 2011 intern.
Create new tools: workspaces, forums, transcription tools, and image viewing and annotation tools.	Some of the tools will be financed by the Mellon Grant	Estimates not available.	Estimates not available.	It is worth considering open-source projects such as the <a href="#">Perseus Hopper</a> which has a lot of flexibility.
Integration of the new tools into the <i>Rose</i> website.	20 working days	160 hours @ \$24	\$ 3,840.00	Annual salary based on an average of \$50,000.
Modify “Terms and Conditions” before group research can happen on the <i>Rose</i> website.	3 hours	3 hours @ \$39.00	\$ 117.00	Annual salary for Attorney-Advisor based on an average of \$81,000.
<b>Grand Total**</b>	39 working days	N/A	\$ 7,197.00	N/A

\*All salary averages were found at <http://www.simplyhired.com/a/salary/search/>.

\*\*To be adjusted when the cost of the new tools is known.

**B. Yearly Expenses and Time Commitment**

Budget Categories	Time Commitment	Cost	Total	Comments
Update of the “Recent additions” and the “Resources” on the home page.	2 hours every month → 24 hours per year	24 @ \$24	\$ 576.00	Annual salary based on an average of \$50,000*.
Conduct the annual survey.	8 hours to create or update the survey and post it. 40 hours to analyze it, and recommend changes.	48 hours @ \$22.60	\$ 1,084.80	Annual salary based on an average of \$47,000.
Monitoring of the “Contact us” link, and of the blog.	3 hours per week x 52 weeks =156 hours per year	156 hours @ \$28.80	\$ 4,492.80	Annual salary based on an average of \$60,000.
Update the list of resources on the “Resources” page.	3 hours per month x 12 months = 36 hours per year	36 hours @ \$24	\$ 864.00	Annual salary based on an average of \$50,000.
Link articles’ headlines and/or abstracts of the articles published in <i>Digital Philology</i> , to the <i>Rose</i> blog and the social networks.	2 hours per month x 12 months = 24 hours per year	24 hours @ \$24	\$ 576.00	Annual salary based on an average of \$50,000.
Update the Blog Roll and have other websites link their users to the <i>Rose</i> website and blog.	4 hours every 6 months → 8 hours per year	8 hours @ \$24	\$ 192.00	Annual salary based on an average of \$50,000.
Contribute content to the social network groups, and to the blog, including links to articles referring to the <i>Rose</i> .	2 hours per week x 52 weeks = 104 hours per year	104 hours @ \$28.80	\$ 2,995.20	Annual salary based on an average of \$60,000.
Update the English and French Wikipedia pages	6 hours per year	6 hours @ \$28.80	\$ 172.80	Annual salary based on an average of \$60,000.
Call for volunteers to contribute content to the <i>Rose</i> .	2 hours every 6 months → 4 hours per year	4 hours @ \$24.00	\$ 96.00	Annual salary based on an average of \$50,000.
Select and approve the volunteers.	16 hours every 6 months → 32 hours per year	32 hours @ 57.70	\$ 1,846.40	Annual salary based on an average of \$120,000.
Update the Sheridan Libraries’ home page with current information and links about the <i>Rose</i> .	1 hour per month x 12 months = 12 hours per year	12 hours @ \$28.80	\$ 345.60	Annual salary based on an average of \$60,000.
<b>Grand Total</b>	454 hours → 57 working days per year	N/A	\$13,241.60	N/A

\*All salary averages were found at <http://www.simplyhired.com/a/salary/search/>

## VII. Assessment of the New Communication and Outreach Strategy

**Assessment of Goal #1's outcomes** (Goal #1: Reach out to the scholarly community worldwide)

- Methods and Tools for Evidence Collection:
  - Check the social networks and the blog weekly to see how frequently the *Rose* Team and members of the Advisory Board actively initiate exchanges on the social network and the blog.
  - Google Analytics should be set up to
    - track the referring websites: Are the *Rose*'s users referred to the website through its Wikipedia pages or other related Wikipedia pages, thanks to the social networks, or through other websites?
    - track the volume of users per country.
    - track how many times the *Digital Philology* journal's articles are cited.
- Analysis of Evidence:
  - David Reynolds will do an estimate of the comments and posts on the social networks and the blog once a week.
  - David Reynolds will review the statistics from Google Analytics once a month.
- Signs that the outcomes have been met:
  - There are at least two new comments or posts per week on the social networks and/or the blog that stimulate interaction with the *Rose*'s users.
  - The traffic on the *Rose* website is steadily increasing, especially coming from abroad.
- Reporting of the results:
  - David Reynolds will send a monthly email to the *Rose* Team summarizing his analysis of evidence.

**Assessment of Goal #2's outcomes** (Goal #2: Provide a space where scholars collaborate and share their research in a safe environment) **once the necessary tools have been created.**

- Methods and Tools for Evidence Collection:
  - Check the website to see how many workspaces and teams of researchers are present on the site.
  - Through Google Analytics check how frequently the links on the blog, the tags and the Blog Roll are used, and check how many users are subscribing to the blog.
  - Examine the content of the exchanges on the social networks, and on the blog.

- Analysis of Evidence:
  - David Reynolds will compare the number of workspaces and the number of teams of researchers from month to month.
  - David Reynolds will review the statistics from Google Analytics once a month.
  - From examining the nature of the interactions happening on the social networks once a week, David Reynolds will evaluate if there is enough activity and if the exchanges are of substantive content.
- Signs that the outcomes have been met:
  - There are more than 50 individual workspaces on the *Rose* website, and there are more than 10 teams of researchers actively working together.
  - The blog's links and tags are used on average 10 times per day in any given week. The number of subscribers to the blog increases by 5 every month.
  - There are at least three new comments or posts on the social networks and/or the blog that are of interest to researchers every week.
- Reporting of the results:
  - The results of the analysis will be compiled in the same monthly email as for the assessment of Goal #1's outcomes. If necessary a graph will show the progression of various items of the assessment. The email will be sent to the *Rose* Team. The analysis may be posted on the wiki.

**Assessment of Goal #3's outcomes** (Goal #3: Provide access to a variety of resources to efficiently assist users in their research)

- Methods and Tools for Evidence Collection:
  - Use Google Analytics to track the traffic on the home page, particularly to see if the featured links ("Most popular manuscripts, Resources, etc...") are widely used.
  - Use Google Analytics to track the traffic volume from mobile devices.
  - Use the annual feedback survey to ask users to evaluate the usefulness, the quality, the amount of the resources, and the interface to find them.
  - Once the *Rose* website has the means to organize online exhibitions, the survey should include questions about the exhibitions.
  - David Reynolds will receive alerts from users about any dead or irrelevant link via the "Contact us" link.
- Analysis of Evidence:
  - The User Experience Librarian (to be hired) will compile the results from Google Analytics and the annual survey. He/she will use graphs and charts from Survey Monkey or Google Forms to analyze the responses.
  - An intern or an undergraduate student will check the links and update them once a year.

- Signs that the outcomes have been met:
  - 75% of the users are satisfied with the amount and quality of resources that are accessible through the *Rose* website.
  - 80% of the users find the resources easily and quickly.
  - 70% are satisfied with the tools that they use to find the resources.
  - 95% of the links are active at any given time.
- Reporting of the results:
  - The UX Librarian will present the compiled results using graphs or tables, and percentages in an annual report. Based on the results, he/she will make recommendations for each area in need of improvements or changes. The annual report will be stored in the *Rose*'s Wiki. The UX Librarian will send an email to the *Rose* Team and to the Advisory Board to alert them of the completion of the annual report. The same email will set up a date for the annual meeting to discuss the annual report.

**Assessment of Goal #4's outcomes** (Goal #4: Involve users in keeping the site relevant, and increasing its resources)

- Methods and Tools for Evidence Collection:
  - The annual survey will include questions about the usefulness of the tools such as the image viewer, the forums, the annotation tools, and the blog.
  - See if the new "Contact us" link is generating more traffic and if it is used to give feedback.
  - Track the percentage of users who contribute resources to the site, and the frequency and the nature of their contribution.
  - Track the ratio of researchers who agree to sign the *Rose*'s Rights Agreement versus the ones who decline.
- Analysis of Evidence:
  - The User Experience Librarian will use graphs and charts from Survey Monkey or Google Forms to analyze the responses to the annual survey, just as for the assessment of Goal #3's outcomes.
  - As soon as the "Contact us" link is changed in order to direct users to David Reynolds' email address, Mr. Reynolds will keep track of the volume and the subject of the emails. He will, then, be able to determine if this more personal approach to communicate with users is efficient.
  - The UX Librarian will calculate the percentage of users contributing material to the *Rose*, and will categorize the material.
  - The UX Librarian will establish a clear picture of the scholars' position as for the rights to the teams' research material. He/she will recommend changes if the analysis reveals that most researchers want the rights to their research material to be exclusive.

- Signs that the outcomes have been met:
  - 80% of the users are satisfied with the tools that they use to work with other researchers.
  - The “Contact us” link generates 10 emails per week from users with specific requests or questions.
  - 20% or more of the users contribute material to the *Rose*. The variety of the material is well balanced.
- Reporting of the results:
  - The UX Librarian will include the results of his/her analysis in the annual report mentioned in the assessment of Goal #3’s outcomes.
  - David Reynolds will keep the *Rose* Team informed of the efficiency of the “Contact us” link. He will recommend changes if few users are taking advantage of this communication tool.

### VIII. Recommendations and Conclusion

The *Rose* Team will need time and adequate funding to transform the *Rose* digital library into a more interactive website. Nevertheless, some of the changes can be implemented in the near future since they can be done with the existing tools. They should instantly generate fruitful interaction between the *Rose* and its users, and make the *Rose* more widely accessible. The Action Plan identifies the following steps:

- Create Facebook, Academia.edu, and Twitter groups, and maybe a LinkedIn group. Get the conversation started with some thought-provoking articles.
- Redesign the blog, and update it as necessary.
- Create Wikipedia pages in English and French.
- Personalize the “Contact us” link.
- Post information about the *Rose* on the Sheridan Libraries’ home page.
- Contact the websites listed in Appendix A in order to insert a link to the *Rose* website on their own resource pages.

Redesigning the home page and adding interoperable tools will require a longer planning and implementation period. Yet, as a 2007 [User Experience survey](#) conducted by [Digital Scriptorium](#) shows, it is a necessary improvement that will ensure long-term sustainability for the *Rose*. The Digital Scriptorium’s survey reveals that more than 70% of its users expressed the need to be able to store their searches and results on the site for future use, and the need to be able to compare images side-by-side.

While a team from Stanford University is working on developing interoperable tools, the *Rose* Team would benefit from studying and following closely the evolution of similar projects:

- The Perseus Digital Library’s project: The [Perseus Hopper](#), which “is an open-source project providing a suite of services for interacting with textual collections.”
- [Project Bamboo](#), which builds applications and shared infrastructure for humanities research. It is currently designing a suite of interoperable tools, called



“Corpora Space”, which will allow researchers to “discover, collate, annotate, and curate texts across several large-scale structured humanities collections” (see blog from [Seth Denbo](#)). The Perseus Digital Library, HathiTrust, and Text Creation Partnership (TCP) have been selected to test the first iteration of Corpora Space that will be implemented in the spring of 2012.

It will also be helpful to offer annual or semi-annual, paid or unpaid internships to reach this enhanced level of interaction. Graduate students in Information Technology and Information Science would qualify to improve the home page, and equip the *Rose* with the new tools. PhD candidates in Medieval French could help in adding content to the *Rose* and to the social network groups. They could also be in charge of setting up online exhibitions. The [University of Maryland Information Management Program](#), the [UM Library Science Program](#), and the [École nationale des Chartes](#) in France are ideal places where to find suitable interns. Contacting other universities such as The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Rutgers University, and Syracuse University should remain an option too. Many students are interested in opportunities to come to the Baltimore-Washington area.

The *Rose* is a rich resource for scholars of various backgrounds. It gives them the unique opportunity to consult manuscripts that, only a few years ago, were not accessible because of preservation concerns or faraway locations. With the aforementioned changes, the *Rose* will become an essential forum for medievalists where collaborative research and high level discussions can take place.

**Appendix A: List of Websites Where the *Rose* Should Be Referenced  
(List compiled on 07/20/11)**

**Australia**

- **Australian Research Council (ARC) Network for Early European Research (NEER):**  
<http://confluence.arts.uwa.edu.au/dashboard.action>

**Canada**

- **ARLIMA:** Archives de littérature du Moyen Age. Its goal is to help students and scholars create detailed bibliographies. ARLIMA is not a collection of websites. So, it may not include the *Rose* website, but *Digital Philology* could be listed on the online journals page: [http://www.arlima.net/periodiques\\_en\\_ligne.html](http://www.arlima.net/periodiques_en_ligne.html)
- **Digital Medievalist (DM):** “Digital Medievalist is an international web-based community for medievalists working with digital media.” Retrieved from <http://www.digitalmedievalist.org/index.html>  
DM is hosted at the University of Lethbridge, in the Alberta province, Canada. There is a “News and Announcement” column where it might be useful to post a call for articles for *Digital Philology*. It might be good to submit an article about the *Rose* to be included in the open access journal.
- **La Société Rencesvals:** American-Canadian Branch. It publishes an annual “Bulletin bibliographique ... which includes a bibliography of publications on the romance epic from all over the world” (<http://depts.noctrl.edu/mcl/SocieteRencesvalsWeb/SRmembership.htm>). A membership is required to receive it. It would be good to contact them to include *Digital Philology*. The site also lists some websites where the *Rose* could be included (see <http://depts.noctrl.edu/mcl/SocieteRencesvalsWeb/SRlinks.htm>).
- **“Medievalists.net** provides a wide array of resources on medieval topics (blogs, book reviews, podcasts, etc...). The *Rose* should be included in the list of websites that appear on the page “Medieval History Websites” <http://www.medievalists.net/medieval-history-websites/>. At the bottom of the page “Academia”, there is a section where calls for articles can be posted: <http://www.medievalists.net/academia/>

**Germany**

- **NetbibWiki: Large Digital Libraries of Western Manuscripts:**  
<http://wiki.netbib.de/coma/DigitaleHandschriften> (*Rose* is not included in this list).

**Great Britain**

- **Marginalia: The Website of the Medieval Reading Group at the University of Cambridge.** The *Rose* could be listed either in the “Websites for Specific Texts and Authors” section, or in the “Manuscript Studies and Paleography” section (see <http://www.marginalia.co.uk/resources.php>).

### France

- **Bibliothèque Numérique:**  
[http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblioth%C3%A8que\\_num%C3%A9rique#Biblioth.C3.A8ques\\_num.C3.A9riques\\_de\\_textes](http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblioth%C3%A8que_num%C3%A9rique#Biblioth.C3.A8ques_num.C3.A9riques_de_textes)
- **Menestrel.fr** is a site that gives links to all kinds of resources related to medieval scholarship. The pages listing links in the United States, in France, and International Portals do not include the *Rose*:  
<http://www.menestrel.fr/spip.php?rubrique1281&lang=fr>  
<http://www.menestrel.fr/spip.php?rubrique1273&lang=fr>  
<http://www.menestrel.fr/spip.php?rubrique1272&lang=fr>
- Still on the Menestrel website, the *Rose* is listed on the page “Electronic Editions”, but it is listed with its old name and with erroneous information (PW needed to visit the site): <http://www.menestrel.fr/spip.php?rubrique730&lang=fr>
- **Poésie médiévale française:** Post a small introduction to the Roman de la Rose and add link to the *Rose*.  
[http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Po%C3%A9sie\\_m%C3%A9di%C3%A9vale](http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Po%C3%A9sie_m%C3%A9di%C3%A9vale)
- **Société Internationale des Médiévistes, Paris, France** (International Medieval Society). Send an email at [contact@ims-paris.org](mailto:contact@ims-paris.org) to include the *Rose* in their links (<http://www.ims-paris.org/Links.html>).

### United States:

- **Arthurnet Links:** Go to <http://web.clas.ufl.edu/users/jshoaf/Arthurnetfaq.htm#1> to subscribe and to add the *Rose* in the “Medieval literary works online” category. Contact this online service to have them review the *Digital Philology* journal which would lend an opportunity to mention the *Rose* website at the same time.
- **International Center of Medieval Art (ICMA):** On the page “Resources”, there is a long list of libraries and databases where the *Rose* should be included:  
[http://medievalart.org/?page\\_id=201](http://medievalart.org/?page_id=201)
- **International Machaut Society (IMS)** has a list of “Reciprocal Links”. Since, the *Rose* posts the IMS link in its “Resources”, the IMS might be amenable to post the *Rose* link on its website, or at best in the “Medieval Studies Sites” category. (See <http://www.loyno.edu/~avclark/Machaut/imslinks.htm#medstud>)

- **“In the Middle”:** <http://www.inthemedievalmiddle.com/>. The *Rose* could be included in the section titled “USEFUL” in the right-hand side column.
- **MARGOT:** In section “About MARGOT”, there is a section called “Useful sites”. The *Rose* is listed, but it is listed under its previous name. (See [http://margot.uwaterloo.ca/margotEng/sites\\_e.html](http://margot.uwaterloo.ca/margotEng/sites_e.html))
- **Medieval Academy of America:** <http://www.medievalacademy.org/links.htm>
- **NetSERF:** The Internet Connection for Medieval Resources. In the left-hand side column, there is a list of “Top Medieval Sites”. The *Rose* should be among those: <http://www.netserf.org/>
- **ORB: On-Line Reference Book for Medieval Studies.** The page “Late Medieval France: A Guide to Online Resources” should include the *Rose* (see <http://the-orb.net/encyclop/late/france/lmfrance.html>)
- **The ARTFL Project:** Project for American and French Research on the Treasury of the French Language. Here is the link where the *Rose* could be added: <http://artfl-project.uchicago.edu/content/public-databases>
- **The Labyrinth:** Resources for Medieval Studies. Here is the link where the *Rose* could be added among the resources for Old French: <http://labyrinth.georgetown.edu/display.cfm?Action=View&Category=French,Old>
- **The Medieval Review:** <https://scholarworks.iu.edu/dspace/handle/2022/3631>

## Appendix B: Resources for Medievalists (List compiled on 07/20/11)

The resources will come from several sources:

- Contributions from users
- Google Alerts: Set up Google Alerts with search terms relevant to the *Rose*, and Google Alerts will notify whoever set up the alert every time those search terms are used.
- RSS Feeds from relevant databases, journals, blogs and websites.

The “Resources” page could have an introduction similar to the one found on the International center for Medieval Art website: “The Resources listed in this section are those ICMA members have found to be helpful regarding medieval art. However, we do not imagine any of these lists to be comprehensive, and although we try to keep the addresses up-to-date, we do not always notice when sites come down or institutions change addresses. If you encounter problems, please let us know at: [ICMA@medievalart.org](mailto:ICMA@medievalart.org).” Retrieved from [http://medievalart.org/?page\\_id=40](http://medievalart.org/?page_id=40)

### Associations and Organizations:

- **International Center of Medieval Art (ICMA):** This is “a world-wide organization dedicated to the study of medieval art and culture. Retrieved from <http://medievalart.org/>
- **La Société Rencesvals:** American-Canadian Branch. “The Société Rencesvals is devoted to the promotion of the study of medieval epic literature in the various Romance languages.” Retrieved from <http://depts.noctrl.edu/mcl/SocieteRencesvalsWeb/>
- **The Delaware Valley Medieval Association (DVMA):** “The DVMA is a regional association dedicated to advancing Medieval Studies in the Delaware Valley and beyond. Meetings are held four times a year around our region to provide members an opportunity to present research and stay connected with other medievalists in the area. Membership is open to all scholars and students of the Middle Ages.” Retrieved from [http://www.dvmamedieval.org/Home\\_Page.html](http://www.dvmamedieval.org/Home_Page.html)
- **“The International Machaut Society (IMS)** is a not-for-profit scholarly organization founded in 1985 and devoted to the study, criticism, performance, research, and exchange of ideas related to all aspects of the works of the poet and composer Guillaume de Machaut (ca. 1300-1377) and their manuscript and performance traditions.” Retrieved from <http://www.loyno.edu/~avclark/Machaut/imshome.htm>

**Bibliographies:**

- **ARLIMA:** Archives de littérature du Moyen Âge. ARLIMA provides bibliographical resources for mostly students and scholars who are interested in medieval French texts: <http://www.arlima.net/>
- **The Online Medieval Sources Bibliography** is a searchable annotated bibliography of texts: <http://medievalsourcesbibliography.org/>

**Blogs:**

- **“In the Middle”:** <http://www.inthemedievalmiddle.com/>. This is a “medieval studies group blog” with four main contributors: Jeffrey J. Cohen, Eileen Joy, Mary Kate Hurley, and Karl Steel.
- **“Le manuscrit médiéval”** by Jean Luc Deuffic, and translated by Kate Maxwell: “This blog is exclusively dedicated to medieval manuscripts, up to and including their relationships with early printing.” Retrieved from <http://blog.pecia.fr/>. It also gives a long list of blogs related to medieval manuscripts throughout the world.
- **Medieval Material Culture Blog** (<http://larsdatter.com/wordpress/>) by Karen Larsdatter provides information about various aspects of material cultures of the Middle Ages and Renaissance. It also links with her website <http://www.larsdatter.com/index.html>

**Conferences and Workshops:**

- International Medieval Congress 2012 (9-12 July 2012), organized by the Institute for Medieval Studies, University of Leeds, Great Britain: <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/ims/imc/>
- The Third International MARGOT Conference: see Conference 2010 outcomes at [http://margot.uwaterloo.ca/DMAConference/conference\\_outcomes.html](http://margot.uwaterloo.ca/DMAConference/conference_outcomes.html)
- The Fourth International MARGOT Conference (2013), in New York City, USA: [http://margot.uwaterloo.ca/margotEng/conf\\_e.html#margot2013\\_CP](http://margot.uwaterloo.ca/margotEng/conf_e.html#margot2013_CP)
- The 47<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies (2012), in Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA: <http://www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress/>
- 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium of the International Medieval Society (June 2012), in Paris, France: <http://www.ims-paris.org/index.html>

**Digital libraries:**

- **Digital Scriptorium:** <http://www.scriptorium.columbia.edu/>. It is an image database of medieval and renaissance manuscripts.

- **Gallica:** Digital library of the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF), <http://gallica.bnf.fr/editors?type=manuscripts&lang=EN>
- “**Manuscriptorium** is a freely accessible digital library which enables **ready access to concentrated information on historical resources** via sophisticated search tools. The objective of the project is to provide access to existing digital content via integrated tools in order to make it as readily accessible as possible. The digital library therefore aggregates documents from many renowned institutions, extending beyond the countries of the European Union.” Retrieved from <http://www.manuscriptorium.com/index.php?q=node/170>.
- **The Bodleian Library:** Early manuscripts at Oxford University, Great Britain, <http://image.ox.ac.uk/list?collection=bodleian>
- **The Lessing J. Rosenwald Collection at the Library of Congress:** “Taking the illustrated book as its central theme and containing books from the last six centuries and manuscripts from the three preceding, the collection's greatest strengths are in the fifteenth century woodcut books, early sixteenth-century illustrated books, William Blake, and twentieth-century *livres des peintres*.” Retrieved from <http://www.loc.gov/rr/rarebook/rosenwald.html>
- **The Online Froissart:** This is a joint project between the Universities of Sheffield and Liverpool, Great Britain. “The Online Froissart offers access to the manuscript tradition of the first three Books of Froissart’s Chronicles. It delivers complete or partial transcriptions of all 113 surviving manuscripts containing these Books...”: <http://www.hrionline.ac.uk/onlinefroissart/index.jsp>

#### **Exhibitions:**

- **Karen Lardsdatter’s blog** keeps an updated list of exhibitions related to the Middle Ages: <http://larsdatter.com/wordpress/>

#### **Electronic resources provided by:**

- **Consulting Medieval Manuscripts Online:** List compiled by Robert D. Peckham, PhD, from the University of Tennessee, <http://www.utm.edu/staff/bobp/vlibrary/mdmss.shtml>
- **Digital Medievalist (DM):** “Digital Medievalist is an international web-based community for medievalists working with digital media. It was established in 2003 to help scholars meet the increasingly sophisticated demands faced by designers of contemporary digital projects. Digital Medievalist publishes an open access journal, sponsors conference sessions, runs an email discussion list and encourages best practice in digital medieval resource creation.” Retrieved from <http://www.digitalmedievalist.org/index.html>

- Illuminated manuscripts from the libraries of France:
  - Enluminures:** Digital images of manuscripts held in local French libraries, [http://www.enluminures.culture.fr/documentation/enlumine/fr/visites\\_00.htm](http://www.enluminures.culture.fr/documentation/enlumine/fr/visites_00.htm)
  - Liber Floridus:** Digital images of manuscripts held in libraries of higher education institutions, <http://liberfloridus.cines.fr/textes/cines.html>
  - Mandragore:** Digital images of manuscripts held in the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF), <http://mandragore.bnf.fr/html/accueil.html>
- **Marginalia: The Website of the Medieval Reading Group at the University of Cambridge.** “Marginalia, is intended to be both an online resource and a point of contact for medievalists at Cambridge, [Great Britain,] and around the world, and now also includes the online journal *Marginalia*.” Retrieved from <http://www.marginalia.co.uk/aboutus.php>.
- “**Medievalists.net** is a website for people interested in the Middle Ages. This includes scholars, writers, historians, readers and anyone who enjoys medieval history or culture.” Retrieved from <http://www.medievalists.net/about-us/>
- **NetbibWiki: Large Digital Libraries of Western Manuscripts,** <http://wiki.netbib.de/coma/DigitaleHandschriften>
- **NetSERF:** The Internet Connection for Medieval Resources <http://www.netserf.org/>
- **ORB:** On-Line Reference Book for Medieval Studies <http://the-orb.net/index.html>
- **The Labyrinth:** <http://labyrinth.georgetown.edu/>. Resources for medieval studies compiled by Georgetown University.
- **The Medieval Review:** “Since 1993, The Medieval Review (*TMR*; formerly the Bryn Mawr Medieval Review) has been publishing reviews of current work in all areas of Medieval Studies, a field it interprets as broadly as possible.” Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.iu.edu/dspace/handle/2022/3631>  
This website provides a wide array of resources on medieval topics (blogs, book reviews, podcasts, etc...)

### Journals:

- **Scriptorium: Bulletin Codicologique.** “Scriptorium is a biannual multilingual publication that essentially deals with codicology and the bibliography relating to European mediaeval manuscripts.” Retrieved from <http://www.scriptorium.be/en/frameset2.htm>
- **RBM:** A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Cultural Heritage. It is “the Association of College and Research Libraries' journal covering issues pertaining



to special collections libraries and cultural heritage institutions.” Retrieved from <http://rbm.acrl.org/site/misc/about.xhtml>

### Projects:


- **ARTFL** Home Page: <http://artfl-project.uchicago.edu/> : “The Project for American and French Research on the Treasury of the French Language (ARTFL) is a cooperative enterprise of the Laboratoire ATILF (Analyse et Traitement Informatique de la Langue Française) of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), the Division of the Humanities, and Electronic Text Services (ETS) of the University of Chicago.” Retrieved from <http://artfl-project.uchicago.edu/content/about-artfl>
- “**Graphem** is a three-year project based in France, funded by the ANR (Agence nationale de la recherche), and developed by palaeographers from the Institut de recherche et d’histoire des textes and the École nationale des chartes (Paris) together with computer scientists (LIRIS/INSA, Lyon; LIPADE, ex-CRIP5, Paris; LIFO, Orléans). It aims to explore new approaches to mediaeval scripts, beyond traditional palaeographical categories and procedures such as typologies of scripts or time-consuming and subjective one-to-one verbal comparisons.” (retrieved from [http://margot.uwaterloo.ca/DMAConference/conference\\_outcomes.html#contact](http://margot.uwaterloo.ca/DMAConference/conference_outcomes.html#contact)
- “**MARGOT** is a long-term research project devoted to publishing fully searchable editions of either generally inaccessible texts from the French Middle Ages and the Early Modern period (the Ancien Régime) or of texts in connection with a specific project from the same time period.” Retrieved from <http://margot.uwaterloo.ca/index.html>
- **The Company of Saynt George** “is a group of enthusiasts recreating the military and civil life of a Burgundian artillery unit between 1460 and 1480. Our goal is to live late medieval day-to-day life as intensely and realistically as possible...” Retrieved from <http://www.companie-of-st-george.ch/cms/?q=en/Portrait>

### Video-Conferences:

Include links here whenever a video-conference becomes available.


Appendix C: Screen Shots

Blog mentioned on p. 3, Goal #2



Michael Scott,  
MDCH  
Coordinator  
[About the author](#)

## MDCH Blog



**RECENT POSTS**

- [The Civil War in Your Attic](#)
- [Additions to the H.L. Mencken collection](#)
- [Great Baltimore Fire collection](#)
- [Wish you were here... Maryland in Postcards collection added to MDCH](#)
- [More Harford County Living Treasures interviews available](#)

**BLOG CALENDAR**

<< July 2011 >>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
						2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

**CATEGORIES**

- [Digital collections](#)
- [Exhibits](#)
- [Selection](#)
- [Software](#)
- [Partnership](#)

**BLOGROLL**

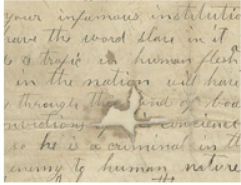
- [The Signal: Digital Preservation](#)
- [Digitization 101](#)
- [Sowing Culture](#)
- [Maryland History and Culture Collaborative](#)

[Subscribe to this blog](#)

### The Civil War in Your Attic

(Digital collections, Partnership) [Permanent link](#)


MDCH is part of an exciting new collaborative digitization project. "The Civil War in Your Attic: Preserving the Legacy of Maryland and the Civil War" is a statewide initiative to identify and digitize original Civil War era documents and photographs owned by private individuals throughout Maryland. In 2011 and 2012, "The Civil War in Your Attic" scanning events will be held at libraries and other institutions throughout the state. The first scanning event will be held on July 16 at the [Enoch Pratt Free Library](#). More details about the project, how you can participate, and a list of scanning events can be found [here](#).



Last Edited by Michael Scott at 6/8/2011 4:30 PM [Comments \(0\)](#)

### Additions to the H.L. Mencken collection

(Digital collections) [Permanent link](#)




Over 80 new items have been added to the [H.L. Mencken digital collection](#). They include advertisements from his father's cigar company, family photographs, documents, sketches, and school records. All items are from the collection of Mencken scrapbooks in the Enoch Pratt Free Library's H.L. Mencken Room.

Last Edited by Michael Scott at 6/10/2011 1:18 PM [Comments \(0\)](#)

### Great Baltimore Fire collection

(Digital collections) [Permanent link](#)

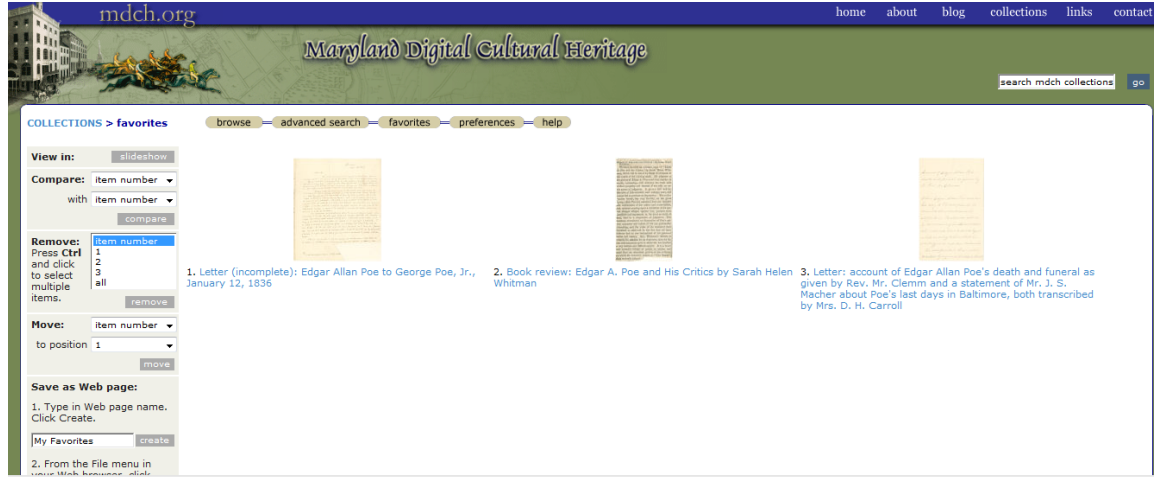
The [Aftermath of the Great Baltimore Fire](#) collection has just been added to MDCH. The collection contains over 250 items, including photographs, documents, and books, which tell the story of the devastation brought on by the great Baltimore fire of 1904 and how the city survived and rebuilt. The



From the Maryland Digital Cultural Heritage website:

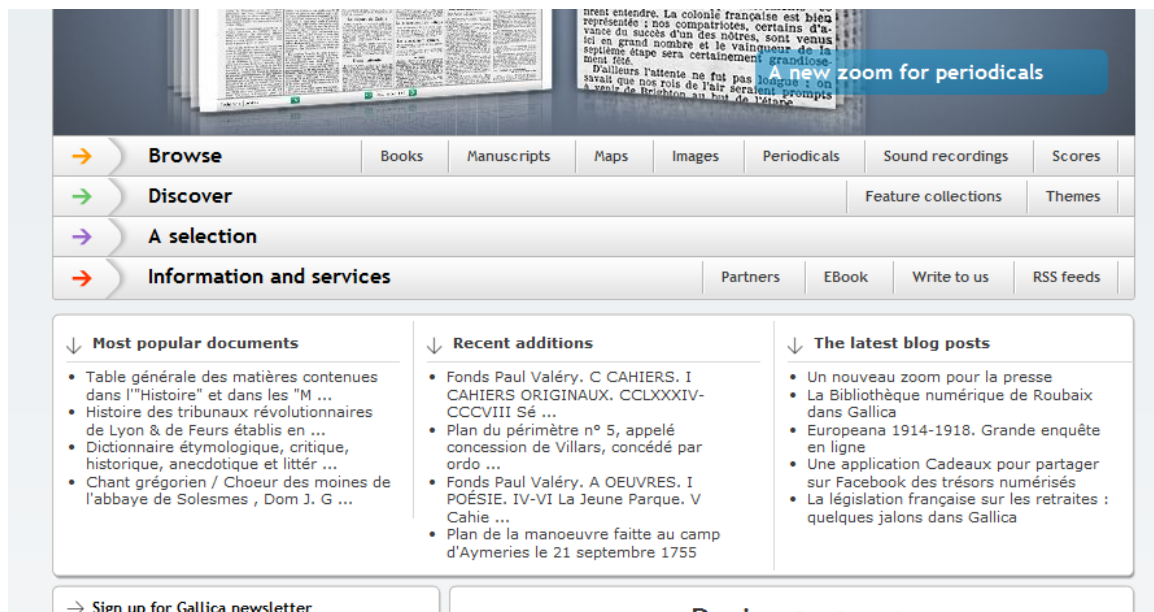
<http://www.mdch.org/blog/index.aspx>

### Example of a personal workspace (described on p. 3, Goal #2)



From the Maryland Digital Cultural Heritage website:  
<http://collections.mdch.org/cdm4/favorites.php>

### Screen shot of Gallica's home page (mentioned on p. 4, Goal #3)



From Gallica: <http://gallica.bnf.fr/>