

## Project Update - April 2006

LangScape is now into its second year.

- *Research Associate*: Peter Stokes joined as Research Associate last October, and his expertise both in palaeography and computing meant that the project did not suffer the anticipated break for induction. A morning over a coffee in the British Library was all that was needed before the momentum was resumed. Work has thus progressed rapidly on the following fronts:
- *Textual revision and input of variants*: there has been one main alteration to the original proposal to the AHRC. This regards the statement cited on this website as Item 1 in 'About LangScape: Specific goals' [<http://www.langscape.org.uk/content/about/goals.html>]. There are currently over 1,030 discrete boundary clauses in the database, and it has proved both desirable and feasible to include, perhaps with some few exceptions, *all* pre-16th century versions of each text. Post-Reformation transcripts will also be included, especially where these appear to derive from single-sheet manuscripts or from copies which are now lost.

This means that users will have access for the first time to all the variant versions of each boundary clause, even copies of copies being of interest from both a linguistic and a topographical point of view. There will be a field in the database to inform users as to how many versions of each text are presented and whether this does indeed represent all known textual witnesses.

Work has progressed well on this major task of the project, entailing trips to repositories within London (the British Library, National Archive etc) and to Archive offices and Cathedral archives around the country. The completion of the core text database should be more or less accomplished by early summer 2006.

- *Links with other projects:* a by-product of the manuscript checking is the identification of copies of charters which omit the boundary clauses but which are not cited in the *Electronic Sawyer* as having '(no bounds)'. This information is being incorporated into the Revised Sawyer.

A visit to the Institute of Name-Studies in Nottingham will be arranged for early summer. The next phase of the LangScape project involves the glossing of each place-name element in our database; discussions with the place-name projects in Nottingham will be crucial, both in formulating our policy and implementing electronic links between projects.

- *Back-up procedures:* Back-up is now to Server as well as to disk and to USB Mass Storage Device.
- *Meeting of the International Advisory Committee:* this will take place on May 12th, with a Workshop and Day Conference on the 13th in conjunction with the PASE project. We will be presenting Case Studies and displaying the database. We hope to highlight i) problems and their potential solutions, and ii) the ways in which we might develop display and searching capabilities on the website. It will be a valuable opportunity for feedback and discussion.
- *Website:* after the textual and data revision and augmentation has been completed, attention will turn to developing the website, which will change from simply holding information on the project to becoming the location for the resource itself. Work on the design of the site will run concurrently with the input of XML mark-up, the major focus for the second half of the project.

Joy Jenkyns  
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