

LangScape Progress Report - December 16th 2004
(sent to Advisory Committee members 12/04)

1. The Project started on October 1st 2004

- *Settling-in:* we're based at the Centre for Computing in the Humanities, King's College, on Floor 2 of Kay House in 7, Arundel Street. Most of the start-up business common to the commencement of a project (registration, administration, equipment, software, establishing email addresses and so on) is completed. Final project location within the office space with appropriate desk and book shelf space are pending.
- *Advisory Committee:* the following scholars have agreed to form an International Advisory Committee for the project - Ros Faith, Mechthild Gretsch, Toni Healey, John Hines, Carole Hough, Simon Keynes, David Parsons and Rebecca Rushforth. This represents a strong body of expertise.
- *Retrospective documentation:* it has taken a fair amount of time to sort, document and tidy the material upon which the Project is based. Old files, programs, plots, printouts etc have been sorted/filed/deleted. Every folder of remaining e-material was then supplied with the written documentation required by the Arts & Humanities Data Service. The material was written to a Cd-Rom together with the accompanying metadata, the appropriate forms completed, and all deposited with the AHDS in Oxford as requested.
- *Database:* this is where most of the effort has been concentrated so far. Gerhard Brey, LangScape's Technical Project Officer, has been working with me to re-format the original database. I've been identifying and itemising those structural changes needed to transform the material into a format geared specifically towards the checking and revising of the material. Gerhard has implemented these changes by writing a Python program that reads in the old Ingres database, converts it to the new format and writes to a MySQL database. To access this for database administration (adding/modifying fields, making copies and backups), DBManager will be

used, and for the editing of data, Microsoft Access will be used. The latter will operate within a series of interlinking Forms which I'm currently working on.

- *Back-up procedures:* A system of alternatively writing to disk and to USB Mass Storage Device is our current practice, although in the longer term, backup will also be to server.
- *Cataloguing :* The new database tables have been annotated to describe what each table and each field with the table contain. This forms part of an ongoing process of cataloguing the project. Such files as those containing the structural database revisions will also be held as part of the 'Project Log'.
- *Liaising with related projects:* I've met with Rebecca Rushforth to discuss the links between the LangScape project and the Electronic Sawyer, and these links will be developed as the project continues. The LangScape database is incorporating from Rebecca's database the Electronic Sawyer information relating to Archive, BA Charters Volumes, and Volume numbers. This overwrites and improves the Ingres database table's 'Archive' field. Corrections to the Electronic Sawyer noted over the last few years have in turn been incorporated into the ES data.
- *Website:* I've put together some pages for the website, much of it adapted from the ahrb application. This proto-version of the website has been implemented by Arianna Ciula and is available for viewing by those involved in the project; it is still under wraps, so please don't publish its url. At present it aims to give people a general idea of what we're about, and we should go public with this sometime in the Spring. When we start to put out actual searchable texts (some way down the line) I'll be adding a more detailed section on boundaries, and information about how to (and how *not* to) use the material etc etc. You can see the test version on [*note April 2006 - site url omitted as it is now of course obsolete*]. Please comment, suggest additions/alterations, contribute material etc.

- *Logo*: this, together with the website banner is under development. I'm working at present with the idea of a section of a boundary clause with light falling on the central section of the manuscript and inside the lit circle the manuscript will be translated, whereas outside the circle it will be in OE. We're awaiting permissions from the British Library for the digital images of the ms, and then such things as a sunny day to take digital photos of the features mentioned in the boundary - perhaps with some boundary walkers?? Then it's a question of giving this material to a graphics designer to play with. The website should, I think, be as simple and uncluttered as possible, but the banner and logo should represent our aims. Suggestions welcome.

- *Research Assistant*: getting the right person for this post will be vital to the success of the project. The advertisement is currently being put together and should appear shortly on 'jobs.ac.uk' and other usual places for such posts.

- *Establishment of Project Library*: we have bought a set of the currently available British Academy *Anglo-Saxon Charters* volumes. We lack *Burton* and *Sherborne* which I'm seeking on Internet and elsewhere - ideas?

Joy Jenkyns