MANCHESTER 1824
The University of Manchester

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Manchester Digital Collections

under the hood

1. Manifest Spreadsheet
We start with a list of image references and page names for an item. This is produced by the photographers and metadata specialists.

5. TEI-XML Metadata
Metadata specialists create metadata using the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) standard, typically with the Oxygen XML editor. Multiple revisions may be needed as they find and fix problems in the metadata.

6. Metadata Processing
Page names and image information from the manifest are added to the TEI-XML.
Each image reference is checked to ensure it is available on the IIIF Image Server.
Transcriptions can also be added at this stage.

Metadata

7. Bitbucket
The completed TEI-XML metadata is uploaded to Bitbucket (a cloud-based data repository) where it is converted using XSLT (eXtensible Stylesheet Language Transformations).

The output is a JSON data format which is natively used by the MDC website.

The JSON data is stored and versioned, ready for deployment to the MDC staging site.

2. Preservica
The image references from the manifest are used to search Preservica (a cloud-based preservation system) where images taken by the photographers are stored.

These images (in TIFF format) are downloaded for processing. This download can take several hours due to the size of the files.

3. Image Format
The downloaded TIFF images are compressed and converted to JPEG2000, an image format which allows images to be zoomed using tiles.

The processed images are copied to the Image Server.

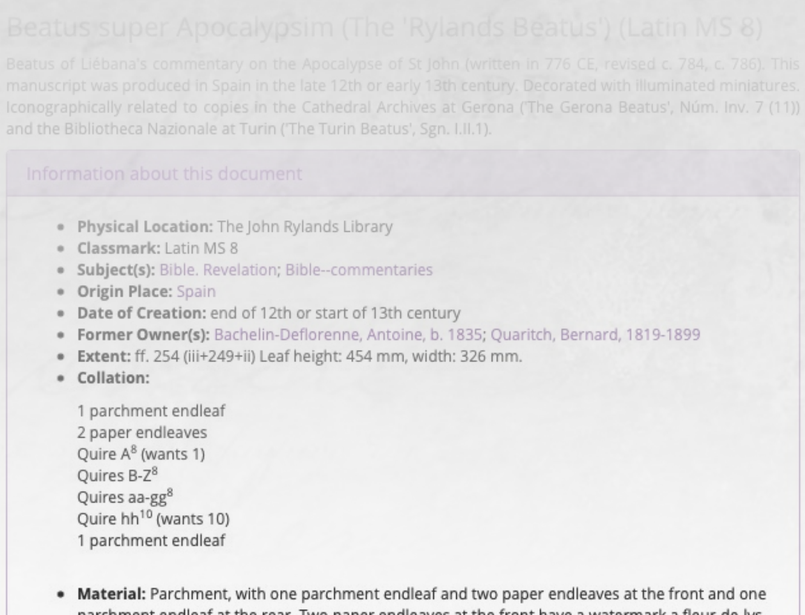
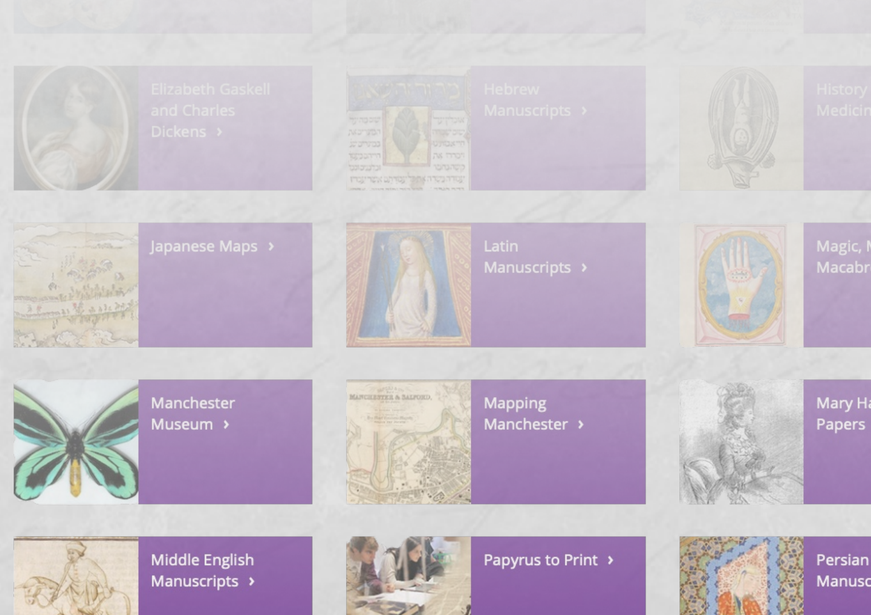
Images

Items

Collections

4. Images
High quality zooming images are made available using the International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF) standard. These images can be displayed within MDC and by other IIIF-compatible viewers.

8. Items
Items are the core of MDC. An item can refer to multiple images (typically pages) and includes rich metadata such as people, places, dates, physical properties, transcriptions and translations.



9. Collections
Items are grouped together into collections. A collection could contain hundreds of related items. These are presented alongside a description and thumbnail images.