

# Lima Group Meeting Minutes

**Date** 4/10/24

**Notetaker** Caitlin Thaeler, Andreas Maita, Holly Sinclair

## Attendees

Holly	Fariha	Haziel	Piotr
Caitlin	Rebekah	Andreas	Dermot

## Discussion

---

**Topic** Initial meet with client

## Notes

- ❖ -has past great experience
- ❖ -has worked with Bruce Scharlau, Arabella Sinclair, etc.
- ❖ -introduced ourselves individually to the client
- ❖ -client will communicate through Haziel (product master) primarily

## Action List

Action Item	Person responsible	Deadline
✓		

---

**Topic** Expectations and requirements from the client.

## Notes

- ❖ Client is a historian.
- ❖ He shared with us some important links.
- ❖ Details on ARO:
  - [abdn.ac.uk/aro](https://abdn.ac.uk/aro) - place to find important resources and links, as well as transcription files
  - Aberdeen registers blog (wordpress site)
    - <https://aberdeenregisters.org/>
    - Research project adjacent to the university, involves digital transcription of council records
    - Goes back to 2016
    - Blog includes overview of projects over the years
    - Example: Court roll history and beginning of paper records
      - Holography

- There is a sheepskin manuscript that is kept on Broad street. Only survivor of its kind.
    - The other court rolls didn't survive, but paper book records began in 1390s and are the beginning of the council registers. 8 volumes exist, recorded between 1398 and 1511.
  - These 8 volumes of council records are the main focus, and the subject of the search tool we will be working on.
  - It is the best representation of women in scottish historical records (normally these things focus on men)
  - has UNESCO Recognition in 2013 (uk memory of the world)
  - Lacquer grant allowed the documents to be transcribed
  - Manual (digital) transcription being done by 4 people.
    - Estimated 1.5 million words!
    - 5229 pages
  - Transcriptions on the current search tool are XML
    - Encoded with TEI (How you encode text into xml to make it machine-readable. This is an international standard)
    - <https://tei-c.org>
  - 50% latin, 50% middle-scots, some dutch
    - There is no need for translation, that's not the goal of the project
    - Music and games best capture translation: some people composed songs using these transcriptions
- ❖ draft client brief will be shared with client after much discussion
- ❖ What is this project? The mission 🏆
- <https://sar.abdn.ac.uk/>
    - Team Charlie created the prototype for this in 2017
    - Basic and advanced search functions.
    - Has tags such as language
    - Ability to specify page and volume of the corpus to search within, also dates and pages
    - XML organised by the headings of the court cases
      - Each “paragraph” on the document is a court case, called an Entry (because paragraphs/sentences weren't really a thing in this time period). Each entry is in a div tag
    - Can search for spelling variants.
    - Built on Ruby on Rails - this is an older, dying language and the organisation had to outsource people to work with it later on, since university doesn't have ruby experts.
      - It is very important we use a popular, future proof language (to make updates and maintenance easier)
    - In 2023, Team Delta created another experimental search tool
      - Their goal was to experiment with the types of searches possible (i.e. searching for particular court)
      - In python
      - <https://aberdeenregisters.org/2023/06/30/student-team-builds-experimental-new-aro-search-tool/>
      - <https://enhancedsearch1foraro.pythonanywhere.com/>

- Their project is not the same as what we are to do.
- Challenge: to build a prototype of an updated search platform like that of Team Charlie's.
  - Capture existing functionality along with criteria that IT requires (security, accessibility, usability, maintainability)
  - Target audience is researchers, lawyers, who are interested in the original language, and experts in the field (but maybe novice at technology?)
  - Doesn't want to rush with AI
  - Search tool is to be able to be used by more people for research, allow them to display it in different ways under Creative Commons Licensing
  - Client thinks that original website could have better usability, be more intuitive
- Client will discuss specifications with IT today, promised to chase them up to find out security and accessibility requirements

### **Action List**

<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
✓ Decide what first sprint will look like	Everyone	Thursday 4th
✓ Update Leonardo on meeting through email	Holly	Friday 5th
✓ Go over IT specifications	Everyone	This week?
✓ Hold a sprint meeting	Andy (scrum master)	Monday 7th

### ***Other Information***

---

**To do:**

- 

**Next Meeting: Monday 7th 1pm**