

# Credits & Methods

## Project Creator

**Jessica Powers:** Researcher, Encoder, Analyst, and Curator

This project was conceived, designed, and implemented by Jessica Powers as a digital humanities endeavor to explore both digital humanities scholarship and the political agency of royal women through historical correspondence.

## Primary Sources

The four letters used in this exhibit were sourced from **Epistolæ: Medieval Women's Latin Letters**, originally hosted (but now archived) by Columbia University and currently housed at the University of Siena.

**Columbia University**

<https://epistolaectl.columbia.edu/>

**University of Siena**

<https://epistolae.unisi.it/>

## Digital Tools and Platforms

### Text Encoding & XML Tools

- **TEI/XML:** Texts were encoded following Text Encoding Initiative standards to identify structure, people, places, and key features.  
<https://tei-c.org/>
- **Oxygen XML Editor:** Used for the XML formatting and encoding of each letter.  
<https://www.oxygenxml.com/>

### Text Analysis & Visualization

- **Voyant Tools:** Used to perform both single letter and corpus-wide textual analysis and to generate visualizations.  
<https://voyant-tools.org/>

### Web Development & Hosting

- **Omeka Classic:** Used locally as a sandbox environment for testing site layout, plugins, and content structure prior to deployment. Paired with the Exhibit Builder, Default Dublin Core, and Simple Contact Form plugins.  
<https://omeka.org/classic/>
- **Laragon:** Served as the local development environment that enabled a full Omeka Classic installation on a personal computer for offline testing and configuration.  
<https://laragon.org/>

- **Google Cloud Platform:** Used to host and publicly deploy the Omeka Classic site and this digital exhibit on a virtual machine. Configured with Apache, MariaDB, and PHP, and running Ubuntu.  
<https://cloud.google.com/>

## Metadata Standards & Organization

- **Dublin Core Elements Guide:** Referenced for filling out each of the Dublin Core fields in Omeka to ensure consistent metadata standards.  
<https://www.dublincore.org/specifications/dublin-core/usageguide/elements/>
- **Microsoft OneNote:** Used to create and manage internal tables for tracking metadata across all letters and Voyant analyses, helping ensure consistency and completeness.  
<https://www.onenote.com/>

## Writing & Editing

- **ProWritingAid:** Used for writing and editing all exhibit page content, including grammar checks, clarity improvements, and spellcheck.  
<https://prowritingaid.com/>

## Image Processing

- **ImageMagick:** Used to generate image derivatives and thumbnails for uploaded items in Omeka Classic.  
<https://imagemagick.org/>

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## Acknowledgments

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This work was completed independently with the support of online digital humanities communities and documentation.

No institutional affiliation, formal advising, or external funding was involved.

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Summary page: Encoded Empires: A Digital Exploration of Royal Correspondence

*Encoded Empires.* Created and maintained by Jessica Powers.

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