William L. Potter

🔗 https://wlpotter.github.io   📍 Grove City, PA

Education

PhD, Christianity in Antiquity, *in progress*
Saint Louis University, Department of Theological Studies
📅 *2020–present*   📍 *Saint Louis, MO*

MTS, Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies
Vanderbilt Divinity School
📅 *2017–2019*   📍 *Nashville, TN*

BS, *magna cum laude*, Audio Engineering Technology
Belmont University
📅 *2013–2017*   📍 *Nashville, TN*

Summary

Detail-oriented and service-minded cataloger dedicated to improving accessibility of collection assets by maintaining information accuracy.

Digital Scholarship and Related Experience

Project Manager, *A Digital Catalogue of Syriac Manuscripts in the British Library*
Syriaca.org: The Syriac Reference Portal
📅 *2019–present*   📍 *Nashville, TN*

- Oversaw development of a digital database of more than 1,200 Syriac manuscript catalogue entries
- Supervised a team of researchers to create, edit, and proofread almost 200 new TEI XML records, ensuring that best practices of digital cataloguing and linked open data were followed
- Designed, implemented, and iterated a data pipeline that decreased the workload and increased the efficiency of catalogue record creation

Co-Editor, *The Syriac Gazetteer*
Syriaca.org: The Syriac Reference Portal
📅 *2020–present*   📍 *Nashville, TN*

- Maintained data quality and normalization for a geographical reference database with over 2,000 entries
- Integrated 450 new data records and updated 270 existing records for a revised and expanded edition of the database
- Collaborated with Syriaca.org's editorial team to set project priorities and development roadmap

Research Assistant for Digital Cultural Heritage
Vanderbilt University Center for Digital Humanities
📅 *2019–2020*   📍 *Nashville, TN*

- Designed and implemented a TEI XML data model for pre-modern written references to Caesarea-Maritima
- Maintained the 1,000 entry Zotero library for Caesarea Maritima: A Comprehensive Bibliography utilizing MARC records returned from a WorldCat API query to normalize and correct data

Skills

TEI XML   XQuery   Python   RegEx   Markdown   Zotero   oXygen XML Editor   GitHub

Project Management   Data Integration   Data Normalization   Cataloguing for Manuscripts

Research Experience

Graduate Assistant
Vanderbilt University Excavations at Caesarea-Maritima
📅 *05/2019–06/2019* 📍*Caesarea, Israel*
- Managed undergraduate student excavators
- Digitized and archived documentation material from the excavation season

Research Assistant to Professor David A. Michelson
Vanderbilt Divinity School
📅 *08/2018–05/2019* 📍 *Nashville, TN*
- Provided detailed copy editing to ensure the accuracy of academic book projects before publication

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, *THEO 2710: Religions of the World*
Saint Louis University
📅 *Fall 2020* 📍 *Saint Louis, MO*

Lecturer, *REL 1010: Understanding the Bible*
Belmont University
📅 *Fall 2019* 📍 *Nashville, TN*

Honors and Awards

Graduate Student Paper Prize, *North American Patristics Society Annual Conference*, 2021
First Place Paper Prize, *Seventh Dorushe Graduate Student Conference on Syriac Studies*, 2021
Vanderbilt Divinity School Academic Achievement Award, *Vanderbilt Divinity School*, 2019
Elliot F. Shephard Prize for Excellence in Church History, *Vanderbilt Divinity School*, 2019
W. Kendrick Grobel Award for Outstanding Achievement in Biblical Studies, *Vanderbilt Divinity School*, 2019

Selected Publications and Presentations

- **"Life Cycle of Digital Texts,"** *Graduate Student Lightning Talk Series. Session 1 – In Time & Space: Mapping, Visual, & Textual DH Tools*. Organized by The Walter J. Ong Center for Digital Humanities, Saint Louis University. 3 March 2021. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vK3Q6khF46A
- **"TEI for Critical Editions,"** 2019 Digital Humanities Bootcamp. Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. 13 August 2019.
- **"Roundtable on TEI XML and Student Research,"** Cultural Heritage at Scale 2019 Conference. Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. 2 May 2019.
- **"Mar Narsai's Homily, On Job: Edition, Translation, and Commentary."** Master of Theological Studies Thesis. Vanderbilt Divinity School, 2019. http://hdl.handle.net/1803/9601. Committee: David Michelson (advisor) and Annalisa Azzoni.
- (Prepared with David A. Michelson) **"Index of Maps."** In The Syriac World, edited by Daniel King, 824-834. London: Routledge, 2018.

Research Languages

German   **French**   **Spanish**

Syriac   **Greek (Attic, Patristic)**

Hebrew (Biblical, Mishnaic)

Arabic (Quranic, Classical)