Sarah-Jane Murray  
*Digby-23 Project*  
(Great Text / Honors)

The *Digby 23 Project* will constitute a fully searchable, online multimedia scholarly archive devoted to the study of Oxford Bodleian MS Digby 23. This manuscript contains two of the most influential works composed during the Middle Ages: Plato’s *Timaeus* (in the Latin translation by Calcidius) is bound alongside the oldest surviving copy of the Old French *Chanson de Roland* (*Song of Roland*). As suggested in my forthcoming article in *Philological Quarterly*, the assembly of the manuscript is not fortuitous; rather, it reflects the twelfth-century concern for preserving and recording cultural history, as well as the (often neglected) importance of the *Timaeus* in shaping vernacular storytelling. Our vision is modeled on the award-winning Charrette Project ([http://lancelot.baylor.edu](http://lancelot.baylor.edu); [http://www.princeton.edu/~lancelot](http://www.princeton.edu/~lancelot)), of which I am Co-Director. Adopting electronic technologies, it will allow scholars to study in detail the two works contained in Digby MS 23 and the relationships between them, as well as the process of the manuscript’s assembly. Components will include:

1. Detailed XML transcriptions of the manuscripts, preserving all scribal characters and notes;

2. Links to full-color images on the manuscript on the Oxford site; and

3. A database for the study of the languages, composition style, and scribal hands that figure in the manuscript.

All computing programs and protocols created will be open-sourced (using a Creative Commons License) and available to scholars free of charge. The project will generate several scholarly articles and, at a later date, a monograph of collected essays. In addition to other costs associated with the project, the YIDP grant will allow for the hiring of a full-time graduate research assistant and a part-time undergraduate student worker.