Structure of this session

15-20 mins: Introduction to The Academic Book of the Future Project and why we are interested in medievalists

20 mins: Group discussion:
✧ What are the digital academic ‘books’ for medievalists?
✧ How do you identify them?
✧ How do you use them?
✧ How do you ‘make’ them? / Would you be interested in ‘making’ them?

(Guided by Dr. Takako Kato)
Context of Project

✧ AHRC/BL collaboration
✧ Call launched by AHRC Feb 2014
✧ Oct 2014: Project begins
✧ Two phases (now in Phase Two)
✧ Nov 2015: Inaugural #AcBookWeek
✧ Oct 2016: Project ends

Project team:

✧ Samantha Rayner, Nick Canty, & Rebecca Lyons (UCL),
✧ Simon Tanner & Marilyn Deegan (KCL)
✧ Michael Jubb as key consultant
Advisory Board Chair: 
Professor Kathryn Sutherland  
(Professor of Bibliography and Textual Criticism, Oxford University)

Strategy Board Chair: 
Anne Jarvis  
(Cambridge University Librarian)

#AcBookFuture
Aims of the Project

“It is expected that this project will have a significant impact on a wide range of stakeholders in research, library and publishing communities and generate new evidence and dialogue that will inform policy and national approaches to this important area of scholarly communications.”

- AHRC Press Release, 19th August 2014
In other words...

This project facilitates conversation with and between all stakeholders in the academic book:

- Academics
- Publishers
- Librarians
- Booksellers
- Policy-makers

To interrogate and reflect current and emerging issues around the academic book and its contexts.
Project Starting Points

✧ What is an academic book?
✧ Who reads them?
✧ What do scholars want from academic books?
✧ What can technology do to help make academic books more accessible?
✧ How can we make sure academic books, whether print or electronic, are kept safe, and preserved effectively?
✧ What has changed over recent years, and what is still changing?
✧ What new challenges and opportunities do librarians, publishers, booksellers, and academics face?

Timely and necessary project within rapidly developing contexts.
Phase 1:
Jan – Sept 2015

- Scoping activities carried out by RIN – UK wide, all stakeholder groups – focus groups, lit review

- Core team plus Advisory Board and Community Coalition: confirm small research projects and events running throughout year and during Academic Book Week

- Collect data, compile Phase 1 report for presentation at Board meetings in September 2015

- Phase 2 (Oct 15 – Sept 16) will build upon Phase 1: refine and hone; fill in any gaps; undertake any further required research; create a final report
Emerging strands during Phase 1

- Open Access
- Peer Review – different/new models
- Crossover books – academic/popular
- Editing – roles and skills of editors in current contexts
- Publishing research in ‘odd shapes’ – e.g. creative writing, performance, fashion, design, blogs
- University Presses
- Academic books in the global south
- Book formats and digital technologies – hard copy, ebooks, book apps, data, stats, metrics, etc

And many more…
Academic Book Week: 9-16th Nov 2015

- Week-long celebration of academic books

- Project coordinated the week, which included events and activities organised by booksellers, libraries, publishers, and academics.

- 78 events and activities took place in 21 locations across the UK, as well as in Mexico and the USA
So... why are we interested in medievalists?

✦ Group of scholars with unique issues and perspectives, working within specialised contexts

✦ Lots of exciting projects and innovation already

✦ Over half of the project team are medievalists!

✦ Phase Two: special interest in consulting and representing ECRs
Invitation to participate in the Project!

✧ Quadrivium XI
✧ Submit a guest blog post
✧ Tweet: @AcBookFuture

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http://academicbookfuture.org/
@AcBookFuture

The Academic Book of the Future