

# The SNF project HumaReC by Vital-DH@Vital-IT: Evolving the Humanities

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[@project\\_humarec](https://humarec.org)

## the project

**HumaReC** is a **Vital-DH@Vital-IT** project funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation that started in October 2016, and will run for two years (<http://p3.snf.ch/project-169869>). The aim of HumaReC is to investigate how Humanities research is reshaped and transformed by the **digital rhythm** of data production and publication and to establish the **best practices** for a DH research.

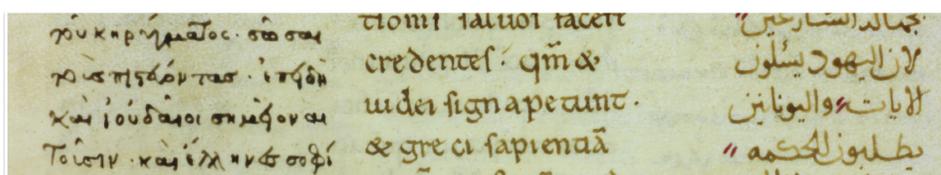


Fig. 1: Details of Marciana Gr. Z. 11 (379) f. 157r © Marciana Library, all rights reserved.

## the object

We use as test-case the edition and the study of a unique trilingual **New Testament manuscript** Marciana Gr. Z. 11 (379).

It is a 12<sup>th</sup> century manuscript, which contains Acts, the Catholic letters and the Pauline letters in three columns in **Greek, Latin and Arabic**. This is the only trilingual New Testament manuscript of this kind known by the research.

## the platform

We wanted to build a digital research platform with the manuscript at its core, including the following **fundamental aspects**:

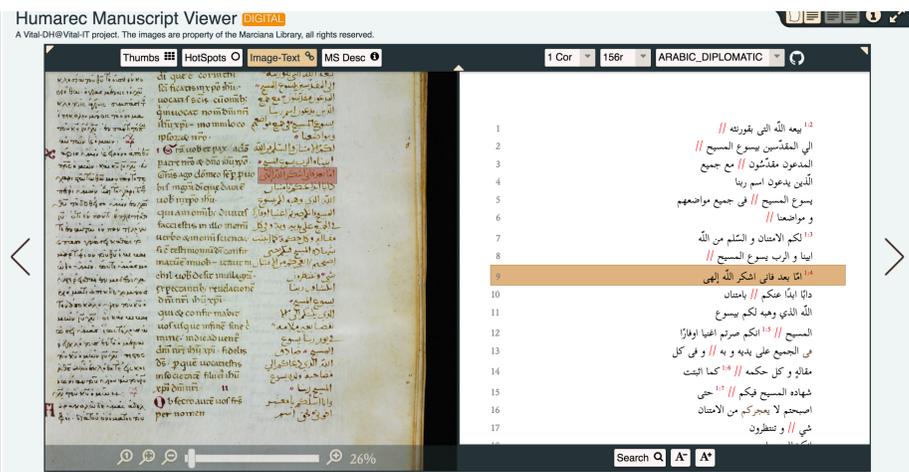


Fig. 2: Manuscript viewer with text-image link, f. 156r © Marciana Library, all rights reserved.

## 1 visualization

An important objective is to offer an effective tool for the study of the trilingual manuscript. HumaReC provides a **manuscript viewer** in full open access with quality images and several levels of transcription. It offers additional features such as the linking between text and image.

## 2 publication

The digital turn in Humanities is creating new research paradigms and transforms the **rhythm of research** through digital writing material. HumaReC deliberately tests the change of rhythm by providing **continuous** publications of the data and research results. Two publication formats are used:

- ★ The **research blog** is an important part of the continuous publishing process. We offer regular updates about the development of the project and the research results.
- ★ The **web book** will summarize the research in a long, structured text and published by a publisher (see 'expertise' below), similarly to a conventional book. The digital medium also offers additional, enhanced features. The web book, in contrast to an enhanced but static e-book, is written continuously.

## 3 exchange

When continuously published, the research can be constantly influenced and reoriented by its reception. Users have the possibility to **comment** on the blog or to use the **forum** of the platform.

We also encourage the discussions by our presence on **the social media** ([facebook.com/humarec](https://facebook.com/humarec), [@project\\_humarec](https://twitter.com/project_humarec)).

## 4 expertise

Online publication should not leave out the expertise of peers and of the publishers. In this perspective, HumaReC works in collaboration with partners:

- ★ An **international editorial board** is providing input and feedback about the project and its research results.
- ★ The **publisher Brill** collaborates in the web book. At the end of the two years, the web book will be peer-reviewed in a process led by Brill, as is the procedure for a usual monograph.

## A lot to investigate !

### Ex. 1: Why was the mention of Cilicia omitted?

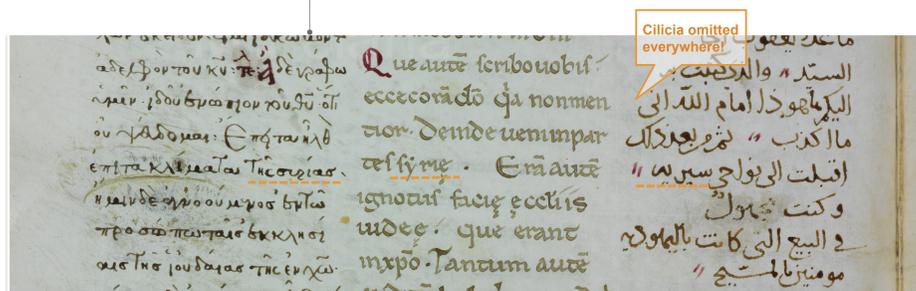


Fig. 3: Marciana Gr. Z. 11 (379) f. 208r © Marciana Library, all rights reserved.

In this passage, we normally find the mention of Paul's trips in Syria and Cilicia, a region that is now in Turkey ("Afterwards I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia" Gal 1:21). In the manuscript, we see that Syria is named but that Cilicia is omitted three times. This is an harmonization. Is it due to an error or is the omission intentional?

### Ex. 2: Were these two manuscripts made at the same time?

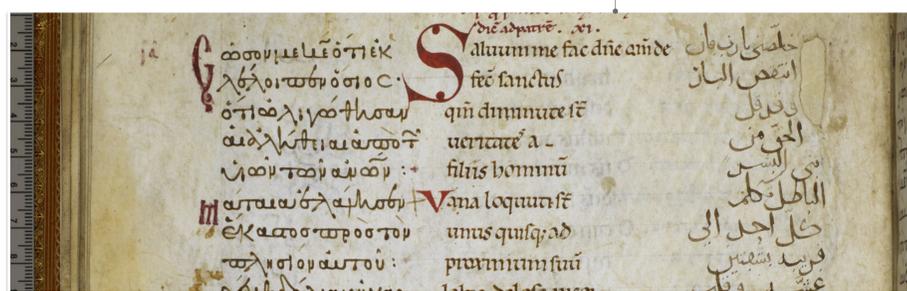


Fig. 4: British Library Harley 5786. Public domain.

Source: <https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/the-harley-trilingual-psalter>

This is BL Harley 5786, a trilingual Psalter that was copied before 1153. Marciana Gr. Z. 11 and BL Harley 5786 show similarities but also some differences, especially in the scripts. Were they produced in the same context, the royal scriptorium of Roger II of Sicily (r. 1130–54), Norman king of Sicily?