

1

The Walters family builds manuscripts collection and bequeaths it to Baltimore City in 1931 “for the benefit of the public.”



2

The Walters Art Museum commits to Open Data and begins digitization of mss collection with three separate matching NEH grants in 2008. Approximately 400 individual manuscripts from the Walters’ collection have been digitized to date.



3

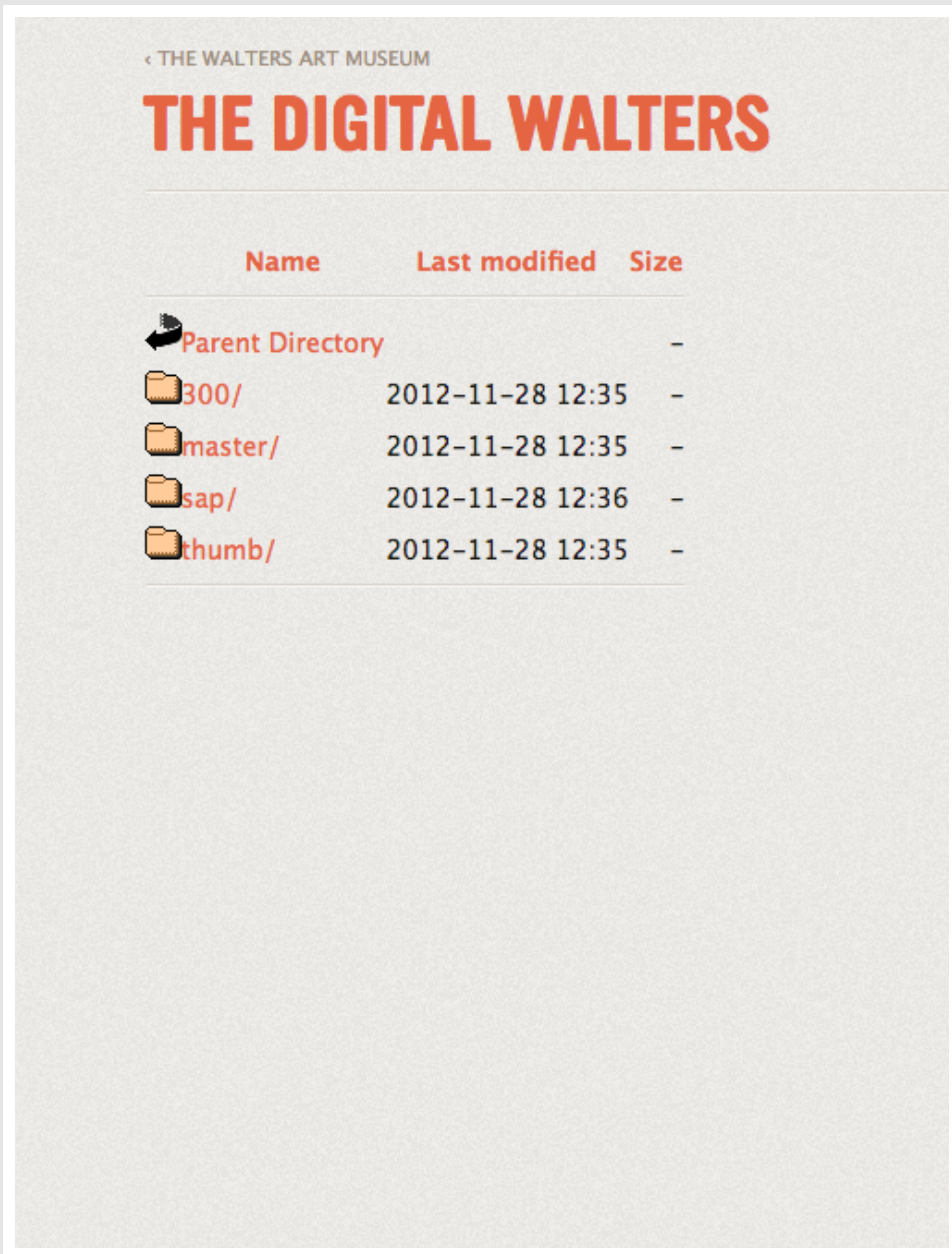
The Walters builds internal cataloging database that exports to open format TEI: XML / FTP-style website called thedigitalwalters.org

All manuscript data, including images and cataloging information, hosted on thedigitalwalters.org is made publicly available for download free of charge



4

thedigitalwalters.org is only usable for a few applications with the following difficulties:



- No searching
- No clarity on book features, chapters, extra pages
- Keywords available per manuscript, but not linkable
- To get full information, user required to parse their own XML

5

The Walters holds hackathon in 2014, meets Byte, creates Proof of Concept to show viability.



6

The Walters commits to creating a user-friendly front-end site for thedigitalwalters.org



7

Byte + The Walters define users, “use cases”, “user stories” and other misconceptions and confusion points on the collection and thedigitalwalters.com

Primary users include scholars, students and the general public

“As a scholar, I am looking for variations on the way artists treat the historiated initial “D,” especially in English Psalters”

“I’m taking a class on medieval French and need examples to practice reading/translating”

“I’m an artist for Magic The Gathering™ cards, and I want to look at medieval illuminations for inspiration.” (True story!)

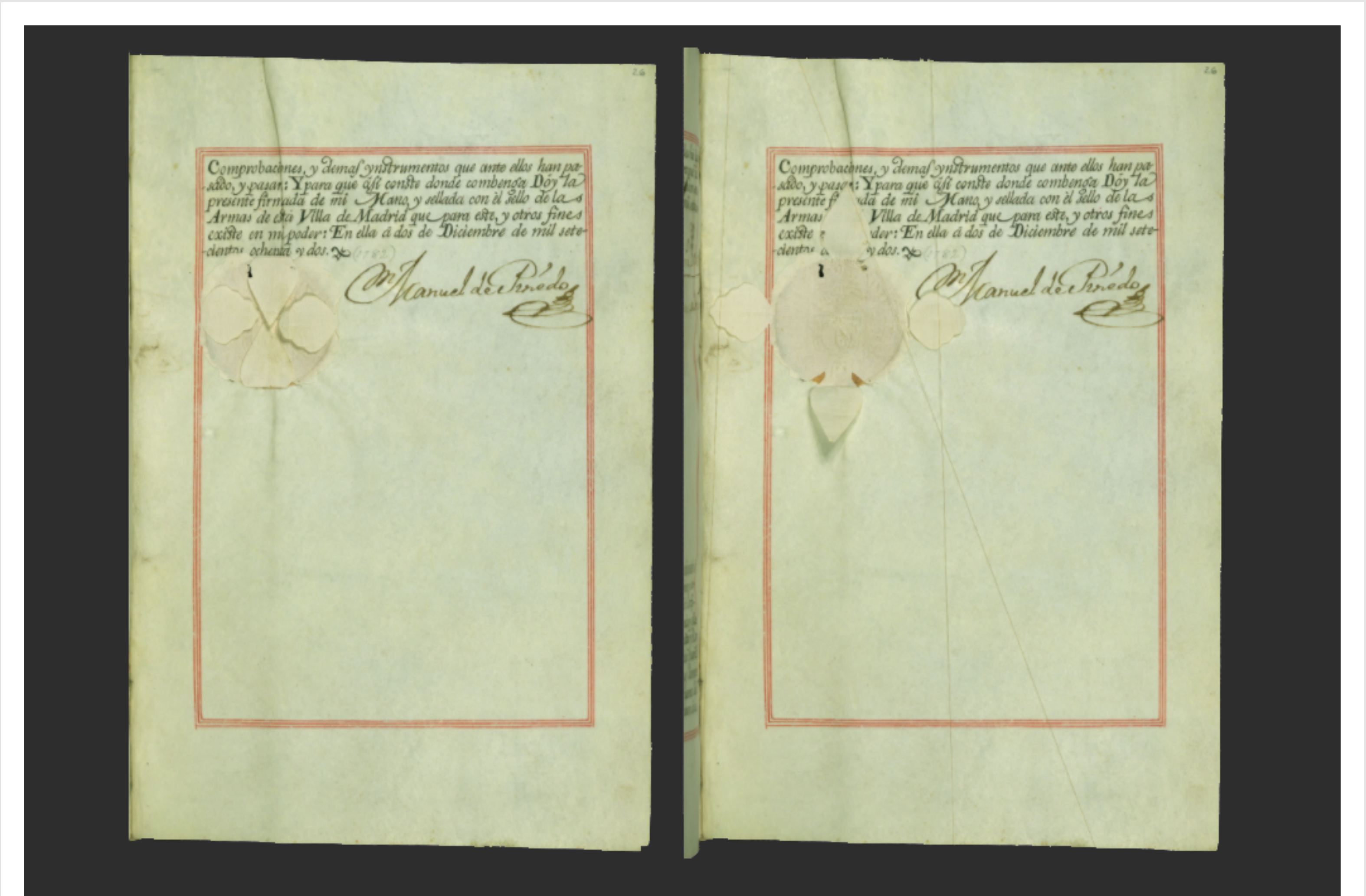
8

To understand project data width and depth, Byte creates Data Explorer, then builds manuscript viewer, applies rules to all manuscripts, discovers data exceptions including:

- Right to Left (1/3 of manuscripts are Arabic), but without data indicator



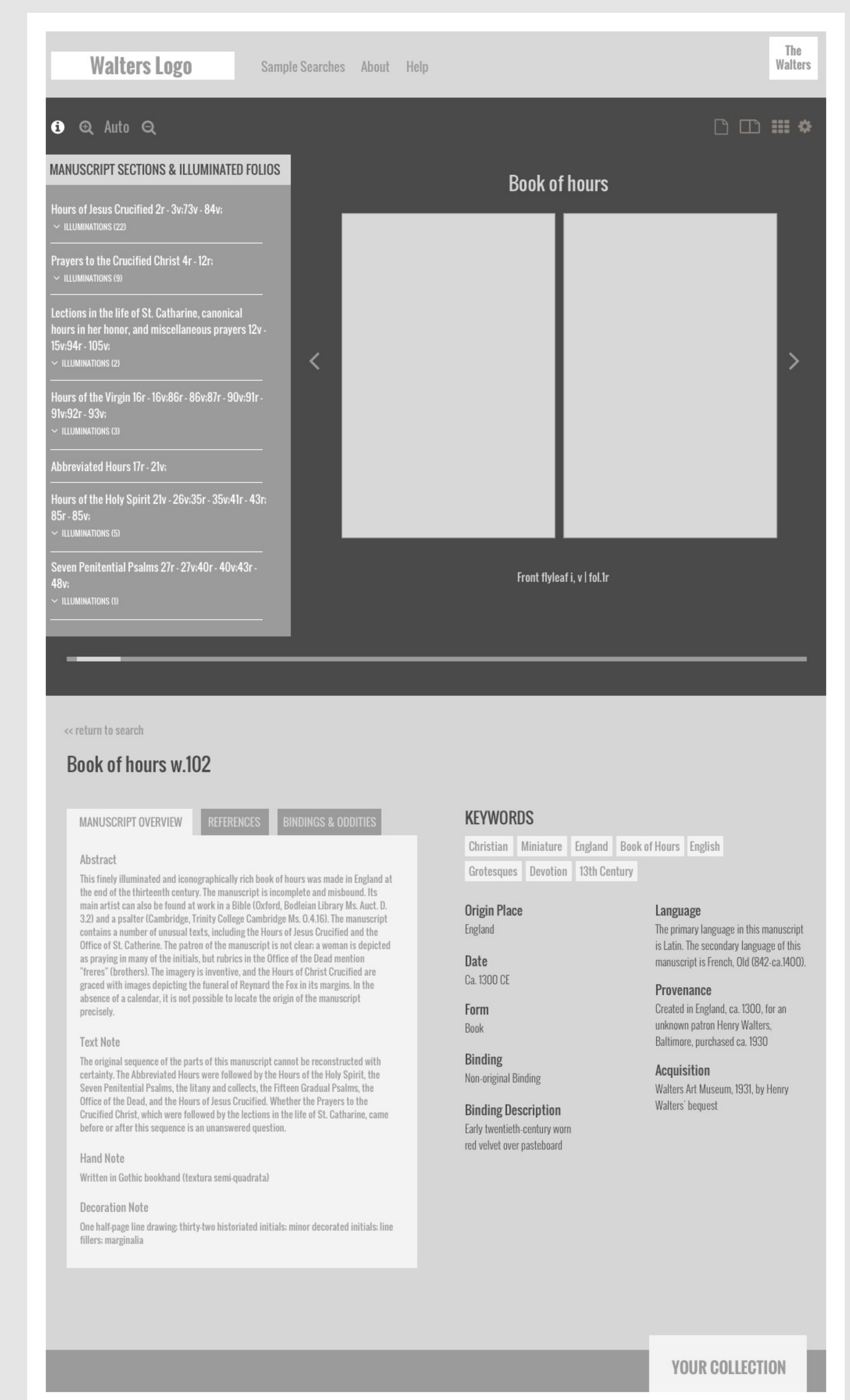
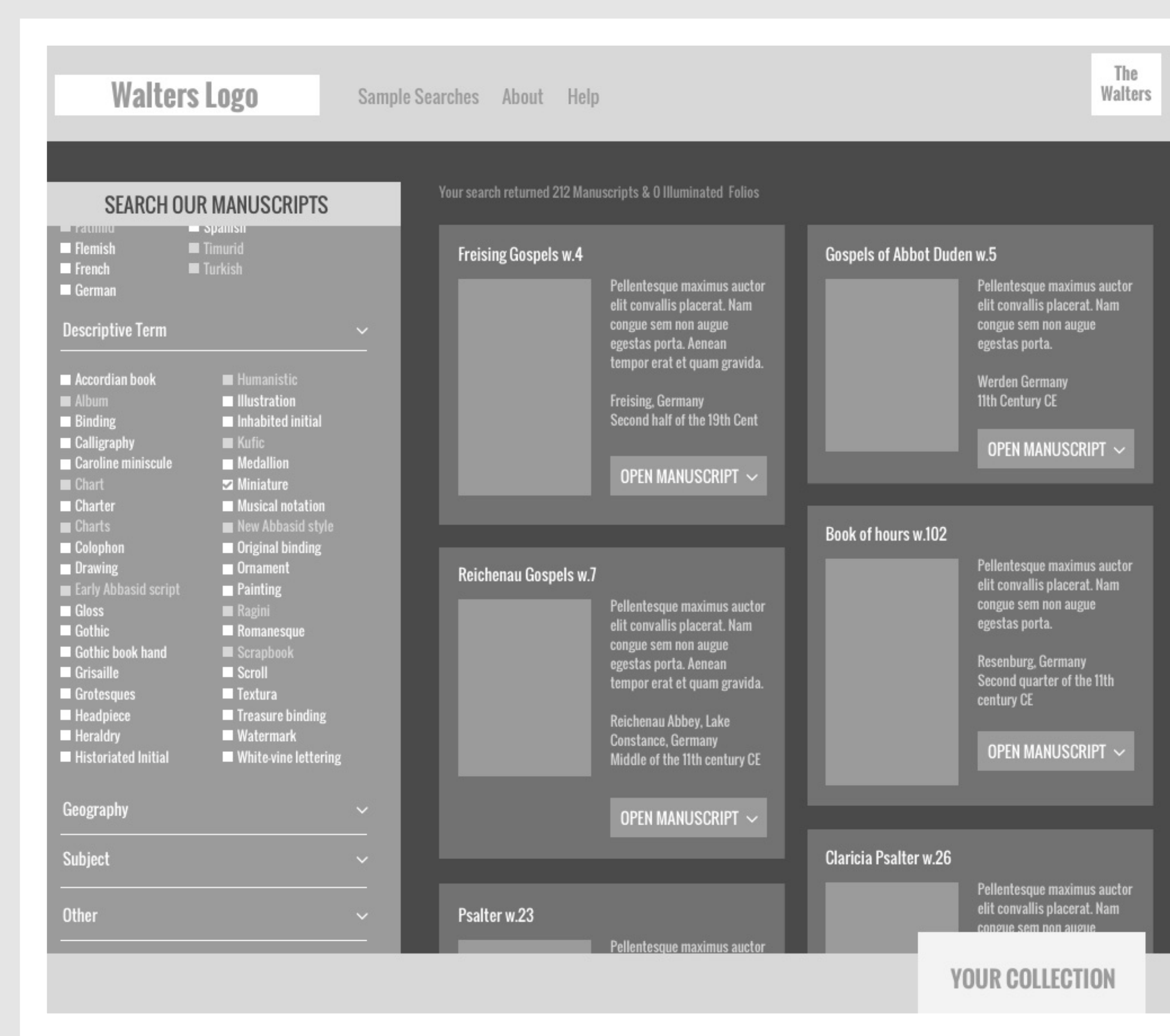
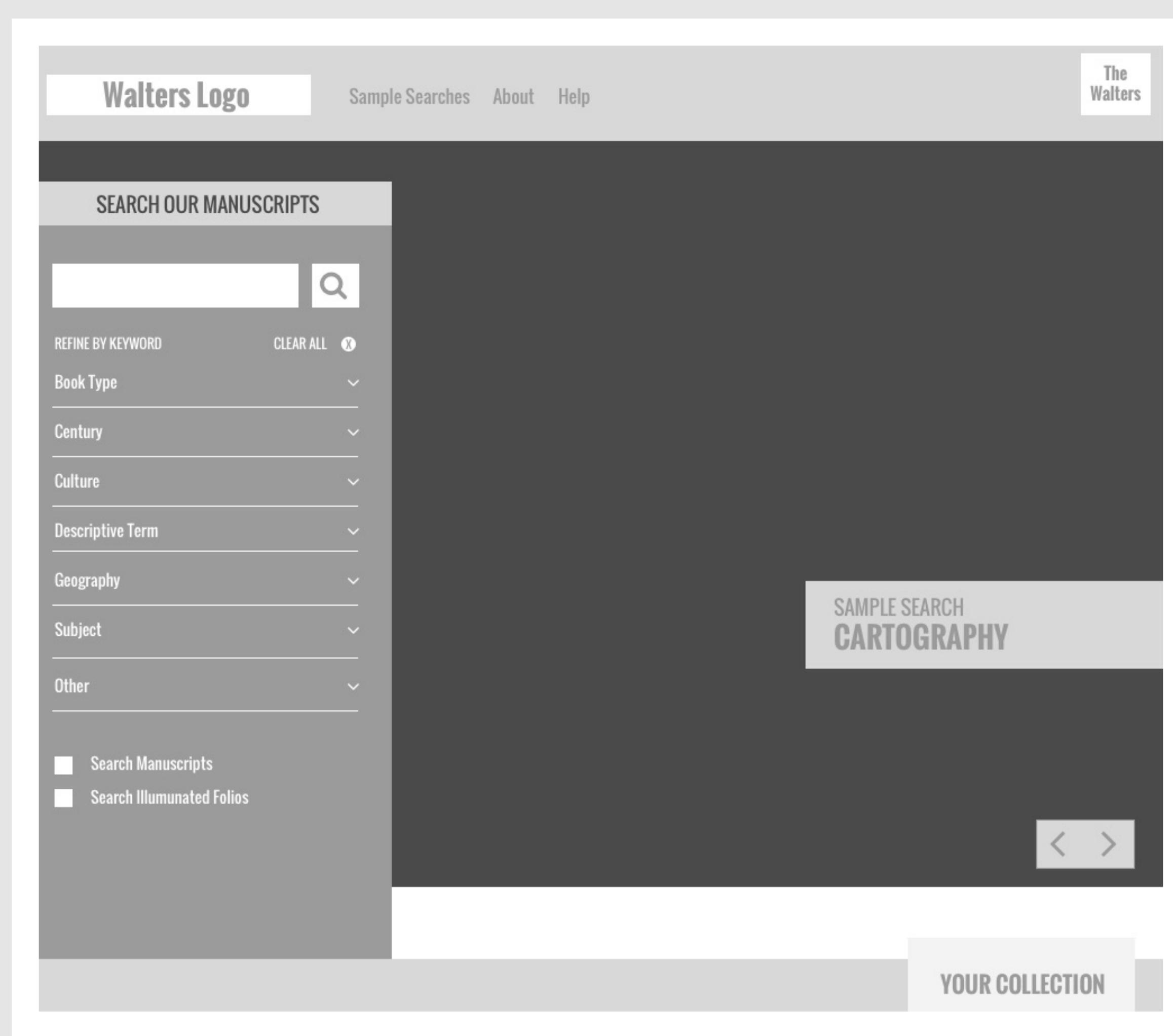
- Manuscript oddities, like fold-outs, missing pages, bookmarks, flyleaves, locks



- Inconsistent chapter parsing to chapter titles / contents
- Inconsistent page identifications

9

Byte builds wireframed keyword, search and manuscript viewer interfaces, solves UX problems and inconsistencies



10

Based on data and architecture, Byte adds ability for users to pull manuscripts and folios into virtual personal collection, and ability to share users collections



11

The Walters + Byte tests technical issues, re-importing data, user testing, dragon slaying, beta



ART
THE
WALTERS
MUSEUM

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