

## Analyzing Common Medieval Scripts

This poster presentation will detail research conducted from Summer 2025 to Fall 2025 on identifying features of, and differences between, medieval scripts using manuscripts housed in Furman's Special Collections as case studies. The research project was completed in two parts. Phase 1 in Summer 2025 focused on identifying scripts used for specific manuscripts in the collection and cataloguing basic descriptive manuscript information. Phase 2 in Fall 2025 focused on crafting character sets for those scripts to examine how features differ across documents as well as creating transcriptions for each manuscript alongside paleographic commentary. Research findings have been uploaded to the website: the Furman Manuscripts Lab (Kim and Larson 2024) as part of the 2025 website installment. This research project was undertaken for several reasons. Understanding the differences between scripts is important for dating manuscripts, placing them geographically, and estimating their value. Essentially, knowing the script helps to identify what kind of document one is working with. By housing these findings all in one place alongside examples with detailed explanations of general manuscript tendencies, this installment to the Furman Manuscripts Lab provides convenient, detailed reference material on medieval scripts for future scholars.

The poster will list the different methods that were employed to identify scripts. Methods included: cross-referencing manuscripts with proven scripts, finding and examining letter shapes unique to a particular script, and inspecting other features of the manuscript such as illustrations and folio headings to determine the manuscript's purpose. This poster will also include brief descriptions of the top five scripts used within the 35 manuscripts studied: Textura Quadrata, Textura Rotunda, Carolingian Minuscule, Humanist Minuscule, and Romanesque alongside cited

image examples. Finally, this poster will provide a QR code for viewers to scan that will take them to the Furman Manuscripts Lab where they can view further examples, descriptions, and whatever other website features that are of interest at their leisure.

### Bibliography

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