Introducing a new tool for researching and teaching charters
A free workshop at the Institute of Historical Research, London
20 July 2016, 11am – 3pm

The People of Medieval Scotland 1093–1314 database (PoMS) (www.poms.ac.uk) is not only a resource for Scottish historians. It includes information from over 5300 charters (broadly defined), which means that anyone seeking to explore the potential of this kind of source material for their research can do so quickly through PoMS, and then apply these insights to a different but comparable corpus of charters. This is possible because PoMS provides information in a structured way about individuals and their interactions exactly as this is reflected in the documents, paying close attention to their form and essential features. Not only can research that could take months be accomplished in minutes, but sophisticated queries can be tested. PoMS also includes innovative ways of visualising results through maps and sociograms.

Potential topics that could be explored in less than an hour are the role of aristocratic women in landholding, types of renders associated with hereditary tenure, the rise of a self-conscious knightly class, the use of charters, the growing significance of coinage, the employment of university graduates, patterns of patronage and networks of laity associated with monasteries. All questions can be pursued both chronologically and geographically.

This workshop will introduce the database through explanations and hands-on practical activities. The workshop is **free of charge** with lunch provided. **Please bring a laptop**.

The workshop will be led by some of those who have designed and used PoMS:
Dauvit Broun, Matthew Hammond and Joanna Tucker from the University of Glasgow, and John Bradley and Alice Taylor from KLC.

Programme
11.00: Welcome: setting the scene

11.15: Introduction to PoMS
　　　Explaining the sources and structure of the database from a user's perspective

11.45: Exploring the database
　　　Introductory activities for participants (please bring a **laptop** if possible)

12.45: Lunch and discussion
　　　Reflecting on the initial experience of using PoMS and its potential for research and teaching

13.45: PoMS and Social Network Analysis
　　　Introduction to the SNA visualisations and information on PoMS

14.30: Discussion
　　　What are the strengths and weaknesses of PoMS?

If you wish to attend, please enrol at
http://store.london.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=1&modid=5&deptid=178&catid=20&prodid=1038