

A DIGITAL LIBRARY REVIEW

Metadata

- Metadata is not embedded in the image files but stored separately in loosely related HTML pages
- Metadata content is largely drawn from external documentation, non-standardised and inconsistent in level of description
- Metadata is not exposed for harvesting, and cannot be exposed under the current structure

Copyright & Intellectual Property

- Digital Libraries and Copyright: inexorably linked
- Provision of access to copyrighted material online = increased volume of access + increased need for clear copyright and intellectual property info

Access

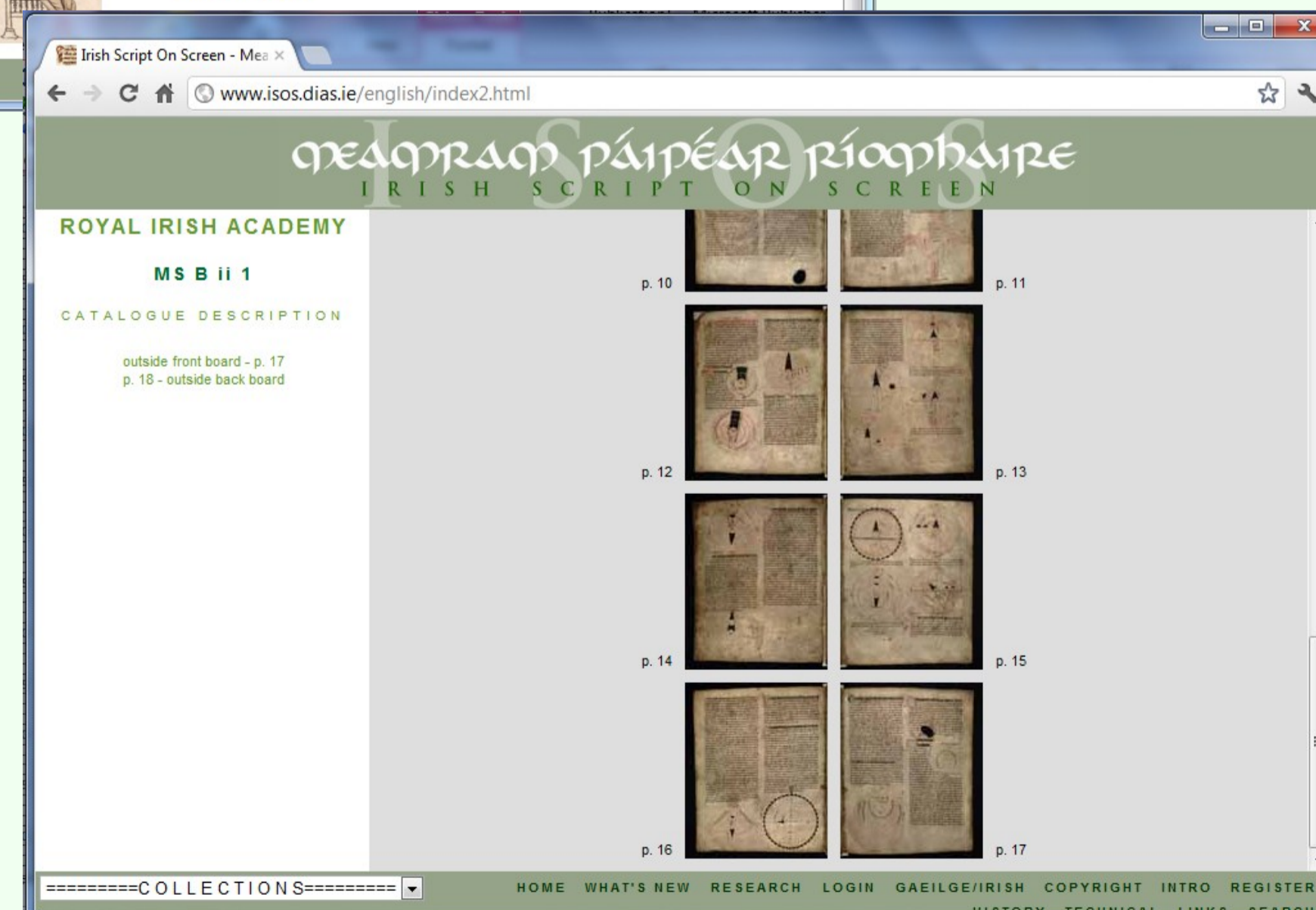
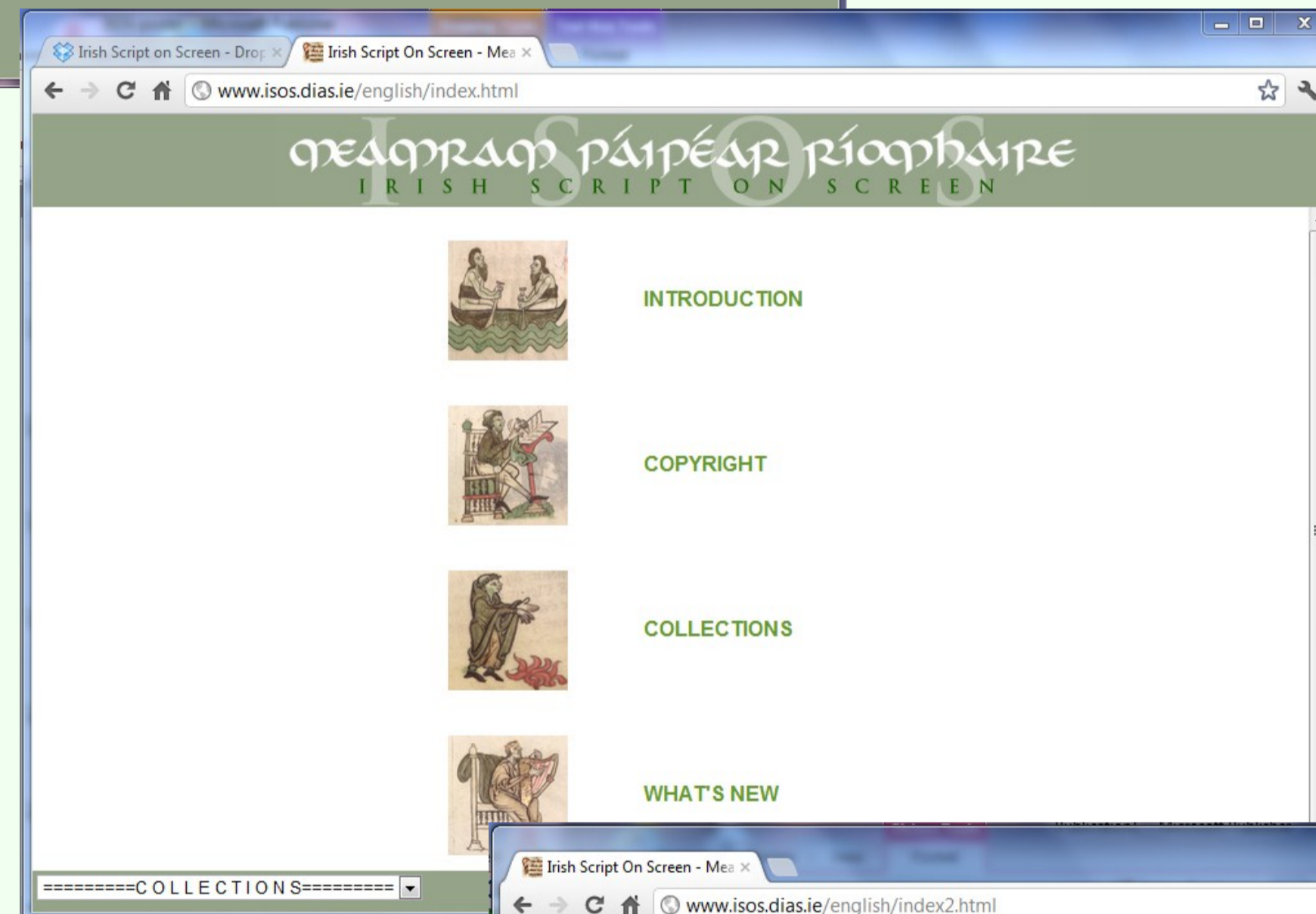
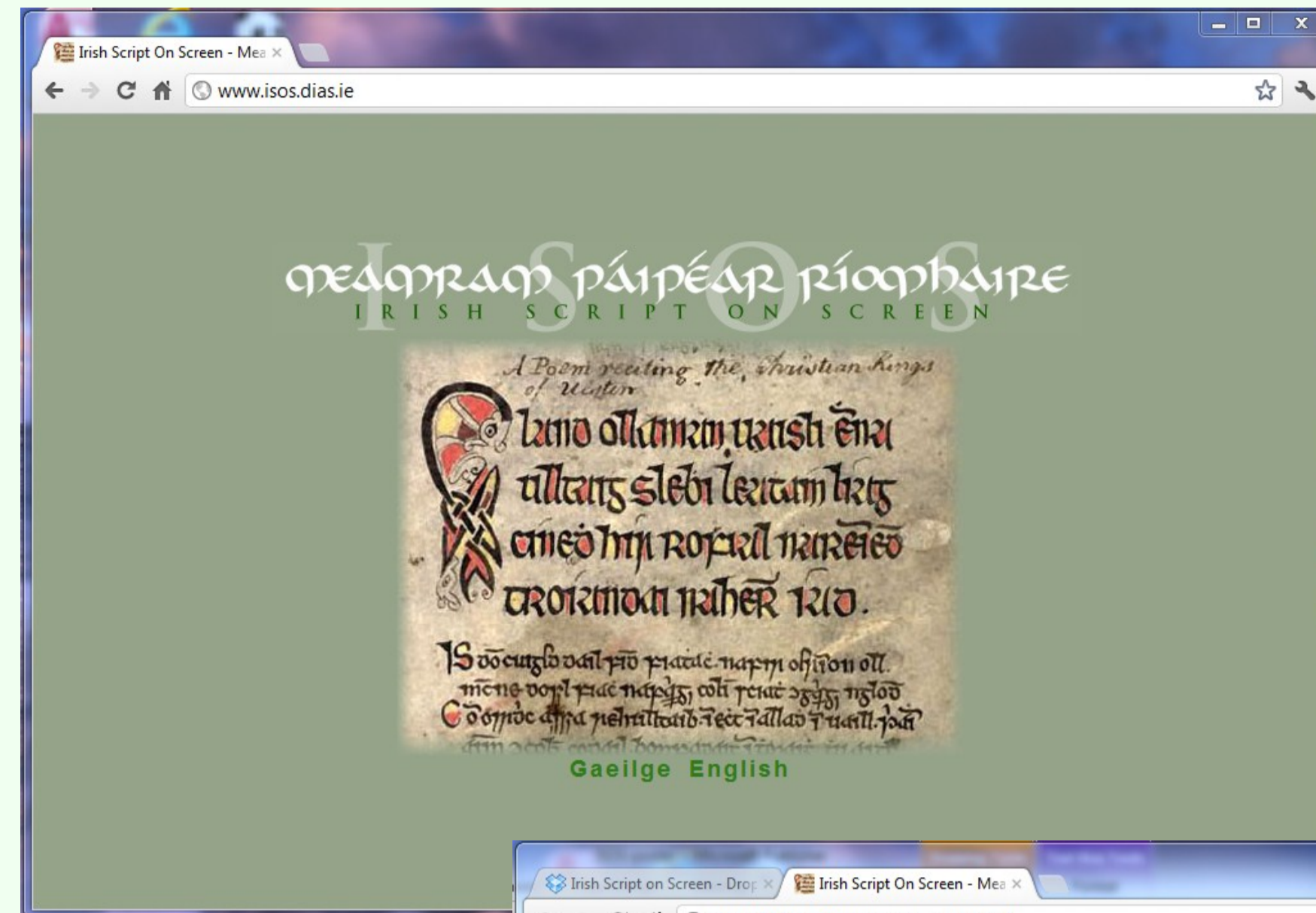
- There is a two tiered delivery system with regard to image access
- The lower tier gives access to images of smaller file size, designed for everyday use
- Registration to upper tier is done by post
- Those who register to the upper tier have access to larger, more detailed manuscript images
- Upper tier of access is almost exclusively used by the scholarly Community

Bi-Lingual Access

- The main objective of the project was to provide the public with free access to Ireland's philological heritage. In order accomplish this the website is available in Irish and English.



Detail from *The Conquest of Ireland* by Giraldus Cambrensis at the National Library of Ireland; written circa 1200.



Interface & Search Design

- Interface design encompasses three distinct, but related constructs: usability, visualization, and functionality, and more recently, accessibility
- Site load speed is quick; the opening page is clear and concise with links to various parts of the website
- Visualisation is what drives the ISOS
- The use of frames in the design of the website is problematic
- Metadata is not attached to the images meaning that additional information on that image is not available
- The search engine used is Google Custom Search

Funding

- Since 2004 ISOS funded completely by DIAS via annual grants from state
- Prior to 2004 was funded under Prof Alan Smeaton of DCU. ISOS was considered a joint project between DIAS and DCU at this point.
- Received funding assistance from Irish Heritage Council in 2003. Museum and Archives Committee assessed that it was a notable project since they only fund those that have "great research benefits, and contributes to projects demonstrating improved information technology and communication systems for collection-based institutions and agencies"



Detail from *The Conquest of Ireland* by Giraldus Cambrensis at the National Library of Ireland; written circa 1200.

Outreach to User Communities

- One aim of the project is to serve research communities
- Registration allows access to high resolution images for use by these research communities
- There is a plan on developing a schools compartment within the website

Collaboration & Integration

- The project was founded on the principle of partnership and collaboration.
- The 3 main repositories that entered contractual collaborations with DIAS were Trinity College Dublin, the Royal Irish Academy, and the National Library of Ireland.
- DIAS entered a partnership with DCU's School of Computing which existed from 1998 to 2003. DIAS focused their efforts on creating the digital images and their descriptions. DCU dealt with the processing, display and storage of these images.
- Buoyed by their success, ISOS entered contractual collaborations with international repositories, such as the National Library of Scotland and 3 Australian institutions.

Digital Preservation

- ISOS does not have any information about digital preservation on its website
- The main issues for digital preservation would be funding and copyright issues

IS40560 Digital Libraries

UCD, April 2012

Eoghan Barry, Elaine Chapman,
Marianne Hennessy, Patrick Keegan,
Steve Lambe, Sarah Nolan, Anita Ni Nuallain.