The purpose of the NEUMES Project is to design and build a software infrastructure for digital transcription and description of medieval chant manuscripts. The goal is a uniform means by which the content of manuscripts can be viewed, searched, and analyzed by computer.

Website = http://purl.oclc.org/SCRIBE/NEUMES/

"Digital transcription" of a chant manuscript involves representing the manuscript's symbols as data that can be processed by computers. NEUMES is a data representation developed by the NEUMES Project for digital transcription of medieval chant manuscripts to a lossless data format. Descriptive details about the manuscript sources and their contents are encoded along with the neumatic symbols and text in an XML "wrapper."

The fundamental constituents of NEUMES data are: (a) the Latin chant text; and (b) melodic motion of the chant. For example, the text and notation for the beginning of this Gradual verse, "Dextera domini," are encoded as follows:

```
<neumed_syllable><syllable>Dex</syllable><neume>&STA;&tractulus;&ton_a;&no_preced;&END;</neume></neumed_syllable>
<neumed_syllable><syllable>te</syllable><neume>&STA;&virga;&ton_c;&up_m3;&END;</neume></neumed_syllable>
<neumed_syllable><syllable>ra</syllable><neume>&STA;&pes;&ton_d;&up_M2;&LIG;&ton_e;&up_M2;&END;</neume></neumed_syllable>
```

The ampersand ("&") and semicolon (";") in these codes are for "escape" and "end-escape," respectively. Their purpose is to differentiate the mnemonic codes from a literal reading. For example, "&punctum;" means the punctum symbol, but "punctum" just means the word "punctum."

The "NEUMES Transcription Primer," a guide to the transcription of chants, is available at: http://purl.oclc.org/SCRIBE/NEUMES/help/Transcription_Primer_Western.htm

The NEUMES Project is headquartered at the University of Oxford and is comprised of an international group of chant scholars and computer scientists.