The SDBM captures manuscript descriptions as described in various sources, and connects descriptions about the same manuscript together to create a history of that manuscript’s transmission across time.
The SDBM isn’t really a database of manuscripts, it’s a database of **observations** about manuscripts, e.g.: catalogs from auctions, booksellers, and private collections; census and inventory data; personal observations from users.
The SDBM gathers data from various sources that describe manuscripts
The SDBM **DOES NOT** own any manuscripts.

The SDBM **DOES NOT** make any objective claims about the reality of a manuscript’s descriptive characteristics or provenance history. The SDBM reflects what its **Sources** record about the manuscripts.
SDBM Data Model

- The SDBM is composed of three main entities: **Sources**, **Entries**, and **Manuscript Records**.
- **Entries** are observations of manuscripts derived from **Sources**.
- **Entries** that describe the same manuscript are linked together via a **Manuscript Record**.
Basic SDBM Data Model
Source

• Information resource about manuscripts:
  – Auction/Sale Catalogs
  – Private Collection Catalogs
  – Online-only Auction and Bookseller Websites
  – Other Published Sources
  – Unpublished Sources
  – Personal Observations
Sources, cont.

• Each Source in the SDBM has its own ID number.
• Each Source has an About page that includes its description and links to every entry derived from it in the database.
• Click on any SDBM_SOURCE_ID number while in the database to go to that source’s About page.
Entry

• An entry is a observation about a single manuscript as described in a Source
• An entry repeats verbatim the information recorded in its Source
• Each entry has its own SDBM_ID number
• Entries about the same manuscript can be linked together. These links are what make up a Manuscript Record
Manuscript Record

• **Entries** that describe the same manuscript are linked together via the **Manuscript Record**

• The **Manuscript Record** displays a composite provenance list derived from the linked entries. From here, you can determine current location and provenance, create your own **Personal Observation**, or leave a comment about the manuscript.

• Click on an SDBM_MS_ID number in the database to open that **Manuscript Record**
Additional Resources

• From the **Help** menu:
  – FAQ
  – User Manual PDF
  – Video Tutorials
  – Questions or comments? Email us at **sdbm@upenn.edu**