Medievalists’ use of digital resources and the development of MESA
1. Medievalists’ use of digital resources
Interest in digital medieval studies over time

- Programs from International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI)
- 857 individual events (papers, sessions, workshops, poster sessions) from 1971-2012
- Growth in number of digital papers, sessions, workshops over the years (broadly defined)
- Inconsistent growth:
  - % of sessions with digital components
  - Ratio of individual digital components to number of sessions containing digital components
Trends over time

• 1970s – wide variance from year-to-year
  – Strong start: 4.3% (3 sessions) in 1971
  – 0 papers in 1975
Trends over time
Trends over time

- 1980s – Fewer sessions in total, fewer components per session
  - Around 2% each year
  - Ratio above 0.5 each year (four years 0.667, one year 0.8)
Trends over time
1990s: Number of digital sessions grows along with the conference
- Between 1-2% every year except 1998, 3.76%
- Ratio below 0.5 all years but 1992 and 1997
Trends over time

• 2000s: Number of digital sessions grows faster than the conference
  – Percentage closer to 3.5-4% every year
  – Ratio above 0.5 all years but 2002
Spread for 2002-2012

- **Percentage of sessions with digital components**
  - 1.28% (2003) to 4.39% (2009)
  - 2012: 4.36%

- **Ratio of individual digital components to number of sessions containing digital components**
  - 0.449 (2011) – 22 sessions, 49 components
  - 0.758 (2012) – 25 sessions, 33 components
130 projects with keyword “medieval” (last updated 9/2011)

Content Type

- Text: 84
- Dataset / structured data: 75
- Still image/graphics: 55
- Spatial: 11
- 3-D objects: 6
- Sound: 5 (music and recordings of readings)
Disciplines

- History: 73
- Archaeology: 26
- Modern languages: 22
- English literature and language: 20
- Architecture: history theory & practice: 20
- Theology, Divinity and Religious Studies: 14
- Linguistics: 13
- Librarianship, Information & Museum Studies: 12
- Classics & ancient history: 9
- Law: 9
- Visual arts: 5
- Music: 4
- Community arts: 4
- Design: 3
- Philosophy: 2
- Drama & theater studies: 1

http://www.castlesandmanorhouses.com/catharcastles/120710_puivert.htm
http://www.cincinnatierlymusic.com/medieval_lute.html
http://home.earthlink.net/~curtis_c_bouterse/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderpictures/blad
Medievalists’ Use of Digital Resources

- Surveys of medievalists, 2002 and 2011
  - 2002: 92 selected faculty (US), 46.7% return rate
  - 2011: Closed and open
    - 100 selected faculty (US), 27% return rate
    - Released online, distributed via listservs, 142 responses
- Comparing 2002 and combined 2011 findings
Medievalists’ Use of Digital Resources

- Questions about: Journals, Books (2011 only), Glossaries/Dictionaries, Translations, Editions, Facsimiles, Documentary Transcriptions, Microfilm, Primary Source Materials
Glossaries

[Bar chart showing usage percentages for different categories: E. only, E. mostly, E. & P., P. mostly, P. only, Not Use. The chart compares data from 2002 and 2011.]
(I use print) “Most of the time. My notes and glosses have accumulated over the years in the print editions. Furthermore, most e-book readers are still pretty clunky.”

“The most up to date scholarly editions are ONLY available in print”

“Electronic versions of the scholarly editions are rarely available for the texts I use.”

“To search full text in EEBO & PLD.”

(I use digital) “If it is available and reliable”
“I often rely on online sources for older editions, especially pre-1900. Despite how slow online interfaces operate, it is still less hassle than frequently paging materials in rare books rooms.”

“If I needed to peruse what's out there through Google books.”

“easy to use, reference through Google Books”

“Only if the print edition is difficult of access (e.g. not held by my library). Even then, if I am using it extensively, I will obtain a print copy through interlibrary loan. Chances are that if electronic versions of the older editions exist, they appear in Google Books or something like that and the reproduction is sometimes faulty.”
This is a digital edition

PRIMUM OMNIVM. OPORTET NOS

memorari fratres carissimi et recitare de diei nascendi nostri.

caeli ac terrae conditores et omnium quae in eis sunt

num in personis credere debemus. Alia est enim per

Alia filii; Alia spiritus sancti; Et unum in majestate, et in potestate

et divinitate confiteri. Deus est enim pater, deus filius, deus et spiritus sanctus.

Non tres tenem deprimitus. sed unum deum dicimus. et fatemur.

Quia in hac trinitate nihil praeus aut posterius; Nihil minus

aut minus; sed tota tres personae, coeterae sibi sunt. et coaequales.

Quia in hac trinitate nihil praeus aut posterius; Nihil minus
prolecture1ComparisonSet

Shared by: Jeffrey Witt

vatttranscript_prolecture1.xml

Lectio 1, Prologus

[Quaestio: utrum in causa Judiciae fidei contra traditionem pure humanitatem adinventam idex idoneus eret pro fide sententiam]

Circa prologum Sententiarum in quo Magister dicit quod intentionis suae est "munire turrim Davidicam vel potius munire ostendere" etc. Quare istam quaestionem: Utrum in causa judiciae fidei contra traditionem pure humanitatem idex idoneus eret pro fide sententiam.

[Conclusio]

Et inprimis protestatur fides quod non subicitur humano ludicio, et haec est una conclusio. Patet quia fides est donum Dei supernaturale et est de illis de quibus Iacobum Apostolus dicit: "omne datum optimum et omne donum perfectum desumur est descendens a Patre lumine." Et fundavit haec conclusio prima per diversa media. Unde nisi conclusio ista esset vera, sequeretur quod quisque credere articulis fidei sine fide, hoc autem est falsum ergo etc. Item praevis Petri dicit quod "Spiritu Sancto repleti locuti sunt sancti Dei homines" et Hieronymus cuia "ex spiritualis est idea revelatione indigat." Et in Psalmio "revela ocious et considerabo mirabilia de lega tua."

[Difficultates circa fidei]

Sed hic occurunt arduae difficultates; et primo consideranda est descriptione fidei quam ponit Apostolus, scilicet, "fides est substantia rerum sperandarum, argumentum non apparentium." Ubi secundum Alstediodoresis, in principio suae Summae et Guilelum Parisiensis tractatu suo De fide et legis sit una comparatio fidei, respectu credendorum, et cartas, respectu amandorum; unde imaginatur quod sicut cartas diriget hominem ad diligendam Deum propter se, ita proportionaliter fides inclinat intellectum ad credendum urius verum patrociner se et super omnia sine alia apparentia. Ideo fides est argumentum, et non est consequens nec conclusio. Ideo sicut inquit Guilelum Alstediodoresis "a quorum hanc dictum est quod cadit..."
In the age of Google Books, what is a “digital edition” or an “electronic edition”?
“Digital scholarly editions are not just scholarly editions in digital media. I distinguish between digital and digitized. A digitized print edition is not a "digital edition" in the strict sense used here. A digital edition can not be printed without a loss of information and/or functionality. The digital edition is guided by a different paradigm. If the paradigm of an edition is limited to the two-dimensional space of the "page" and to typographic means of information representation, than it's not a digital edition.”

Patrick Sahle, “About” Scholarly Digital Editions. An Annotated List
http://www.uni-koeln.de/~ahz26/vlet/vlet-about.html
Can the social edition save digital scholarly editions?
1. Medievalists’ use of digital resources

- Medieval studies: broad field consisting of many disciplines
- Relatively consistent, although slow, growth of interest in the digital represented in conference papers
- Rapid growth in reported use of specific types of electronic resources (e.g. journals, facsimiles)
- Uncertainty in definitions of types of digital resources (e.g. editions)
2. The Development of MESA

- Medieval Electronic Scholarly Alliance
MESA Steering Committee

- Dot Porter, co-chair (Bloomington, IN, USA)
- Timothy Stinson, co-chair (Raleigh, NC, USA)
- James Cummings (Oxford, UK)
- Christoph Flüeler (Fribourg, Switzerland)
- Will Noel (Philadelphia, PA, USA)
- Dan O’Donnell (Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada)
- Lynn Ransom (Philadelphia, PA, USA)
- Peter Robinson (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada)
- Torsten Schaßan (Wolfenbüttel, Germany)
- Stephen Shepherd (Los Angeles, CA, USA)
Focus on two needs of the community

- Provide aggregated searching of digital objects and projects in the field of medieval studies
- Provide or facilitate peer review of those projects when needed
About

Collex is a set of tools designed to aid students and scholars working in networked archives and federated repositories of humanities materials: a sophisticated COLLECTIONs and EXHibits mechanism for the semantic web.

Collex allows users to collect, annotate, and tag online objects and to repurpose them in illustrated, interlinked essays or exhibits. It functions within any modern web browser without recourse to plugins or downloads and is fully networked as a server-side application. By saving information about user activity (the construction of annotated collections and exhibits) as “remixable” metadata, the Collex system writes current practice into the scholarly record and permits knowledge discovery based not only on the...
Advanced Research Consortium (ARC)
W.794, SINGLE LEAF OF A PORTUGUESE GUARD HOLDING A DOUBLE-POINTED LANCE

ABSTRACT
This Mughal drawing with highlights of color is attributable to the early eleventh century AH / seventeenth CE. It appears to have been based on a European print. The back is an unsigned and undated calligraphy page written in nasta’liq script.

Manuscript Description (in a new window) | TEI (XML format)

1. fol. W.794a

- W794_000001_1061.tif
  Size: 202.1 KB (216,812,288 bytes)
### 2 RDF Specification

#### 2.1 Element Definitions

- **2.1.1 `<rdf:RDF>`**
- **2.1.2 `<custom_namespace rdf:about="value">`**
- **2.1.3 `<collex:archive>`**
- **2.1.4 `<dc.title>`**
- **2.1.5 `<dcterms:alternative>`**
- **2.1.6 `<dc.source>`**
- **2.1.7 `<dc:subject>`**
- **2.1.8 `<role:***>`**
- **2.1.9 `<collex:genre>`**
- **2.1.10 `<dc.date>`**
- **2.1.11 `<collex:date>`**
- **2.1.12 `<rdfs:label>`**
- **2.1.13 `<rdf:value>`**
- **2.1.14 `<collex:freeculture>`**
- **2.1.15 `<collex:source_xml>`**
- **2.1.16 `<collex:source_html>`**
- **2.1.17 `<collex:source_sgm>`**
- **2.1.18 `<rdfs:seeAlso rdf:resource="">`**
- **2.1.19 `<collex:text>`**
- **2.1.20 `<collex:image rdf:resource="">`**
- **2.1.21 `<collex:thumbnail rdf:resource="">`**
- **2.1.22 `<dcterms:hasPart rdf:resource="">`**
- **2.1.23 `<dcterms:isPartOf rdf:resource="">`**
- **2.1.24 `<dc:relation rdf:resource="">`**
- **2.1.25 `<collex:federation>`**
- **2.1.26 `<collex:ocr>`**
- **2.1.27 `<collex:fulltext>`**
- **2.1.28 `<dc:language>`**

3 Testing, Troubleshooting, and Submitting RDF

4 The Importance of Being Stable
Open review + editorial board
Medieval studies: broad field consisting of many disciplines
Relatively consistent, although slow, growth of interest in the digital represented in conference papers
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Uncertainty in definitions of types of digital resources (e.g. editions)
Questions?

MESA Blog:
http://www.dlib.indiana.edu/projects/mesa/

ARC wiki:
http://wiki.collex.org/index.php/

Collex website:
http://www.collex.org