

Web Reviews

by Donald M. Vorp

Online Critical Pseudepigrapha

<http://www.purl.org/net/ocp>

The Online Critical Pseudepigrapha site was launched in 2004 under a grant from King's University College at the University of Western Ontario and is currently sponsored by King's, Tyndale Seminary, and Acadia Divinity College under the management of three Project Directors and General Editors and a three-person Project Review Board. The site, which moved to its persistent URL address (PURL) in the spring of 2006, has subsequently been adopted by the Society of Biblical Literature as one of its electronic publications and is characterized by the Society as "the best online resource for critical pseudepigrapha texts."

This is one of those rich, well-organized, value-added sites directed toward serious scholarship. It provides documents in their original and sometimes multiple languages that have been digitized, collated, and tagged in XML and presented along with a description of the textual history of the documents, bibliography, online aids, and, in some cases, a new eclectic text for the document (a process outlined under "Getting Involved in the Project"). There is an interestingly designed open-source user interface called Grammateus that allows textual variants to be consulted along with the text of a given manuscript. Verse divisions appear in red and give a nice sense of movement in the text.

The layout of the homepage gives clear focus to navigation with "Documents" centrally featured as the page opens. The "Copyright and Permissions" heading reminds users early on that Canadian copyright law is applicable.

This is a site that can be recommended.

Online Medieval Sources Bibliography

<http://medievalsourcesbibliography.org/index.html>

The Online Medieval Sources Bibliography is a compelling web site rendering invaluable assistance to students and specialists in medieval studies. The site, hosted by Fordham University and edited by the Director of its Center for Medieval Studies, Maryanne Kowaleski, assisted by a number of contributors, is well organized and easy to navigate. A detailed search form accompanied by clear documentation enables users to find their way through an extensive bibliographic database of authors and texts ranging from literary, philosophical, and religious works to chronicles, church records, and court proceedings—a widely diverse collection of documents that include Christian, Islamic, and Jewish medieval sources running roughly from 300 to 1500.

Guided searching of the database is assisted by a list of medieval authors; a guide to record types and to subject headings; drop-down menu choices for language, country, record type, and subject heading; and the option of searching only for online sources or for facsimiles.

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An online “Codebook” provides information on the contents and guidelines used for the entry of data into the fields of the database. A “Contents” section contains a very helpful list of the series and the publishers whose texts have been entered into the database. This section also lists selection criteria and problems of sources related specifically to French, Irish, and online sources, the latter of which lists the web sites drawn on for primary sources in the database. Annotated records in the database include information on the contents and the genre. Where an online resource exists, the record contains a hyperlink to that source.

This is a site of extraordinary instructive value.

