Paleography Resources: Websites

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**English Handwriting 1500-1700**

- The best site, including lessons, transcription conventions, model transcriptions etc.:
  [http://www.english.cam.ac.uk/ceres/ehoc/index.html](http://www.english.cam.ac.uk/ceres/ehoc/index.html)

  It also has a useful range of manuscripts:
  [http://www.english.cam.ac.uk/ceres/ehoc/manuscripts.html](http://www.english.cam.ac.uk/ceres/ehoc/manuscripts.html)

- 320 17th and 18th century poems from mss. at the Leeds Verse Database:
  [http://www.leeds.ac.uk/library/spcoll/bcmsv/intro.htm](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/library/spcoll/bcmsv/intro.htm)

  Most of the mss. are relatively easy to read, but many show the continuing importance of the secretary alphabet in mixed hands

- The National Archives (formerly the Public Record Office) (UK) has excellent tutorials (and a game!) on a variety of hands:
  [http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography/tutorial/default.htm](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography/tutorial/default.htm)

- For Scottish handwriting:
  [http://www.scottishhandwriting.com/1hour.asp](http://www.scottishhandwriting.com/1hour.asp)

- An excellent site for learning how to transcribe documents:

  If you click on e.g. “Start Reading 1” on the above site, and click on the top right button, the image is magnified and every word you click on will be transcribed.

- University of Nottingham Manuscripts and Special Collections, Introduction to Skills
  [http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/mss/learning/skills/index.phtml](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/mss/learning/skills/index.phtml)

  Useful for understanding archival material, dates, weights, measures

- Literary Manuscript Analysis:
  [http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/ren/projects/publications/lima/](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/ren/projects/publications/lima/)

  Useful terminology lists
Manuscript Databases/Catalogues

- The Digital Scriptorium:
  http://scriptorium.columbia.edu/

- British Library:
  http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/illuminatedmanuscripts
  http://molcat.bl.uk/msscat/INDEX.asp

- A2A (Access to Archives)
  http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/

  Huge database containing items from 390 record offices and other repositories, searchable by keyword, date, repository and region

- Pecia (blog):
  http://pecia.tooblog.fr/

- Schoenberg Center for Electronic Text and Image (SCETI); includes the Lawrence J. Schoenberg Collection of Manuscripts:
  http://dewey.library.upenn.edu/sceti/ljscollection/index.cfm

  You can also search SCETI for mss. by going to
  http://dewey.library.upenn.edu/sceti/advancedsearch.cfm

  Click on “Manuscript” under “Format” and limit by period as relevant.

  For a 1541 English manuscript on how to make the calculations for an almanac, see:
  http://dewey.library.upenn.edu/sceti/ljs/PageLevel/index.cfm?ManID=ljs188&page=1

  For a good example of secretary hand, see the 1578 English ms. of William Bourne’s
  Inventions or Devices at
  http://dewey.library.upenn.edu/sceti/ljs/PageLevel/index.cfm?ManID=ljs345&Page=11

- Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris (click on “des manuscrits enluminés de la BnF
  (Département des Manuscrits) ainsi que des livres illustrés de la Réserve des livres rares”):
  http://gallica.bnf.fr/

- Codices Electronici:
  http://www.ceec.uni-koeln.de/

- Early Manuscripts at Oxford University:
  http://image.ox.ac.uk/

- Manuscripts at St. Gallen, Switzerland:
  http://www.cesg.unifr.ch/de/index.htm
• The Burnet Psalter (with complete translation, bibliographical and codicological information):
  http://www.abdn.ac.uk/diss/historic/collects/bps/index.html

• University of Houston O’Quinn Law Library English Legal Manuscripts:
  http://aalt.law.uh.edu/IndexPri.html

Medieval Databases

• Liturgical Texts:
  http://www.cursus.uea.ac.uk/search

• The Liturgy and Its Books:
  http://www.columbia.edu/itc/music/manuscripts/liturgy.html

• The Making of Medieval Books:
  http://www.ceu.hu/medstud/manual/MMM/

• Medieval Music Database:
  Search for, e.g. “Beatus vir” (the beginning of Psalm 1)

Help with Latin

• Latin Vulgate Bible, used in Catholic Church, with Catholic translation into English:
  http://www.latinvulgate.com/

• Hypertext Latin/English Book of Hours, Psalter, and Calendar of Saints Days:
  http://medievalist.net/search.htm

Jewish Books

• The Center for Advanced Judaic Studies website gives some idea of the wealth of Jewish biblical material in Philadelphia (the first specifically on exegesis):
  http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/cajs/revealed/revealed-med.html
  http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/cajs/fellows06/cajs2006.html
Textual Studies 1500-1800

- Textual Studies blog:
  http://textualstudies.blogspot.com/

  Up to date and with excellent links to other sites.

- Bibliopolis

  A Dutch website with excellent images relating to books, reading, writing etc. Choose the English version, and click on "Images." Search for "Any word" (at the top of the page): e.g. printing, book shops, paper, slate, read, reading habits, reading instructions etc. You can sort your queries by year.

  N.B. It may seem as if nothing has happened in your search. Just scroll down the page! The top remains the same, with the information and images below.

  [For an excellent collection of images, see Sigfred Taubert, Bibliopola. The second volume is essentially a collection of plates.]