Center for Research Libraries: Medieval Resources

March 9, 2011
The Center for Research Libraries

250 academic and independent research libraries

A shared collection of 5 million books, journals, archives, documents, and newspapers

Communities of interest identifying and sharing information about critical and at-risk source materials
Mary Wilke
Center for Research Libraries

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Susan Steuer
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University of Victoria
Agenda

- Survey Results – Mary Wilke
- New Topic Guide: Medieval Studies – Mary Wilke
- Introduction to Primary Sources in Medieval Studies – Jane Marie Pinzino
- Primary Sources in Medieval Studies – Susan Steuer
- Medieval Manuscripts at the University of Victoria – Danielle Forster
- CRL Collection Programs – Mary Wilke
- Open Discussion
Medieval Studies at CRL
Survey Results

What countries or geographic area(s) are you interested in? Check all that apply.

- England
- France
- Germany
- Ireland
- Italy
- Netherlands
- Scotland
- Spain
- Northern Africa
- Middle East
- All Other Responses
Survey Results

What centuries and eras do you focus upon? Check all that apply.

- High Middle Ages
- Late Middle Ages
- Early Middle Ages
- 1200-1300 CE
- 1300-1400 CE
- 1100-1200 CE
- 1400-1500 CE
- 1500-1600 CE
- 1000-1100 CE
- Late Antiquity
- All Other Responses
Survey Results

What area of medieval studies do you focus upon? Check all that apply.

- Religious History
- History of the Book
- Secular Literature
- Social History
- Rare Books and Manuscripts
- Philosophy/Intellectual History
- Gender Studies
- Ecclesiastical History
- Art and Architecture
- Political History
- All Other Responses
Survey Results

What genre of texts serve as your primary sources? Check all that apply. If you do not see your genre use the next question to specify.
Survey Results

For contemporary scholarship, the languages most used by those who answered are: English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish.
Survey Results

What types of resources are you most interested in?

- Academic works
- Census and tax roll records
- Charters
- Church Records
- Deeds and wills
- Correspondence
- Literary manuscripts
- Illuminated manuscripts
- Liturgical works
- Incunabula
- All Other Responses
Overview

The Middle Ages, or the medieval period, generally refers to the era 400 to 1500 C.E. in western Europe and the British Isles. These territories formed the Holy Roman Empire, when Christianity exerted itself as the dominant tradition with cultural roots stemming from ancient Judeo-Christian and Greco-Roman traditions. The papacy provided a unifying institutional and political framework. Contact with an expanding Islamic world to the south and east along with unconverted Scandinavian and Germanic cultures to the north provide other defining characteristics of medieval culture.

Recent areas of scholarly interest

Scholarship on the Middle Ages has provided an increasingly complex and nuanced picture of medieval culture, particularly of the early Middle Ages. In recent decades, advances in technology have brought the era more vividly into focus with digitized collections archived in electronic databases. These more accessible source materials enable scholars to interrogate large textual corpora such as the Patrologia Latina and Corpus Christianorum in new ways.

The tight focus on the educated elite in western Europe under Roman Christendom has expanded to include emphases on farther geographic regions, laymen and women, and women as authors and readers.
What is medieval studies?
What features define medieval studies at your institution?
What primary sources do you and your patrons make use of in medieval studies?
What challenges do your institution’s researchers in medieval studies face?
How may CRL best support medieval studies?
Primary Sources in Medieval Studies
Susan Steuer
Widows who take vows of chastity

burial brass, circa 1393, Wiltshire

This brass shows Elyne (a second wife) dressed as a vowess (a widow who has taken a vow not to remarry). Elyne is with her husband Sir Edward. In widow's garb, she wears a plaited barbe that covers her neck and surrounds her face, a veil that falls to the shoulders, a plain kirtle with tight sleeves, and a mantle that is fastened by a tasseled cord to two circular brooches ornamented with roses, and held together by a slide.

Sir Edward was knighted in 1378, acted as Assessor of Taxes in 1379, and as a Collector in 1382. This brass shows him with his second wife, Elyne, dressed as a vowess (a widow who has taken a vow not to remarry).
Departments frequently using primary sources in Medieval Studies at WMU

- Medieval Institute (undergraduate and graduate classes)
- History (graduate classes)
- Art (history of the book, graphic design, art history)
- Engineering (digital imaging, history of printing/illustration)
WMU MS 142:

Thirteenth century legal scroll documenting an ongoing (200 years) dispute between a Cistercian house and community of canons regular about a vineyard in Cambron in Belgium

http://luna.library.wmich.edu:8180/luna/servlet/WMUwmu~77~77
Relationships benefiting Medieval Studies at WMU

• MeL: Michigan eLibrary: book exchange and other collaborations among nearly all libraries in MI

• Midwest Collaborative for Library Services (Michigan and Indiana libraries): group purchases for all types of libraries

• Center for Research Libraries: specific resources for research

• Newberry Library: collaborative purchasing of manuscripts, travel funds for graduate students and faculty to Newberry

• Gethsemani Abbey: permanent loan arrangement for their manuscripts, rare books and various Cistercian-related material
Medieval Manuscripts at the University of Victoria

Danielle Forster
Medieval Manuscripts at the University of Victoria

- Consists of two collections
  - Bruce and Dorothy Brown Collection
  - Medieval Studies Collection
How have the Fragments been used?

- Courses in English and Medieval Studies
  - Fragments
- Public lectures
- Exhibits at the annual Medieval Studies Workshop

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Medieval Manuscripts at the University of Victoria

• Digital projects
  – Bartholomeus Anglicus
  – Lydgate’s Fall of Princes
CRL’s three longstanding cooperative programs enable members to offer a broad range of collection resources to patrons while conserving precious acquisition funds for local resources:

- [Demand Purchase Program](#)
- [Purchase Proposal Program](#)
- [Shared Purchase Program](#)

In order to meet the changing needs of scholars, CRL offers a new program on a trial basis: the [Scholars’ Access Program](#).

Each of these programs enables CRL libraries to make new source materials available to researchers at their institutions without incurring the costs of acquiring, cataloging, processing, and storing those materials. CRL’s [Member Liaison & Outreach Services Director](#) works with librarians, faculty, and students from member libraries to identify and select materials for addition to the shared CRL collections.

In response to strong interest expressed by members, CRL has provided [Electronic Resource Offers](#) (login required) to members who wish to participate.
Questions from Registration

Tarring maintenance of Norwegian medieval stave churches

Figure 2. Finnsløftet at Voss is one example of a medieval loft that is still being tarred today. (Photo from AA by Teigen, 1950)

The iconology of tectonics in Romanesque art
Open Discussion

• Please join us for a discussion with our presenters.

• Press *6 to unmute your phone to ask a question, or submit your comments to the online chat.
Questions

• What kinds of needs can CRL collections best address for your institution?

• What kinds of formats are most needed: digital, microfilm, physical?

• Who do you anticipate would use these resources among your constituents?

• What uses would you plan for them?
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• **CRL Annual Council Meeting:**
  *Thursday, April 21*


• Slides and videos from this presentation will be posted at [http://www.crl.edu/events/7109](http://www.crl.edu/events/7109) and on YouTube: [www.youtube.com/crldotedu](http://www.youtube.com/crldotedu)

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