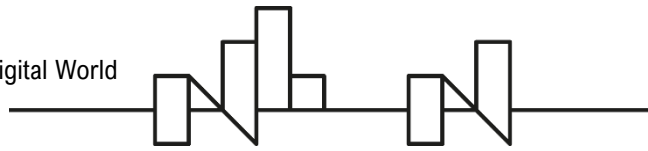


# Medieval Studies in the Digital World

19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2023, Bergen.

University of Bergen | Charles University



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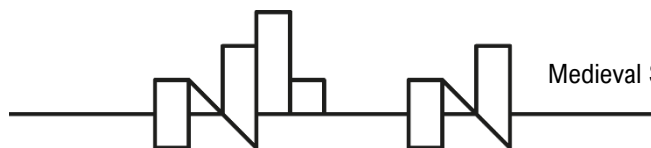
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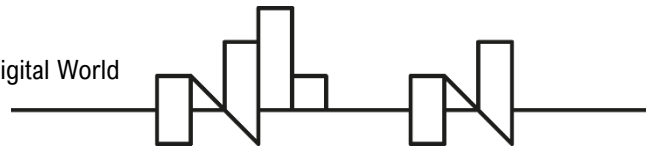
**And is presented by:**

Medieval Research Cluster (Universitetet i Bergen)



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## Programme

### Monday 19th June (Jussbygg II Auditorium, Jekteviksbakken 31, 5006 Bergen)

12.00-13.30: Lunch (Sammen Dragefjellet, Magnus Lagabøtes Plass 1, 5010 Bergen. Enter through the main door, the café is on the left.)

13.30-14.00: Conference Opening

#### Paper Session One: “Digital Cataloguing, Database Creation.”

14.00-14.45: Ciaran McDonough (University of Iceland): “Cataloguing the National Canon”

14.45-15.30: Synnøve Midtbø Myking (University of Bergen): “Creating Databases for Manuscript Fragments: Challenges and Solutions”

15.30-16.15: Martin Janovský (Charles University): “Multi-element and large-scale geoarchaeological research on medieval and ancient sites in the Czech Republic and Israel”

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### Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June (Jussbygg II Auditorium, Jekteviksbakken 31, 5006 Bergen)

9.00-10.00: Workshop One: “Digital Editions” (Martin Roček, Karel Pacovský, Ondřej Fúsik, Pavel Tříška)

10.00-10.30: Coffee Break

#### Paper Session Two: “Liturgical Matters”

10.30-11.15: Jindřich Marek (Charles University): “Graphing the Medieval Sermons”

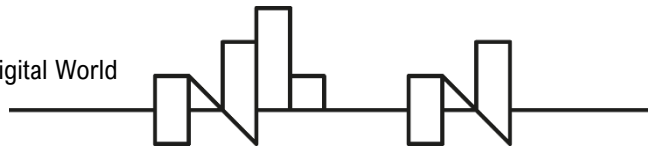
11.15-12.00: Jan Čermák, Lucie Doležalová, Ondřej Tichý (Charles University): “MECZ Database: Medieval Czech Textual Sources in Translation”

12.00-12.45: Pavel Tříška (Charles University): “Gilbert of Tournai’s Sermons on the Name Jesus: Digital Edition and TEI XML Manuscript Collation”

12.45-13.45: Lunch (Sammen Dragefjellet)

13.45-14.45: Roundtable One: “Medieval languages and literatures” (Jan Čermák (Chair), Iva Adámková, Ondřej Tichý, Kateřina Voleková, Karel Pacovský, Juliane Tiemann)

14.45-15.15: Coffee Break



**Paper Session Three: “Old Norse Matters I”**

15.15-16.00: Sebastian Pohland (University of Bergen): “Material Philology & Digital Editions: An Old Norse Perspective”

16.00-16.45: Åslaug Ommundsen (University of Bergen): “Digital Visualisations of Lost Monasteries”

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June – Excursions & Conference Dinner**

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June (Auditorium D, Syndeshaugen Skole, Sydnesplassen 9, 5007 Bergen)**

9.00-10.00: Workshop Two: “TBC” (Alexandros Tsakos & Marianne Paasche)

10.00-10.30: Coffee break

**Paper Session Four: “Old Norse Matters II”**

10.30-11.15: Světlana Müllerová & Ondřej Fúšik (Charles University): “ONCO: Compiling an Old Norse Corpus”

11.15-12.00: Jens Eike Schnall (University of Bergen): “Digital Perspectives on Medieval Nordic Recipes”

12.00-12.45: Juliane Tiemann & Tonje Waldersnes (University of Bergen): “Digital Access to the Old Norwegian Charter Material”

12.45-13.45: Lunch (Sammen Dragefjellet)

13.45-14.45: Roundtable Two: “Medieval Manuscripts” (Lucie Doležalová (chair), Jindřich Marek, Karel Pacovský, Tonje Waldernes, Helen Leslie-Jacobsen)

14.45-15.15: Coffee Break

**Paper Session Five: “The Bible”**

15.15-16.00: Karel Pacovský, Kateřina Voleková, Lucie Doležalová & Martin Roček (Charles University): “Lipnice Bible”

16.00-16.45: Kateřina Voleková & Anna Michalcová (Czech Language Institute/Czech Academy of Sciences & Charles University): “DIABIBLE - Czech Bible Translation in Diachrony: A Database of Late Medieval Biblical Texts”



**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June (Auditorium D, Syndeshaugen Skole, Sydneplassen 9, 5007 Bergen)**

9.00-10.00: Workshop Three: “SCRIBTUM - AI-assisted semantic comparison“ (Martin Roček)

10.00-10.30: Coffee Break

**Paper Session Six: “Digital Tools and Methods”**

10.30-11.15: Omar Khalaf (University of Padova): “A scholarly digital edition of Naples, National Library, MS XIII.B.29”

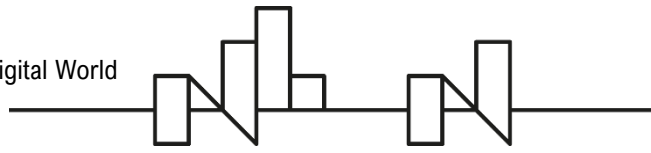
11.15-12.00: Martin Janovský (Charles University): “Mobile app for students of archaeology”

12.00-12.45: Ondřej Tichý (Charles University): “Bosworth-Toller’s Anglo-Saxon Dictionary Online”

12.45-13.30: Roundtable Three: “Visualisation” (Åslaug Ommundsen (chair), Martin Janovský, Martin Roček, Ondřej Tichý, Jindřich Marek, Omar Khalaf)

13.30-14.30: Lunch (Sammen Dragefjellet)

14.30-15.00: Wrap Up



# *Abstracts*

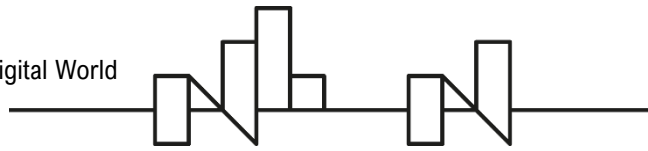




## *Cataloguing the National Canon*

**Ciaran McDonough (University of Iceland)**

This talk discusses my current project to create a database cataloguing scholarly translations of medieval Irish and Icelandic texts published during the nineteenth century. These translations are from Irish into English and from Icelandic into Danish. As is well known and documented, the nineteenth century in Europe is a time when an idea of the national canon was created. The works selected to be included by scholars, journalists, and taste-makers were carefully chosen and curated to reflect the purported national image. This included texts from the medieval period. This talk introduces what the database will achieve and what information will be included in it. It will discuss how the catalogue of texts can aid the researcher in reception studies/cultural history/antiquarianism studies. It will especially focus on the idea that texts might have been specially chosen to argue for something by scholars or the learned societies they translated for, and where possible, it will demonstrate what this is.



# *Creating Databases for Manuscript Fragments: Challenges and Solutions*

**Synnøve Midtbø Myking (University of Bergen)**

In recent decades, the fragment collections of the Nordic countries have received increasing attention from scholars studying medieval manuscript culture. Certain collections have been digitised and are easily available to researchers, whereas others have not even been fully catalogued. The fragment collection of the Norwegian National Archives in Oslo, which holds thousands of fragments from Latin and Old Norse manuscripts, occupies a status in between. While the collection has been documented and studied for over a century, and a great deal of literature has been published on its contents, there currently exists no comprehensive database that is easily accessible to users.

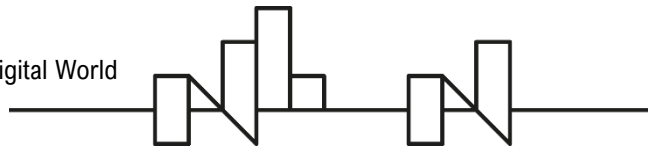
The presentation will focus on this collection to illustrate the challenges we encounter when trying to create digital infrastructure for this kind of material. By drawing comparisons to databases for similar material in other countries, I will explore how such challenges may (possibly) be resolved, keeping in mind the individual nature of each collection. I will also discuss the problem of balancing the need for stability with the potential of online resources to update and modify information.



*Multi-element and large-scale geoarchaeological research on medieval and ancient sites in the Czech Republic and Israel*

**Martin Janovský (Charles University)**

Archaeology enters the digital humanities in many areas. One lesser-known area is the subfield of geoarchaeology. Geoarchaeology studies the influence of humans on soil and sediments over time. One possibility for this study is large-scale soil and sediment sampling at archaeological sites. This is how we have mapped deserted medieval fields in the Czech Republic and ancient sites in Israel. We have thus obtained a huge amount of data that allows us to reconstruct past human activities in space, so it is a suitable method to complement traditional soil profiles, for example for micromorphology. However, it is important to process the data appropriately and store it for further processing. The processing is dominated by specific logarithmic transformations allowing analysis of a wide range of chemical elements and subsequent PCA.



## *Graphing the Medieval Sermons*

**Jindřich Marek (Charles University)**

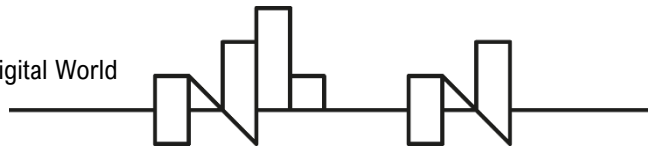
This article explores the possibilities of visual representation of medieval sermons. Sermons were a marginal literary genre that was widespread in the Middle Ages, and many individual sermon records have survived. The visualisation of sermons can refer not only to their content but also to their various features. In this way, it is possible to identify different groups among sermons and to show which values from different categories are correlated. The case study deals with the medieval sermons of the Czech Ultraquists on the feasts of the Czech patron saints. It presents different ways of visualising them, such as network graphs, Sankey diagrams, or correspondence analysis visualisation. It also discusses which tools (packages) can be used for these purposes in the programming languages R and Python, and what are the advantages and disadvantages of each solution.



# *MECZ Database: Medieval Czech Textual Sources in Translation*

**Jan Čermák, Lucie Doležalová, Ondřej Tichý (Charles University)**

A presentation of the MECz database <https://mecz.kreas.ff.cuni.cz/>, aimed at making available selected Bohemian works primarily of the 14th and 15th centuries with parallel English translations into contemporary English to both the international medievalists and the general public. The paper will address principal characteristics of the project in terms of philology, literary history and digital processing. In addition, it will include a critical assessment of obstacles the project has encountered.



*Gilbert of Tournai's Sermons on the Name Jesus: Digital  
Edition and TEI XML Manuscript Collation*

**Pavel Tříska (Charles University)**

Presentation of my current work on a digital critical edition of the sermons on the name Jesus by Gilbert of Tournai, a 13th-century Parisian Franciscan writer. A prototype of a web application for collating different versions of texts encoded in TEI XML will also be presented.



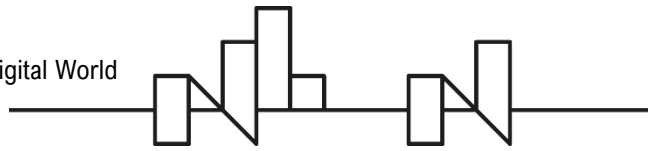
## *Material Philology and Digital Editions: An Old Norse*

### *Perspective*

**Sebastian Pohland (University of Bergen)**

My paper will discuss the approach that is guiding my upcoming Ph.D. project at the University of Oslo, which will collect and evaluate methods and tools for creating digital, philological editions for Old Norse prose corpora.

The paper examines the current state of Old Norse philological editions and what consequences this state has on both on-going literary and aesthetic research, as well as on teaching. Special attention is given to the corpus of *foraldarsögur*, which is the subject of my upcoming project. It will be shown that said corpus especially is in dire need of a new, modern philological edition, since both full editions are highly flawed. I will discuss the theoretical approach taken in my upcoming project, which is rooted in material philology, and as such focuses on the underlying manuscript witnesses instead of the abstract reconstruction which an edition text represents. Furthermore, the paper explores how a digital-first approach to building a new edition from the ground up can aid in the achieving the goals set up by this theoretical approach, what tools currently exist and where further development or access is needed. Additionally, the paper seeks to discuss the issues a digital-first or even digital-only approach to philological editions can have, especially in terms of accessibility.



## *Digital Visualisations of Lost Monasteries*

**Åslaug Ommundsen (University of Bergen)**

«Reconstructions» of lost buildings in the form of drawings or three-dimensional small-scale models have long been around to help us get a grasp of lost or ruined structures. In Norway, very few medieval buildings remain intact compared to what was once here. For example, of the 35 monasteries in medieval Norway none remain intact. In recent years, visualisations of lost buildings are predominantly made using digital tools, and the number is increasing. This paper will provide a short introduction to recent digital visualisation projects in Norway, with a focus on the monasteries, and share some of the experiences from a practical and academic point of view.





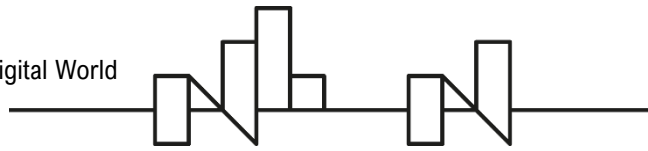
## *ONCO: Compiling an Old Norse Corpus*

Ondřej Fúsik & Světlana Müllerová (Charles University)

A linguistic inquiry in the field of Old Norse/ Icelandic is currently beset by manifold challenges: available databases and corpora either cover limited selections of texts, frequently both regarding genre and dialectal provenance, or are based only on normalized texts, not to mention modern Icelandic translations.

It is therefore clear that a comprehensive corpus, akin to other historical corpora of other languages, such as those currently at the disposal of scholars of Old and Middle English, is lacking for Old Norse/ Icelandic. Such a corpus, containing a wide variety of extant texts, would naturally facilitate broader generalizations, comparative studies, and allowing observation of frequencies of occurrence. All these could advance our understanding of the language as well as perhaps shed some additional light on textual transmission and language contact.

Following a survey of available resources in the field, it is patent that a comprehensive corpus of Old Norse/ Icelandic should encompass normalized as well as non-normalized texts of different dialectal provenances, not restricted to a particular genre. Morpho-syntactic tagging, apart from enhancing searches across the data set, would additionally allow for a future incorporation of other tools such as generated paradigms based on the corpus data, and other visualisation utilities. In light of these demands, developing a tagger suitable for the task is a key concern as well as the main challenge. This presentation aims to discuss the process of creation of such a corpus.



## *Digital Perspectives on Medieval Nordic Recipes*

**Jens Eike Schnall (University of Bergen)**

Three manuscripts with culinary recipes are known from the medieval North, two Danish and one Icelandic (Copenhagen, Royal Library, NKS 66 8°, NKS 70R 8° and Dublin, Royal Irish Academy, 23 D 43). While there are some differences, they very obviously go back to the same medieval collection of culinary recipes.

In my paper, I consider digital perspectives both on these manuscripts and collections of recipes as well as on the recipe genre in general. I will deal with different ways of applying digital tools in the study of recipes and discuss their special value for research on the recipe genre.

## *Digital Access to the Old Norwegian Charter Material*

**Juliane Tiemann & Tonje H. Waldersnes (University of Bergen)**

The Special Collections at the University of Bergen Library (Spes/UBB) manage the second largest charter collection in Norway with approx. 1500 documents. Since 2019, this collection has gotten increasingly more attention, both due to teaching activities and further research and digitization projects (cf. About Old Norwegian charters and seals). Almost all Old Norwegian charters until 1570 have been published both in physical and digital editions with a diplomatic transcription in *Diplomatarium Norvegicum* and *Regesta Norvegica*, presenting a short summary as well as information concerning date and place of production. Other sources, such as Hødnebo (1960), have also included photographs of the charters together with diplomatic transcriptions, as well as a short physical description.

In this presentation we will present newer digitization work that takes the Old Norwegian charter material at Spes/UBB into focus. We will present new standards for the description and transcription of this type of material and discuss our workflow as a result of various local project and dialogue with national and international experts within the field.

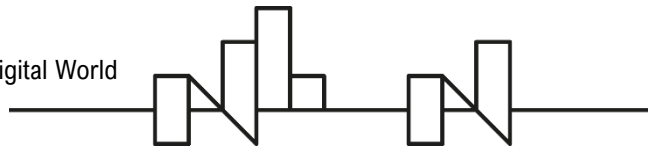
### **Literature and links:**

Hødnebo, F. (1960). Norske diplomer til og med år 1300. *Corpus codicum Norvegicorum medii aevi*. Folio serie 2. Oslo: Selskapet til utgivelse av gamle norske håndskrifter.

About Old Norwegian charters and seals (Information page on projects connected to the Old Norwegian charter material at Spes/UBB) - <https://www.uib.no/en/ub/155594/about-old-norwegian-charters-and-seals>

*Diplomatarium Norvegicum* - [https://www.dokpro.uio.no/dipl\\_norv/diplom\\_felt.html](https://www.dokpro.uio.no/dipl_norv/diplom_felt.html)

*Regesta Norvegica* - [https://www.dokpro.uio.no/dipl\\_norv/regesta\\_felt.html](https://www.dokpro.uio.no/dipl_norv/regesta_felt.html)



## *Lipnice Bible*

**Karel Pacovský, Kateřina Voleková, Lucie Doležalová & Martin Roček (Charles University)**

Presentation of a project on the Lipnice bible – a Latin bible codex from 1421, currently kept in Washington, D.C. – which resulted in a book, exhibition, and a web with browsable annotated digitized version of the codex: <https://lipnicebible.ff.cuni.cz/en>.



## *Diabible (Czech Bible Translation in Diachrony: A Database of Late Medieval Biblical Texts)*

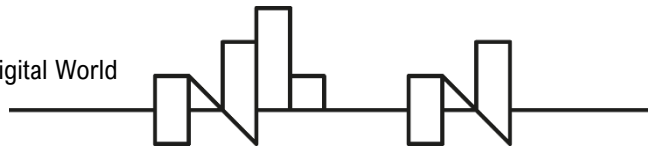
**Kateřina Voleková & Anna Michalcová (Czech Language Institute/Czech Academy of Sciences & Charles University)**

The database of Old Czech Bible translations has been created in the Department of Language Development of the Institute for the Czech Language of the Czech Academy of Sciences since 2018. The Diabible database (available on the website <http://diabible.ujc.cas.cz/>) provides full texts of medieval translations of the Bible into Czech from selected manuscripts and printed sources of the 14th and 15th centuries and enables their study by means of a comparison of individual biblical verses.

For its extensiveness, translatedness, genre and linguistic richness and preservation in modified versions and separate translation branches, the Old Czech Bible may be exploited for linguistic research on language development at all levels. However, such research had been often limited as the Old Czech translations of the Bible had not been, except for the earliest translations, editorially processed due to their extraordinary length.

We are newly editing the Old Czech Bible translations in electronic editions, proceeding book by book according to which are the most important and most frequently quoted. Therefore, electronic editions of selected sources are added to the database gradually, so far the Gospels of Matthew and Mark (2019 and 2020), the Song of Songs (2021) and the Book of Psalms (2022) have been published.

In this paper, I will introduce the database and its features in detail, describe the editorial process and student involvement in transcribing Old Czech texts, and show the software we use to create the editions and the database.



*A scholarly digital edition of Naples, National Library, MS*

*XIII.B.29*

**Omar Khalaf (University of Padova)**

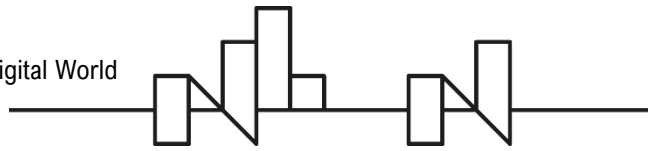
My paper will present a proof-of-concept for a digital edition of Napoli, Biblioteca Nazionale MS XIII.B.29. Apart from being one of the only two manuscripts held in Italy preserving Middle English works, the value of this codex resides in containing a hitherto unedited collection of medical recipes and redactions of romances, some of which diverge significantly from their respective traditions. Despite the scanty interest aroused within the scholarly community, these witnesses testify to an active reception of these texts, which Weldon attributes rather superficially to a female readership.<sup>1</sup> The relevance of this manuscript from a textual point of view goes hand in hand with the peculiar history of its later circulation; the presence of annotations and marginalia in sixteenth/seventeenth-century Italian and of the drawing of a bell suggest a connection of this manuscript with the Italian philosopher Tommaso Campanella or members of his circle. Rather than demonstrating an actual use of the book and a fruition of the texts contained therein, these elements suggest an antiquarian interest for the manuscript in the Neapolitan context of that time, which makes this artefact worthy to be investigated also in its material aspects. In an attempt to valorize both its textual and extra-textual features, this project aims to provide an image-based scholarly digital edition of the manuscript. The project workflow will be described, with special attention to the TEI-compliant XML encoding of the texts and their visualization through the open-source software *Edition Visualization technology* (EVT).



## *Mobile app for students of archaeology*

**Martin Janovský (Charles University)**

Students of archaeology should know the basic types of soils in the Czech Republic. The problem is how to non-violently lead them to develop an interest in them. The Czech Republic is made up of many soil types with Cambisols slightly dominating. Soils are influenced by local geological conditions and especially by climate. This is closely linked to the presence of prehistoric sites and abandoned medieval villages. For this reason, in our free time we tried to integrate basic soil maps into an Android app. The app allows the student to find out what basic soil type they are currently on and to look at the soil glossary where soils are described in detail.



## *Bosworth-Toller's Anglo-Saxon Dictionary Online*

Ondřej Tichý (Charles University)

The Anglo-Saxon Dictionary has been the leading lexicographical resource in the study of OE since its publication. The aim of the digitization project is to bring all the paper Dictionary has to offer and present it freely online for the widest audiences with new features made possible by its transformation. This chapter presents the history, methods, and progress of the digitization project, outlines its future vision, but also showcases research that stems from and is part of the Dictionary. It focuses on the basic methodology of the digitization, from OCR to XML and the online app, but also on the technical and lexicographical difficulties met during the development: such as the structural inconsistency of the Dictionary, the level of fidelity in its digital representation, the disambiguation of some of its data and the reliability of its sources. These are shown to be often intimately associated with the peculiar history of the Dictionary that may, in its new digital form, finally overcome some of its limitations and after more than 150 years realise its full potential.



