Brandhorst, Hans, and Etienne Posthumus, eds. Arkyves. Other

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the page and transcription box allows users to look past this inconsistency to focus on the handwriting.

Project documentation includes transcription and metadata standards in the "Resources" section of the site, while the history of the project page is still in development. Specialist users will appreciate seeing rationales for metadata and technological choices in that section of the documentation. Italian Paleography uses the Metadata Object Description Standard (MODS), with a template available, and Library of Congress standards for controlled vocabulary to describe the genre, topic, and subject of the documents. Materials are made available under a Creative Commons Attribution, Non-commercial, No derivatives (CC-BY-NC-ND) 4.0 license.

Overall, Italian Paleography will be useful for students looking to decipher their first manuscripts and for scholars who have studied some paleography but find themselves facing new hands in their research. The project team has created an immediately usable resource that is deserving of continued support. As contributors add more resources for the documents, the value will continue to grow, eventually creating a repository deserving of study in its own right.

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arkyves.org.

Arkyves is an online database of nearly nine hundred thousand early modern images and texts. Published by Brill, the ambitious research tool is, in essence, a collection of collections, acting as a single point of access for the digitized collections of partnering institutions around the globe. Now in its third decade, an earlier version of Arkyves (then titled Mnemosyne) launched in 1999. Yassu Frossati, Peter van Huisstede, and Hans Brandhorst, who continues to act as editor, provided the first content. The software was then, as it is now, created by Etienne Posthumus. Today Arkyves aggregates content from museums, libraries,

research institutes, and cataloguing projects around the world with a list of partners that currently includes the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Biblia Sacra project, Bibliothèques Virtuelles Humanistes, Byvanck Illuminated Manuscript project, Cardiff University, Deutsches Hygiene-Museum, Folger Shakespeare Library, Getty Research Institute & Provenance Index, Glasgow University Library, Herzog August Bibliothek Wolfenbüttel, Koninklijke Bibliotheek at The Hague, the Leiden Collection, Museum Meermanno, RKD, Netherlands Institute for Art History at Rijksmuseum, Anton Ulrich Museum, Amsterdam University Library, Utrecht University Library, University of Milan, and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. While these international partners catalogue their collections independently, their content can be seamlessly aggregated within Arkyves using the controlled, multilingual vocabulary of the Iconclass system.

Iconclass (iconclass.nl/home) is the international standard in iconographic indexation. Henri van de Wall (Art History, University of Leiden) first developed the Iconclass system in the 1950s to identify, describe, and organize subjects, themes, and motifs of Western art. Today, institutions around the world use Iconclass to organize their digitized collections into ten categories (Abstract, Non-representational Art; Religion and Magic; Nature; Human Being, Man in General; Society, Civilization, Culture; Abstract Ideas and Concepts; History; Bible; Literature; and Classical Mythology and Ancient History). Iconclass searches on Arkyves are currently supported for scholars working in English, German, French, Italian, Portuguese, Finnish, Dutch, Polish, and Chinese, with still other translation projects underway to increase accessibility. Arkyves is especially helpful for tracking a specific iconography across media and time, making it a powerful tool for any scholar or individual interested in the history of early modern culture. To begin, one can browse images using preset categories that include both thematic and medium-specific options located on the Arkyves home page. More often, a user will locate a particular iconography by employing the database's search function, either limiting their search to one of the preset categories or, for more results, searching the entirety of Arkyves' content. For example, to locate images of the early modern concept *festina lente* (to hasten slowly) one can simply type "festina lente" directly into the search bar located on the home page. Sixty-two results associated with *festina lente* in its various early modern renditions (a tortoise and sail; crab and butterfly; dolphin and anchor; remora and arrow; and so on) appear as thumbnails.

Tools for refining these results are located to the left of the thumbnail gallery and include options to limit the query to include only images falling within a particular Iconclass category, type, or collection. Perhaps most helpful is the ability to view Iconclass tags most often associated with the search term; for "festina lente" these tags range from abstract ideas like prudence and tardiness to the names of animals commonly used to illustrate the oxymoronic concept. By selecting the Iconclass tag "25f44(+5246) tortoises, turtles (+ animal[s] carrying something)" and running the search a second time, results for "festina lente" are refined to six thumbnails featuring a turtle with a sail buffeted by wind. By choosing a single image from the thumbnail gallery, an emblem from Georg Rem and Peter Isselburg's 1617 volume *Emblematica Politica* for example, Arkyves directs users to a dedicated page populated with basic publication information, high resolution images, and a transcription of the image's textual components. All other digitized pages of *Emblematica Politica* found in the Arkyves database are also linked, facilitating an analysis of the *festina lente* illustration within the broader context of the book. Additionally, Arkyves' texts and images feature links back to their original sources, here Emblematica Online (emblematica.library.illinois.edu), where objects are often described in fuller detail.

For users searching for a specific iconography, Arkyves delivers. What makes the database unique is its ability to point researchers in new directions by accumulating associated imagery and suggesting Iconclass terms. The thumbnail gallery allows for sweeping overviews of related content, thereby facilitating examination of a motif's translation across media, temporal, and geographic boundaries. In his 2012 article "The Iconography of the Pleasures and Problems of Drink: Thoughts on the Opportunities and Challenges for Access and Collaboration in the Digital Age," Brandhorst demonstrates how Arkyves employs Iconclass to gather seemingly unrelated images based on their shared metadata and the utility of this function for scholars of early modern culture.[1] By introducing researchers to new images and suggesting Iconclass terms most often associated with a particular search term, Arkyves goes beyond the typical function of a database to introduce users to new avenues for their research.

1. Hans Brandhorst, "The Iconography of the Pleasures and Problems of Drink: Thoughts on the Opportunities and Challenges for Access and Collaboration in the Digital Age," *Visual Resources: An International Journal of Documentation* 28.4 (2012): 384–90, doi.org/10.1080/01973762.2012.732211.

Although Arkyves is self-described as an experiment in "hybrid open access databases," the aggregated content is unfortunately accessible only to subscribers. The newly redesigned interface has greatly improved the site's clarity; however, to maximize usability, Arkyves' users may find it necessary to review the provided tutorial in order to take advantage of the complex database's full functionality. Currently, this tutorial can be accessed by clicking the "How to Use Arkyves – a Tutorial" button or the small "Help" navigation on the website's home page. Likewise, information about Arkyves itself is accessible only via the "Help" navigation. While a history of Arkyves will not directly impact site usability, a more easily accessible section documenting the project's history would undoubtedly be of interest to Arkyves' users. In addition, because familiarity with the controlled vocabulary of Iconclass is useful when performing searches (searching terms culled from the Iconclass vocabulary increases the precision of results), a history and overview of Iconclass, like that found at iconclass.nl/home, would be beneficial.

The Arkyves online reference tool is one built through collaboration. To ensure the longevity and organic growth of the database, Brill is currently offering to support the creation and hosting of the digitized collections of institutions and scholars compliant with Iconclass at no cost, in return for the incorporation of their collection into Arkyves. If individual collections represent silos, Arkyves goes a long way to eliminate boundaries and build bridges between them.

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