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Manuscripts – Full texts – Research Databases.

About digital tools and scientific demand for Medieval Latin databases like comphistsem/HSCM.

One of the fundamental challenges in the digitization of historical science is not technical, but rather psychological. Despite the willingness of historians to work with digitized tools there is still restraint in the community. Firstly, this is due to the very different quality of projects for the digital provision of texts. This concerns above all the quality of the preparation, the extent of the processed text quantities, the transparency of the decisions in the preprocessing process and the usability of the offered analytical tools. Secondly, useability and reliability also play an essential role. Thirdly, it seems to be necessary to show users the range of digital tools in order to provide orientation in an increasingly confusing offer. At the same time, it is also a commitment of database providers to point out the inevitable incompleteness of their offer and ask the recipient not only to consult full-text databases out of convenience, but also to use other formats such as digital editing platforms and digital copies, in order to consider the great advantages of multiple digital editing. Therefore, the Frankfurt database project “comphistsem/HSCM” will be presented in a wider context of cultural heritage preservation and possibilities for later reuse. In addition, the sustainability of such projects should also be discussed, which now represents one of the central demands of the funding institutions.