



Finding an affordable, easily accessible medieval scholarly database complete with up-to-date research in various mediums and a wide array of academic subjects seems like a futile pursuit at times. Thankfully, Brepols Periodica and Miscellanea Online provides just these things. This recently launched database makes available a plethora of scholarly works from some of the most highly respected sources in academia. What is most impressive is its ease of access, making this database user-friendly for all levels of technological literacy.

The variety in scholarship provided by Brepols Periodica and Miscellanea is commendable and diverse. The Periodica includes scholarship from internationally renowned interdisciplinary journals. Topics range from general subjects such as History and Archaeology to more specific focuses like Egyptology and Book and Manuscript Studies. Articles are not limited to one classification, however: if an article falls into multiple categories, it can be found by beginning a search in one subject area and narrowing by clicking on additional subject areas in the margins. This helps users find specific scholarship easily and quickly, and reduces the need for additional searches or complex search options. The collections of articles from various Brepols published Miscellanea have similar features to the Periodica, though users can also search for a specific Book Series. Much of the research is modern and up-to-date: the Collections available online are from 2011 to the present while the Archive only goes as early as 1998. While journals go back to turn-of-century, as early as 1910, a majority of articles are from 1980 to present. Providing timely and current

research illustrates dedication to aiding scholars in their studies and the continuation of new and fresh medieval scholarship.

The most appealing feature of this database is the ease of access and its clear organization. Often databases combine book chapters and journal articles in searches, causing scholars to further sift through search results to find the source they desire. Brepols Periodica and Miscellanea Online provides a clear separation of the two types of articles, with sections that allow users to search journals, journal articles, books, and book chapters separately from one another. This search style allows the user to specifically search within that genre of scholarship and find research more easily and efficiently. Search features throughout the database have been simplified as a way to reduce the need for “advanced searches” when trying to find articles, though the option is still provided. An additional organizational detail is the updating of marginal information to match the search items. When searching within a specific topic, details such as author or date of publication update and become specific within the parameters of the search. This allows the scholar to modify the search without having to start over, a feature that makes searching for scholarship efficient and user-friendly.

Another feature that speaks to the dedication of this database to providing easy access to users is the ability for individuals to sign up free of charge to browse articles. Access is mostly restricted for individual users who wish not to pay, though first pages and abstracts are provided for each article and front matter is open access for select pieces. DOIs are also provided for each article, allowing quick and permanent access for scholarship and its metadata. Users with accounts are able to save or email articles, allowing individuals to access the information at a later time in an organized fashion. If a user wishes to purchase only one article, the option and price is provided. Institutions that wish to

subscribe are given a 30-day free trial access and are able to create a subscription that is budget-friendly. Providing these features gives users and institutions the opportunity to keep research clear, organized, and affordable.

Despite the high quality of the database, some critiques can be made. Since it is produced by Brepols publishers it only includes Brepols produced miscellanea, limiting users to only search within the parameters of the company's scholarship. Thankfully, there is variety with the periodica, though opening up the miscellanea to additional book series should be a future consideration. Another critique is that the explanation of the square icons beside articles titles is somewhat unclear. Although explained in one of the PDF overviews, it is not initially clear to the user what the green, white, or half-and-half icons represent. Making this explicit would help the database be consistent with clarity and user-friendliness.

Brepols Periodica and Miscellanea is one of the most sensible, user-friendly, and easily accessible databases for medieval and humanities scholars of all levels of study and technological literacy. The timeliness and prestige of the scholarship available provides a certainty in research credibility and helps keep the study of the Middle Ages alive and thriving. This database would make an excellent addition to any institution or individual's collection.

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