the bickanial bear, november 2021

Greetings to the Citizens of Adiantum!

This issue of the *BiCranial Bear* is focused on research and competitions.

On Tuesday evening, Nov. 9, the Arts & sciences Night will be Hrodr-Navar Hakonsson and "A&S Competitions: A round table discussion Or I didn't expect the Spanish Inquisition." Here's his description of the evening:

"As in-person events resume, it's time to be thinking about A&S Competitions. Some people love them, some are intimidated by them, and some feel that those two words should never be uttered in the same breath (like "fun run" or "white chocolate").

So let's talk.

As the current A&S Champion of both Adiantum and the Summits, it will be my honor to organize the next competitions. I would like to explore ways to increase participation and improve everyone's experience, but I can only do that with your help. So please come and talk about why you do or don't enter...I'd like to hear as many viewpoints as possible."

Please join in and share your experience. The Facebook Event page is at https://www.facebook.com/events/492870231809014?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22 %3A[%7B%22surface%22%3A%22group%22%7D]%7D

If you're thinking of entering competitions in An Tir, the Kingdom's Arts & Sciences Judging forms make an excellent guide for thinking through your project. Use each judging point as a way to ask yourself what you know and what you need to find out, what you want to do, how you want to do it. While these forms were developed for the Kingdom A&S Championship, they are frequently used for other competitions like Principality and Baronial Championships and the Three Pillars Competition at Egil's Tourney in slightly simplified form.

An Tir's A&S judging forms can be found at http://arts.antir.org/forms/judging-forms/ And there's a Youtube presentation "Using the An Tir A&S Judging Forms, Wulfstan Meistari Hrafnsson" (57 min) at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJszgaAbKdE

Our first article is Hrodr-Navar's "Resources for Researchers", which will give you lots of help finding materials on the interwebz. Sit down at your computer with it and learn as you read it.

Raven Qara ton's 'Levels of Authenticity' may help you figure out what exactly you want to do. "Sentence Starters for Feedback" can help you stay positive.

And finally, we have three pages of Useful Internet Sites, aimed this month at the Viking period, especially shields and weapons, but also odds bits like plates, pouches, combs, etc.

If you have favorite, useful sites, please send me a note about them to me, and I'll include them in a future issue of the *Bear*.

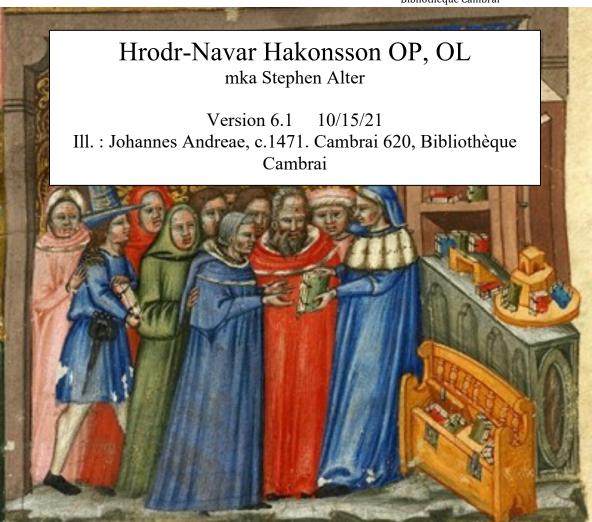
In service to Adiantum,

Yseult of Broceliande, OP, OL, Baroness of Court Deputy Chronicler

RESOPURCES FOR RESEARCH

OR: How to Find Stuff

Bibliothèque Cambrai



Introduction 1:

The internet is not only the home of commercialism, fake news and cat videos; it is also a repository for generations of scholarly publications, college-level course materials and images of ancient artworks, manuscripts and artifacts. The problem is being able to separate the great research from mere opinion, and as the researcher, that is your job. Before we get started, though, a few ground-rules to keep in mind:

- 1) Simple web-surfing might be an easy way to get started, but as with many things in life, you need to put in some effort to get good quality results. Take the time to go beyond just simple browsing.
- 2) A simple Google search may bring up a hit from Wikipedia. Great! Those are often very informative. They are also notorious for often being unsupported opinion. A well-researched Wikipedia entry should have endnotes with references. If it has no references, then step away. If it does have references, look them up. Often Wikipedia references will even include links to the full-text source documents.
- 3) As you get deeper into researching a topic, you will find that the "References" section is the most important part of the majority of sources you will read. Do not ignore the last page of a scholarly article -- that's where the gold is buried.
- 4) The more specific your question, the harder it will be to find what you are looking for. Do not despair. There are a lot of surprises in store as you dig deeper. Start by asking higher level questions, then use what you find to drill deeper into the specifics. Keep a notepad handy though; you will almost certainly discover interesting sidelines (aka: rabbit holes) that you will want to explore later.
- 5) My goal is to do quality research without spending any money. This may not be possible as your questions get more specific. So no guarantees, but the resources I'll share can get you a long way.
- 6) There is a LOT of full-text free information available. Due to copyright protection, the newer the publication, the harder it will be to get a free copy. What is available may also vary depending on the publisher. There is a tremendous amount of older scholarship free for the asking. But....
- 7) ... be careful when using older publications. If you are using them to supply facts or data, or, say, an English translation of a foreign language work or a compilation of cases from medieval royal and manor courts, then they should be fine. Facts generally don't change, and a 19th century translation of Socrates should be just as valid as a newer book. Do be careful of using a theory or explanation of facts from an old text. Theories often change over time as new facts become available. I will show you how to check if an older text is still being cited by recent authors.
- 8) For the following tips, I strongly recommend that you actually sit in front of a computer and click along with my descriptions. Play with it, add your own keywords, get comfortable with it.

Introduction 2: A quick note on copyrights and "Fair Use":

US Copyright law protects "original works of authorship fixed in any tangible medium of expression" (www.copyright.gov/title17/92chap1.html). Thus the book you read or the photo you examine (including "unpublished" works) are protected as the intellectual property of the author or photographer. US copyright protection lasts for the lifetime of the author plus 70 years, and includes works from foreign countries.

But what about that digitized medieval manuscript? No one can claim to own that! True, the manuscript itself is beyond copyright protection, but the digitized image you see online is the property of the institution that provides it. If you could gain access to the manuscript and take your own picture, then that picture is your property. Otherwise you must treat the online image as copyright protected.

Bottom line, if you didn't create the thing, it belongs to someone else

There is an exception to copyright law called "Fair Use". (www.copyright.gov/fair-use/more-info.html). Fair Use allows "the unlicensed use of copyright-protected works in certain circumstances" including "teaching, scholarship, and research". One important factor is that the copyright-protected work is not being used for profit. The concept of Fair Use does not apply if you are using the copyrighted material in a book to be published and sold. However if you are using the copyright-protected work for documentation in an SCA Arts & Sciences display or Collegium class, then you are working within the definition of Fair Use, giving you more freedom to use copyrighted materials. It is important and expected (i.e. A&S judges will insist) that you give due credit to the source of those materials. This is also the rule that allows you to walk into a library with a pocketful of quarters (or camera or phone) to get images of copyrighted materials for later study.

If the research paper you entered in a Baronial A&S competition turns into an article for *Tournaments Illuminated* or *Compleat Anachronist*, then you will need to reconsider any illustrations you copied from the internet. Those publications are sold to subscribers, so Fair Use does not apply and their editors will require that you have the owner's written permission to use any copyrighted material. Also, those two publications require specific reference citation styles (and of course they require different styles). So while A&S judges generally don't care what style you use as long as you are consistent, if you aspire to publish your work, be sure to use the correct style and save yourself the bother of having to re-do all of your citations. (Thus speaketh the voice of experience.)

Part 1: Become a Google Search "Power User"

Simple web-surfing is a hit-or-miss approach. You might find a needle, but mostly you'll get hay...and lots of cat videos. At the same time, there is a lot of excellent research being put out on the internet rather than in traditional publications. How do you filter out the noise and find the good stuff?

I strongly recommend that you take the following --FREE--on-line class on Power Googling: https://coursebuilder.withgoogle.com/sample/course

The pace of the class is a bit slow, but there's a wealth of great information there if you have the patience to plod through it. I will only touch on a few highlights here:

Search for an exact word or quotation

If you put your search word(s) inside quotation marks, then it will search only for that exact word or phrase. Maybe useful if the medieval source you are looking for uses an archaic spelling or word.

Eliminate unwanted hits

Say you are interested in the legend of John Barleycorn, but you don't want pages of hits for Stevie Winwood and Traffic? Use a minus sign (-) before the unwanted item, and google will filter out mentions of it.

Search on: <John Barleycorn –traffic –winwood>

Note that there is no space between the minus sign and the unwanted term.

Find websites that link to one you have already found

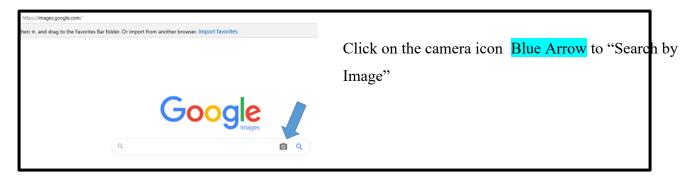
If your searching turns up one good website, you may also be interested in other websites that have created links to this one. If they share a common interest, they might be useful too. Later (Appendix 2) I provide a list of websites of potential interest to the medievalist. Other people who like those sites may also provide information you need. To do this, use the "link:" operator.

Search on: link:http://www.medieval.org/emfaq/site.html >

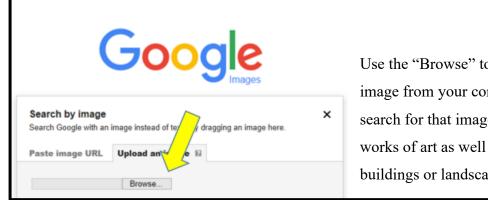
The site http://www.medieval.org/emfaq/site.html is a source for medieval music. The search term above will find all other websites that link to it, possibly providing other interesting sources on medieval music.

Google Images https://images.google.com/

I like to use pictures from manuscripts on the title page for my A&S papers (see Fair Use above). Once I found a great image that would be perfect for my needs, on "Pinterest". The good news is that Pinterest is a treasure trove of interesting images. The bad news is that it rarely provides attribution for the picture. No worries, I just scanned the picture, uploaded it into Google Images, and the search engine brought up the source and libraries that have it. It also brought up lots of hits on Pinterest, which was very frustrating.







Use the "Browse" tool (Yellow Arrow) to upload any image from your computer, and it will automatically search for that image. This works for manuscripts and works of art as well as random photographs of buildings or landscapes.

Foreign Language Websites

Google Translate

https://translate.google.com/

A lot of great medievalist research is coming out of European countries, and they will mostly post their work in their native language (wouldn't you?). Start by using Google Translate to convert your search terms into the desired language, then use that translation to search. You might want to try different permutations of the search terms, or try using other on-line translators to get a variety of wordings.

Google Chrome Translator

Google Chrome has a very nice webpage translation feature. Just open the foreign language page in Chrome, and click on the translation button. (see the "Power User" course above for more detail.)

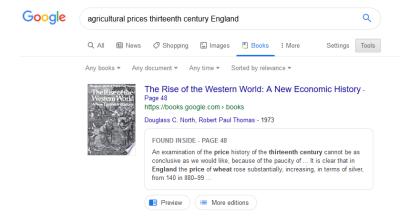
A bit outside the SCA time period, but Google also has a tool called "Fabricus" to translate Egyptian hieroglyphics: https://fabriciusworkbench.withgoogle.com/

Part 2: Google Books and Google Scholar

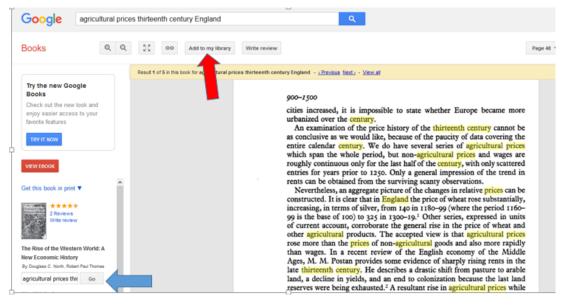
Google Books and Google Scholar strip away the junk and provide an easy-to-use search engine to give you good quality source material.

Google Books: https://books.google.com

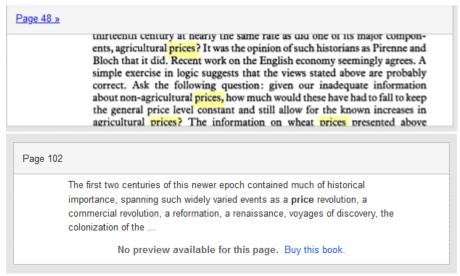
This tool will only give you books, but it can give you anything from brand-new releases to scanned copies of late medieval printed materials. From the GBooks introductory page, just enter some keywords to search. Let's say I'm looking for information on agricultural prices in 13th century England:



GBooks does a full-text search for your key words and returns hits ranked in order of significance. This high-level search returned hundreds of hits, ten per page. Above is the #1 hit, dated 1973. To take a look, just click on the entry. The book will originally open to the page with the most keyword hits, in this case page 48 (see below).



Note two things here (see previous page): Red Arrow: click this button and you can add this book to your personal library. I don't know if there is any limit to how many books you can add. I keep adding more and it doesn't complain. The downside is that I've not found any way to delete books from my library. The Blue Arrow shows a full-text search bar. Right now it is loaded with all of your original search words. To narrow it down enter fewer words, like "prices", and hit Go...you are now searching within this book.



The more specific search yields seven pages that discuss prices. At left I show hits #1 and #7. See that hit#1 (page 48) shows the page number underlined in blue...that's a link, which means that clicking on that page will show you the full text. Hit #7 (page 102) is not a link, so clicking on it will not give you the full text (the bad

news), but the good news is it will give you some text, and may help you decide if you really need to see this page. Many books will hide some pages from view to satisfy copyright law. But if the parts you CAN see give you what you want, go with it. If the invisible parts look interesting there are other options for getting what you want.

Even if part of the book is obscurred, you can usually see the table of contents, which might also give you an idea if you want to work harder to get this book. You may also be able to see references, which you will recall, is often the most important part of a publication.

So let's go back to the original search for "agricultural prices in 13th century England", remember there are hundreds more hits to explore. Let's look at hit #10 on the first page:

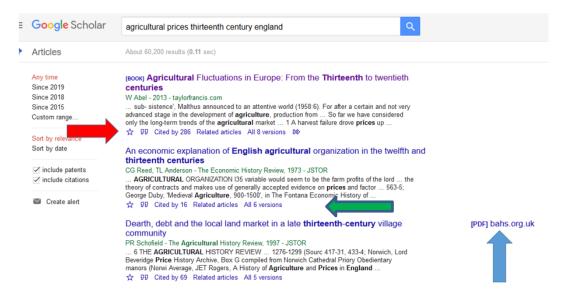


Published in 1866 . . . are you kidding me? But if you are looking for THE definitive source for agricultural prices in medieval England, this is it. This work is 7 volumes of price data gathered from manorial records, receipts, bills of lading, etc. Don't let the publication date fool you. This is a monumental work, cited by hundreds of later authors. And here you have free access to all 7 volumes, although in GBooks some pages may be obscured. Look at what is visible. With luck you can see the pages to get the information you need. If not, don't worry; there's another way to get the full text.

Google Scholar: https://scholar.google.com

GScholar goes beyond GBooks. In addition to books it also pulls up journal articles and graduate theses/dissertations. While books may only give an overview of a subject, journal articles dive deep into specific topics, and theses or dissertations are often a treasure-trove of information. While the bulk of a thesis is a deep dive into some specific topic, the first chapter is typically an overview of the subject matter to put the work in a historical context. So even if the specific research topic is of no interest to you, the overview can be very useful. Plus it will be impeccably referenced (the most important part).

So let's repeat our search for agricultural prices in 13th century England, but now using GScholar (see below). This search netted 60,200 hits. The first hit is a book, dated 2013. If you click on it the link, will take you to the publisher's website. This is a fairly recent book, so the publisher won't give it to you for free. But there is a button for "Preview PDF". Open that and you get both the table of contents and the entire reference section (most important!). Again, if what you can see suggests that you want to find this book, hold on and we'll get to that later.



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¹ How do I know that? Check out the "Citation Index" in GScholar for this book (see the next page).

Back to the GScholar search results (above): look at the Red Arrow. These buttons are VERY useful.

This allows you to save this reference in your personal library.

If you've ever written a formal paper, you probably hated formatting your bibliography. There are several different styles and the formats are very confusing. Clicking this button gives you the proper way to cite this work, in 5 different styles! Just pick one style to use (be consistent), then copy/paste into your paper. Beware, sometimes what it gives you is not 100% correct, but it is always pretty close even if it's not perfect. You're not writing a doctoral dissertation, so it should be close enough to satisfy your average A&S judge. There are other on-line resources that will write citations for you as well.

Cited by 286 This is called a "Citation Index". Click on this button and it will give you (in this case) 286 other published works that have cited this one. So if this work is of interest to you, then a few of the 286 might interest you as well since they share some information. Note that the Citation Index is a good way to find newer articles that might be of interest. It is also a useful tool to see if an older work (like the Rogers book above, dated 1866) is still being used by anyone.

Related articles This button gives you items that are close matches to the content of this one, but do not cite it. In this case that provides another 101 publications you might be interested in.

You now have a number one hit for your search and 387 more related references to check out. Plus, don't forget that your original search brought up another 60,199 hits.

Look back at your original GScholar search (above). The Blue Arrow (hit #3) shows "PDF] bahs.org.uk" to the right, but #2 has no note in that spot. This is your clue that #3 will give you access to a full text file, but #2 will not. But on #2 click on "All 6 versions" (Green Arrow)...sometimes if you are really lucky there will be another online version that gives you a link to the full text. (Sorry, doesn't work this time). So click on hit #3's PDF link (Blue Arrow), and see the full-text article. Now you can peruse all 60,200 hits looking for the ones that offer full text for free. This should give you some material to work with. #2 is not visible to us (yet), but we'll come back to it.

Part 3: How to find that book you need

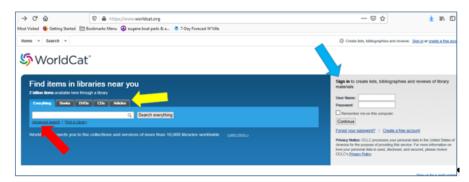
#1: Visit a Library

Many college/university libraries are open to the public. Students, faculty, alumni and staff might have special privileges, but once inside the library you can browse the stacks or sit down at a public computer, no password or ID card required at most schools. This is extremely valuable as many journals are only distributed electronically (EJournals), and newer books are often published in print and EBook formats. Libraries pay the fees for access to these EBooks and EJournals, so if you can sit at a library computer you have full access too.

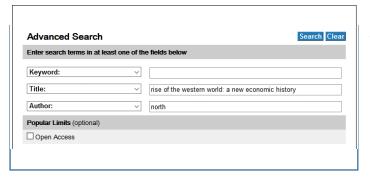
The Universities of Oregon and Washington, plus Oregon and Washington State Universities all allow free library access, including borrowing books, to any state resident with proper ID. I have only found one small private college library whose website said that it was not open to the public, but a simple Email request to the librarian got me permission to come in on a weekend when student demand was low. So check out your local colleges and universities to see what their policies are. Librarians are positively thrilled to find someone who actually wants to do research

Once you have a computer, or have a stack of books and journals, pull out a camera (or phone) and just photograph the pages you want (see Fair Use above). This will allow you to study them at your leisure. Be sure to include page numbers, as well as the page(s) of the book that shows title, author, publisher and date so that you can positively identify the source later. When you get home pull the photos off the camera into individual files by title. Beats spending a pocket-full of quarters at the copy machine.

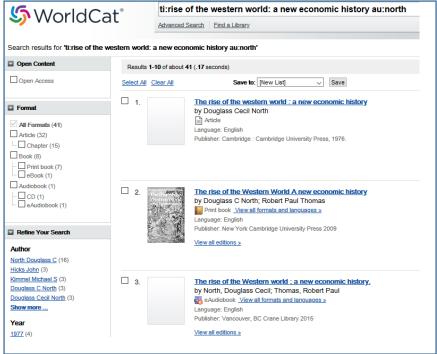
OK, I can get into a library, but how do I know that the book I want is there? Use WorldCat: www.worldcat.org



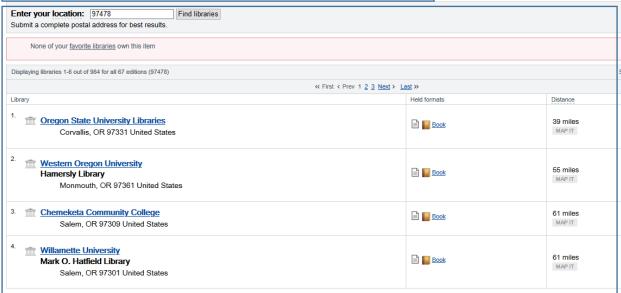
The Blue Arrow (above) indicates where you can set up a free account to maintain a personal bibliography and pick your favorite library. When you sign up for the account, it will ask you to identify your favorite library: enter the zip code of the nearest library you want to use. Now the system knows where you are, so that when it returns results it can list them in order based on the nearest library first. At the Yellow Arrow, (above) you can choose to search "Everything", or narrow your search to Books, Articles, etc. I expect that WorldCat has broader full text search capabilities (similar to GBooks), but I've only used it to find specific books or journals. I typically use the "Advanced Search" [Red Arrow] function. Now let's find that book from Part 1:



Go to "Advanced Search", enter author and title and click "Search" (left)..

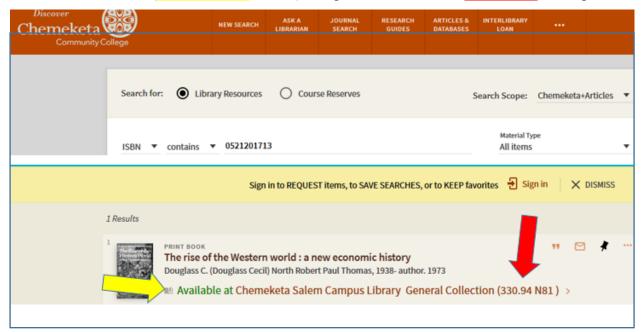


The results give you several choices, including a journal article, a print book and an audiobook. Click on the "Print Book" to find out where it is located. I created my account with 97478 (location of the UofO campus) as my Zip Code, so it returns



Unfortunately this book is not held at UofO in Eugene, but there are copies at Corvallis, Monmouth and two locations in Salem. That's good! Chemeketa CC is near my sister-in-law's place, so I can plan a stop there the next time we go visit. Click on the entry for Chemeketa CC, and you are taken directly to that book's listing (below) on the library website.

The book is available (Yellow Arrow, below) and get the call number (Red Arrow) to help in finding it.



This method works just as well for both print and electronic journals. If there is a specific article you need, just enter the journal name in the search function, and find out who has a copy. Be sure to check whether they hold the specific volume(s) you need.

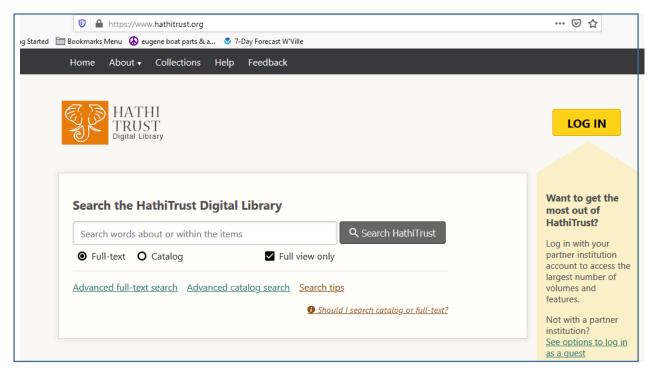
#2: Digital Libraries

Remember the 7-volume set of agricultural prices in England (Rogers), dated 1866? If I look that up in WorldCat I find that very few libraries carry it, and the nearest copy is 361 miles away in Burnaby, British Columbia. If it's important, why is it so hard to find? That's because libraries need to make decisions about what stays in circulation as they only have limited space, so older titles get bumped. More and more libraries are digitizing their older holdings and putting them up on the internet for everyone to see. There are many such digital libraries to choose from (see Appendix 1) but my favorite is called "Hathi Trust"².

Hathi Trust (HTrust): https://www.hathitrust.org/

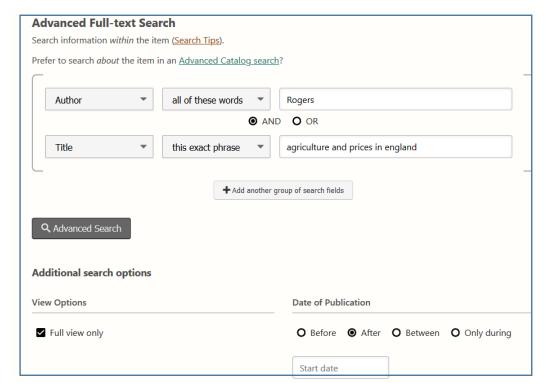
HTrust is managed by the University of Michigan; however, a number of major universities house their digitized collections there. Basic access is free to the public. You do not need an account or anything, just start searching. There are millions of items available full-text, and since there are multiple contributing libraries, you can often find multiple copies of any given book.

² Fun fact: You'll notice that their logo is an elephant. "Hathi" is the elephant from Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book, and everyone knows that an elephant never forgets. Get it? I give them style points for clever naming.

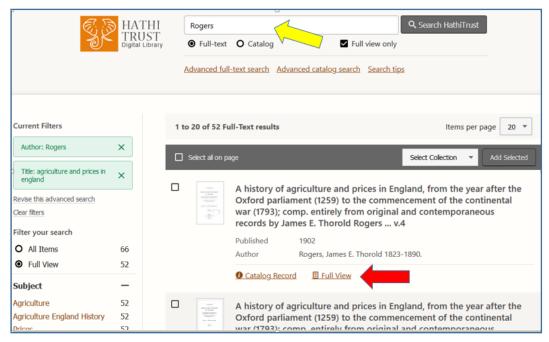


From the simple search box you can enter keywords and search the full-text content of millions of publications. There is also an Advanced Search option.

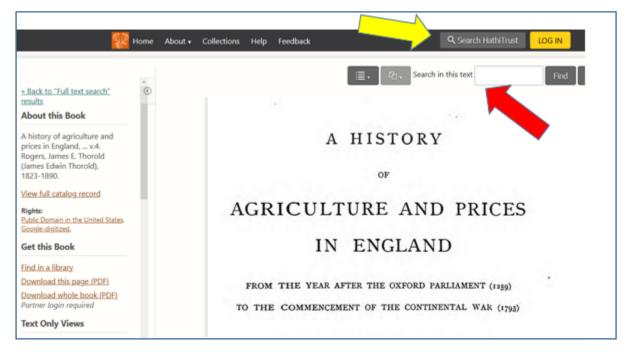
So let's search for Rogers, Agriculture and Prices in England: (I prefer to use the Advanced Search, see below) Note that I check the box (lower left, under Additional Search Options) "Full View Only"...this limits the results to entries that I can actually use without having special privileges.



This search returns 52 results (multiple copies of each volume). From this page you can also go back to a full text search of the entire library (Yellow Arrow, below) if you want to keep looking. If you've found what you want, just click on the "Full View" button for the entry you want to read (Red Arrow) This entry happens to be volume 4.



Now you have full access to the book (below). You can search for keywords within this text (Red Arrow), or you can go back to searching the entire library (Yellow Arrow).



I also want to show you the rest of the "Advanced Search" options:

View Options	Date of Publication
☐ Full view only	O Before O After O Between O Only during
	Start date
Language	Original Format
Select one or more checkboxes to narrow your results to items that match all of your language selections.	Select one or more checkboxes to narrow your results to items that match all of your format selections.
Filter	Filter
☐ Abkhazian	☐ Archive
Achinese	☐ Audio
☐ Acoli	☐ Audio (music)
Adangme	☐ Audio (spoken word)
Adyghe	☐ Audio CD
☐ Afrikaans	☐ Audio LP
☐ Afro-Asiatic	☐ Biography
☐ Akan	☐ Book
☐ Akkadian	☐ Computer File

<u>Date of Publication</u>: You can do full-text searches limited by publication date. I have found some really exceptional resources this way, including digitized versions of late-medieval texts. One warning though...a publication date of "1000" seems to be the default entry when no date is specified, so don't get too excited when you pull up hundreds of entries dated "1000".

Original Format: They have all sorts of entries, audio, newspapers, manuscripts, videos, etc. etc.

<u>Language</u>: You can choose to limit the search by language! And yes, there are texts in Akkadian, although most seem to be German-language scholarly works on Akkadian scripts.

I do not want to give the impression that HTrust is the "only" digital library, it's just the one I use the most. Please see Appendix 1 for a few others I have used.

#3: Take a university employee out to lunch

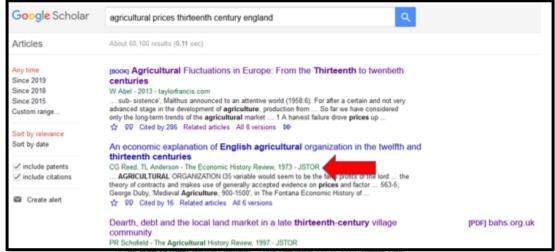
Faculty, students and staff at major universities often have extended privileges at the university library, which might include interlibrary loan (giving them access to a vast collection of items). Make friends with someone who is connected to the university and ask them to borrow the book for you. It might cost you a pastrami sandwich and a coke, but that's a reasonable price for access to the book you need.

Part 4: Other ways to find a journal article

#1: Use WorldCat, Then Visit a Library

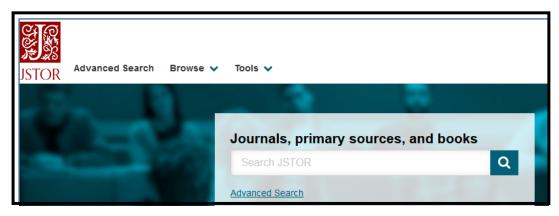
WorldCat (see Part 2) works for both print and electronic journals. A couple things to keep in mind, however: 1) When you look up a journal, be sure to check what volumes are held by that library (the library listing should tell you). It is a pain to go looking for volume 12 and find they only have volumes 15 to present. 2) Take note of whether it is a print journal or EJournal, important to know when you go looking for it.

#2: JSTOR www.jstor.org

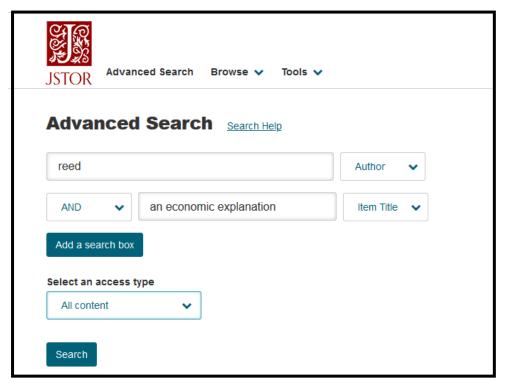


Recall earlier we did a search in GScholar and the first three hits (see above) were 1) a book, 2) a journal article that did not have a PDF available, and 3) a journal article that did have a PDF available:

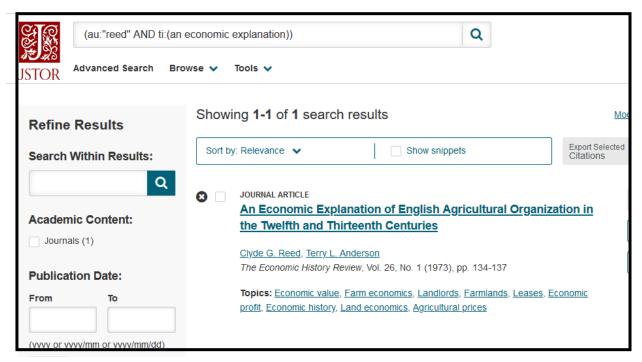
Hits #2 and 3 have the note "JSTOR" after the title (Red Arrow). Not every article will have this designation, it is just a coincidince that both of these do. JSTOR is a Digital Library for journal articles. So if your search turns up articles in "JSTOR" you have another avenue to get them for free.



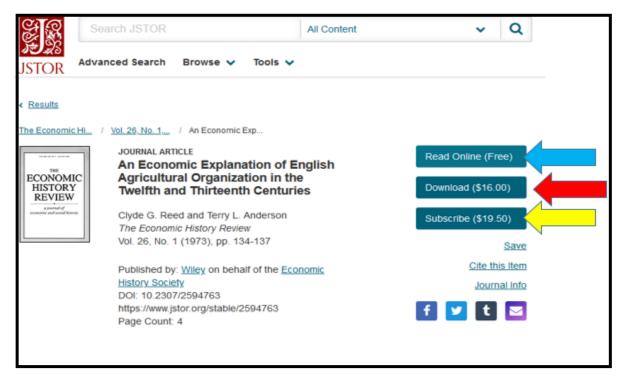
On the JSTOR front page, just enter keywords to search, or go to "Advanced Search" (my preference).



Hit "Search"....



Then click on the title....



This heading (above) appears, with ONLY the first page of the article. If you want to see the full text, you have to do something.

- 1) If you click "Read Online (Free)" (Blue Arrow) JSTOR will invite you to open a free account. Once you do this, you are allowed to read articles for free. Just open the account, then go back and open the article. Remember, not every article will be available in JSTOR, but a lot are, so it is worthwhile to open the free account.
- 2) If you realy want to, you can pay \$16 for the ability to download this single article (Red Arrow). I've never had to do that.
- 3) If you are working on a big research project, and expect to have a lot of need for JSTOR, you can subscribe (Yellow Arrow) to pay a monthly fee for unlimited access. You pay by the month, so when your project is done you can turn it off. During the COVID pandemic JSTOR has waived all fees to allow everyone unlimited access until further notice... log in to see the current terms.

Also, you can "Save" this item in you personal bibliography, and "Cite this item" will give you the bibliography citation in three different styles (recall that GScholar has this feature too).

#3: Academia www.academia.edu

"Academia" is an interesting service. Individual researchers join and post their own papers, or other interesting articles for everyone else to read. You can subscribe to the basic service for free. They claim it gives you access to 24 million items. There are some nice features:

- 1) There is a search function, and with the free membership you can read and download papers. (I haven't found a limit yet.)
- 2) When you search for an article in GScholar, if it is available through Academia you will be able to access it for free.
- 3) Academia provides an easy way to chat directly with any author who is a member.
- 4) When you create a free account, you can enter keywords describing your interests. Also, when you read an Academia article, it remembers and adds this to your list of interests. Then on a regular basis Academia will send you Email messages informing you when a new article appears that matches your interests. That is a nice feature, and I have gotten a few good leads that way.

#4: Contact the author!

Scholars love to get fanmail. In the last few years I have contacted 16 total strangers, and 15 of them have replied with answers to all my questions and more. The hard part about contacting scholars is getting their contact information, and for this I've used a few techniques:

- 1) If your target is a university professor or museum curator they will probably have contact information posted on the university/museum website.
- 2) If they belong to Academia, that site provides an easy way to contact them.
- 3) Some journals require the primary author to provide contact information, usually in a footnote at the bottom of the first page.
- 4) With luck you might find your target on Facebook.

Don't be shy about contacting an author directly. Everybody wonders if anyone reads the stuff they publish, and it is nice to get reassurance that someone does. Just do your homework before contacting them. Read their work and be able to ask a few cogent questions based on something they have published. Introduce yourself and your reason for writing, even mention the SCA (several of my contacts turned out to be current or former SCAdians). Be respectful of their time, and they'll often go to great lengths to help you out.

The same goes for SCA artisans. Check out *Tournaments Illuminated* and *Compleat Anachronist* (both have online indexes, see Appendix 2), and if there's something of interest to you, contact the author. To my knowledge there is currently no digital library of TI or CA back issues. The SCA website has some back issues for sale (hardcopy), and I have also found back issues for sale on EBay. While there is

no comprehensive listing of SCA Laurels, many (if not all) Kingdoms provide a list of local Laurels and their interests on their Kingdom website. Contact them. In my experience, getting SCA folk to talk about their interests is never a problem. Getting them to stop is sometimes challenging.

#5: Pay for a copy (the last resort)

READCUBE (https://www.papersapp.com/) is a service that provides papers for researchers of all disciplines. I used it several years ago when basic access for searching was free, and you could pay a couple dollars to download individual papers. They have now discontinued the free access and gone to a required monthly subscription (\$3 or \$5/month...not too bad if you are working on a project.)

If there's that one article that you positively must have, but it's from an obscure out-of-print journal that's only held by one library 1500 miles away, you may be able to pay to get a copy. Most major libraries offer the service of making a copy and sending you a PDF. It will cost you around \$35 or so, but if you've got to have it, that may be an option.

Similarly, for very new articles you just might not be able to find a way to get it for free. Go the publisher's website, and they will probably have an option to buy access to individual articles.

Appendix 1: More Digital Libraries

Here are a few more I've come across, plus the first two which are "Libraries of Libraries":

Listing of 250+ digital libraries: http://oedb.org/ilibrarian/250-plus-killer-digital-libraries-and-archives/

Internet Archive: https://archive.org/

Project Gutenberg: http://www.gutenberg.org/

World Digital Library: https://www.wdl.org/en/

Medieval Europe Online http://www.medievaleuropeonline.com/general.html

Digital Public Library of America https://dp.la/

The European Library http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/

CELT (Corpus of Electronic Texts) https://celt.ucc.ie// Irish history, literature & politics

Internet Sacred Texts Online http://www.sacred-texts.com/index.htm religion, mythology

NDLTD http://www.ndltd.org/ 5 million graduate Theses and Dissertations

EThOS (E-Thesis Online Service) http://ethos.bl.uk/Home.do 500,000 UK Theses and Dissertations

The Sifter https://thesifter.org/ Thousands of historical cookbooks online

Appendix 2: Various collections of medieval stuff

There are a lot of collections of things of interest to the medieval historian. Here I cannot help you much. You are going to have to wade through them yourself to find collections that support your particular areas of interest. This is only a partial list, and I keep finding more.

SCA-based sources:

SCA Inc. Research & resource links http://www.sca.org/links/misc.html

Kingdom of Caid wp.as.sca-caid.org/documentation-resources-for-the-artisan/research/

Kingdom of Atlantia: moas.atlantia.sca.org/wsnlinks/ over 7000 links **Tournaments Illuminated** Index of articles by topic https://sca.org/ti/topic.html

Compleat Anachronist Index of Issues https://sca.org/ca/issues.html

Fordham University Medieval sourcebook. Full text medieval sources and Links to history sites

https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook2.asp https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/medweb/links.asp

UC San Diego Medieval primary sources

https://ucsd.libguides.com/c.php?g=90745&p=585546

UC Los Angeles Digitized Medieval Manuscripts https://english.ucla.edu/manuscripts/

University of Sheffield Medieval Skills https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/medievalskills/resources

University of British Columbia

Medieval Manuscripts on the Web https://faculty.arts.ubc.ca/sechard/512digms.htm https://faculty.arts.ubc.ca/sechard/mypages.htm

University of Pennsylvania http://openn.library.upenn.edu/ReadMe.html

De Re Militari http://deremilitari.org/primary-sources/ Military-related primary sources

Medieval Music http://www.medieval.org/emfaq/site.html

Medieval Manuscripts https://digitizedmedievalmanuscripts.org/app/ Links to over 500

universities

Manuscripts Online https://www.manuscriptsonline.org/ Links to universities and museums

UK Portable Antiquities Scheme https://finds.org.uk/ Registry of found objects

Viking Answer Lady Links and Bookmarks http://www.vikinganswerlady.com/VALBookmarks.shtml

Ed Tech Teacher http://besthistorysites.net/medieval-history/ Medieval history websites

University of Glasgow Incunabula Project www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/incunabula/

Medieval Academy of America: Medieval Digital Resources http://mdr-maa.org/

[Space to add more as I find them]

Plus, many museums and libraries have digital archives of their holdings, here are a few I have used:

British Library

https://imagesonline.bl.uk/?service=page&action=show home page&language=en

http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/illuminatedmanuscripts/welcome.htm

The Walters Art Museum

https://art.thewalters.org/browse/

J. Paul Getty Museum

http://museumcatalogues.getty.edu/

Metropolitan Museum of Art

https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection

Bodelian Library

digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk

The Wallace Collection

https://www.wallacecollection.org/collection/

US Library of Congress, Rosenwald Collection

https://www.loc.gov/rr/rarebook/rosenwald.html

National Library of the Netherlands

https://www.kb.nl/en/themes/medieval-manuscripts

Austrian National Library

https://www.onb.ac.at/en/library/departments/manuscripts-and-rare-books

University of Copenhagen, Danish Royal Library

https://manuscript.ku.dk/about the manuscripts/digitised manuscripts/

The Morgan Library

https://www.themorgan.org/manuscripts/list

authenticity and feedback

How authentic is it??

Modern researchers have discussed various level of authenticity in reconstructing clothing in particular, but I think you can extrapolate similar details for any craft. One person, Ida Demant, suggested the following for clothing reconstructions:

- C Standard = factory woven fabric, in quality as close as possible to the original, machine sewn, except where stitching is visible and used for school children and adults who want to experience the feeling of natural fibers
- B Standard = garments made from hand-woven fabric from machine spun yarn, in quality as close as possible to the original. All material plant dyed. Suitable for museum displays and living history environments
- A Standard = hand spun fiber from as close to the original as possible, woven on correct contemporary loom, hand sewn, plant dyed. Suitable for research reconstructions

(From "Principles for Reconstruction of Costumes and Archaeological Textiles". Ida Demant, C Alfaro, M Tellenbach, R Ferrero. In Textiles y Museologia. Pp. 143-153. Valencia. 2009)

In the SCA, I think many of us are working to the C Standard. Clothing isn't always our major focus; we just need decent garb to wear while we do other crafts, fight, cook, etc..

European re-enactors seem to aim for B Standard. They do have the advantage of seeing actual historical objects in local museums and occasionally getting paying gigs at actual historical sites. A Standard is clearly for research.

SCA Laurels fall into some combination of B and A Standards.

Levels of Authenticity

Here are some approaches to making things, in the order of low to high historic authenticity, from presenter notes for Raven's class on authenticity & documentation.

- o Creative: I invented/imagined this object. = no authenticity (even if it's cool)
- o Fantasy: I made an object based on a work of fiction. = no historic authenticity, even if historically inspired (Tolkien, Game of Thrones).
- o Pure SCA: I made an SCA object ('Viking' chairs, rattan weapons, cooler cozies, wrought iron bottle openers) = low authenticity. Maybe materials ok. Beats plastic.
- o Survey/ Generic: I made a medieval-ish object (a cloak, stew) = low authenticity. It's a start! But objects come from a place and time. (Image note: stew contains non-period potatoes, but the overall concept is ok.)
- o Imitation: I made an object like the one that person made = depends: low to good authenticity, but you won't get highest marks in a contest because you don't know.
- o Instruction: someone taught me how to make this object. = depends. More points if you add your own research.

- o Scan with flair: I got ideas from period objects and added my own flair = depends: okay to good authenticity, may be period in spirit and function.
- o Compilation: I studied period object/s and made a similar object = good to high auth. Can still add variations (they did!). (Image note: middle and right images are both examples of a compilation rom similar sources, at different levels of skill.)
- o Replica: I studied period object/s and made a replica of one = high authenticity.
- Scholarship: I studied an ambiguous period object, made my own theory, and tested it; here's what I found out. = high authenticity. Ongoing. When shared, this advances the state of the art.

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Useful for SCA Competitions

I think it's important for a competition to make clear the level of authenticity it is seeking and the criteria on which the entries will be judged. Once you know the terms of the competition you want to enter, the judging criteria, like the An Tir A&S judging forms, can become a great set of guidelines to follow as you make and present your creation.

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Sentence Starters for Feedback

If you're judging a contest or just helping a friend with a project, be specific and encouraging with your feedback.

Affirmation – provide positive & encouraging feedback:

I appreciate how you... From your entry I learned... Your example of... What impressed me was...

The strongest part of your entry / research / presentation was...

Continue to ...

Growth Mindset -- encourage taking on new challenges, not fearing failure

You put so much thought into... I can see you put a lot of effort into... The passion you put into that gives me a feeling of joy. How do you feel about it?

Elaboration – Identify areas needing more information or clarification

Can you expand on... What would happen if... / I wondered if

I thought I heard you say... Am I right in thinking that...

Could the outcome have been different if... Continue to ... What is the relationship between... You might try...

Add-on -- identify areas of research to expand

Next time you might want to consider... Have you heard of...

What would happen if... Continue to...

Had you considered... It would have been helpful if...

A suggestion I have is ...

USEFUL 1115ER11EG SIGES Viking Gear

Project Forlog is a website created and maintained by Tomás Vlasaty, a re-enactor from the Czech Republic. The site has much to offer to SCA fighters and others who want to create a fairly accurate Viking period kit. The articles include lengthy, well illustrated discussions of shields, helmets, and other artifacts as well as "Inspirations" which profile re-enactors with particularly good garb and accessories. The drawings and photos are always excellent.

Here's a sample of some of the articles available:

The main page and about the author:

https://sagy.vikingove.cz/

The Shield Handle from Myklebost (10th century metal handle for a round shield from a Viking boat burial found in Myklebost, Norway, now in the Bergen Museum) https://sagy.vikingove.cz/the-shield-handle-from-myklebost/

Dimensions of Continental and Scandinavian Shield-Bosses https://sagy.vikingove.cz/dimensions-of-continental-and-scandinavian-shield-bosses/

Helmet from Pohansko (Czech Republic) https://sagy.vikingove.cz/stromovka-type-helmet-from-pohansko-czech-rep/

The Gjermundbu Helmet, in Spanish but with excellent close ups of the helmet and a reproduction. https://sagy.vikingove.cz/el-yelmo-de-gjermundbu/

The Helmet from Lokrume, Gotland (10th century) https://sagy.vikingove.cz/the-helmet-from-lokrume-gotland/

Helmets Used in 9th – 12th Century Reenactment https://sagy.vikingove.cz/helmets-used-in-9th-11th-century-reenactment/

Long Knife from the Grave Valsgärde 12 (10th century) https://sagy.vikingove.cz/long-knife-from-the-grave-valsgarde-12/

Wire-Wrapped Knife Handles of the 9th – 12th Century https://sagy.vikingove.cz/wire-wrapped-knife-handles-of-9th-12th-century/

Wire Wrapped Sword Grips of the 9th – 11th Century https://sagy.vikingove.cz/wire-wrapped-sword-grips-of-9th-11th-century/

Swords With Organic Hilts https://sagy.vikingove.cz/swords-with-organic-hilts/

Consturction of Wooden Sword Grips of the 9th – 12th Century https://sagy.vikingove.cz/construction-of-wooden-sword-grips-of-9th-12th-century/

Scabbards of Single-Edged Swords https://sagy.vikingove.cz/scabbards-of-single-edged-swords/

9th – 11th century Spearheads longer than 50 cm https://sagv.vikingove.cz/9th-11th-century-spearheads-longer-than-50-cm/

Early Medieval Shears Cases https://sagy.vikingove.cz/early-medieval-shears-cases/

Multifunctional Combs from Birka https://sagv.vikingove.cz/multifunctional-combs-from-birka/

Reconstruction of the "Viking Bag" https://sagy.vikingove.cz/reconstruction-of-the-viking-bag/

Rethinking the Wallet from Gakstad https://sagy.vikingove.cz/rethinking-the-wallet-from-gokstad/
The Wallet from Iholm, Denmark (11th entury)
https://sagy.vikingove.cz/the-wallet-from-iholm-denmark/

The Plate from Szczecin (11th century wooden plate) https://sagy.vikingove.cz/the-plate-from-szczecin/

<u>Lathed Tableware with Metal Brim (9th – 11th century)</u> <u>https://sagy.vikingove.cz/lathed-tableware-with-metal-brim</u>

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Another site with a lengthy discussion titled "Best viking age shield replicas of today" has excellent photos, including close-ups of the backs of the shields and technical details about size and materials that would allow you to make one yourself.

https://mennytaika.blogspot.com/2021/11/best-viking-age-shield-replicas-of-today.html

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Of related interest is a Youtube video (26 minutes) by the Society for Combat Archaeology: "We've just released this online lecture on our Youtube channel - we hope you enjoy it!

The lecture discusses some of the newest research on the subject of Viking Age shields and presents the experimental archaeology project, The Viking Shield, which was launched by SoCa and Vikingeborgen Trelleborg/ Nationalmuseet - Prehistory.

The lecture is presented by archaeologist Rolf Warming (project manager of The Viking Shield) and Tom Jersø, traditional craftsman and shield maker in the project.

For more details regarding the Viking Shield Project, please see this photo album: https://www.facebook.com/.../a.16968751.../1696876943792424/

Special thanks to Vikingeborgen Trelleborg/Trelleborg Viking Fortress for making this project possible!"

On Youtube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwbDlfgmW78

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And if you like Facebook and want discussions of authentic finds and how to recreate them, try joining the group **Viking Gear**. Their description:

"This group is for Viking re-enactors and enthusiasts who aim for historical authenticity in their equipment, weaponry, tents, personal gear etc. based on finds and facts."

While Viking Gear is public, the comparable group Viking Clothing is private:

"This group is for Viking clothing enthusiasts. - Experienced as inexperienced. It is aimed primarily at the re-enactor community, although of course others are more than welcome, provided they understand that the main aim of this group is historical accuracy depending on archaeological, historical and other scholarly sources. . .

The founders of this group are all Scandinavian and British - this means that we have a more European approach to re-enactment, and our recommendations are likely to be based on the climatic conditions of the Viking homelands! It also means that for most of the admins and many of the members, English is not the primary language. This can lead to misunderstandings as can the very direct approach of many Scandinavians.

If your philosophy of re-enactment is SCA based, you might be more comfortable at **Viking Clothing (SCA style)** https://www.facebook.com/groups/624164817603195/

Again if you are more interested in "dressing-up", LARP and Vikings -style bling and garb you might be better off in **Fantasy Vikings**

https://www.facebook.com/groups/622046464542814/

If all this hasn't completely put you off us - and I hope it hasn't! - welcome to the wonderful world of Viking clothing! "

If your interest in Scandinavia is a little earlier than the Viking age, there are two Facebook groups of interest that focus on the Vendel period, 6-8th century:

Vendel period studies, a private group, describes itself as

"created for those with an academic based interest in the chronological Vendel Period (6th to 8th century) in Northern Europe. Please note that this is not a living history or neo-pagan faith group. The rules are simple, no modern politics, all applicants to join the page are vetted, no public 'likes' viewable, no entry, any far right 'likes' on profile pages, no entry."

Vendel Period Living History, also a private group, is for those interested in a less academic approach to the Vendel period (6-8th century), ,:

"A forum for all interested in the serious evidence based recreation and living history of Vendel Period Scandinavia and the contemporary cultures of the British Isles and Continental Europe."

Here are some general interest Viking websites:

http://www.vikinganswerlady.com
This newly updated website is huge. It has sections for Daily Life, Technology, Agriculture, Warfare, Art & Literature, Myth & Religion, Settlements, and Bibliographies (including Books About Vikings for Children, Sources for Viking Age Women's Studies, Viking Literature, Learning Old Norse and Modern Scandinavian Languages, Viking Age Law, Viking Age Art, Viking Conversion to Christianity, Arabic Sources Relating to Vikings, and Viking Themed Fiction).

https://www.cs.vassar.edu/~capriest/vikresource.html#cloth Viking Resource for the Re-enactor is a webpage maintained by Thora Sharptooth. Although it is a bit old (last updated in 2004), it offers links to excellent bibliographies of older material.

http://urd.priv.no/viking/
Recreating Viking Clothing is maintained by Hilde Thumem, based in Norway. It has a collection of her own articles on recreating garments, links to other reconstruction articles, and links to lots of archaeological reports.