

## Neo-Latin Lexicography in the Digital Humanities

Despite the well-known fact that the vocabulary of Latin underwent a great expansion during the Renaissance, until very recently there existed no lexicon solely dedicated to cataloguing the Latin from that period (a lacuna that has only begun to be filled by Hoven's *Lexique*). Even now the lexicographical resources to study Neo-Latin literature pale in comparison to those available for Medieval Latin and certainly even more so Classical Latin. The interest in Neo-Latin literature has seen its own Renaissance as evidenced by the several handbooks recently brought to press. As new avenues of research open-up within Renaissance studies and the pedagogy of active Latin grows in popularity, scholars have become increasingly interested in Neo-Latin vocabulary. The *Morgan-Owens Lexicon* (or *Lexicon Morganianum*) fills some of the common desiderata of this burgeoning field of study as it sets out to record Latin vocabulary which either appears in non-classical texts or is applicable in a modern sense.

Although the *Morgan-Owens Lexicon* is hardly the first dictionary to proffer Latin equivalents for modern items or to collect post-Classical vocabulary and neologisms, it is the first lexical instrument to join these two goals, which it does by encouraging a searchable interface where one can query either in English or in Latin. The Perseus Project pioneered the digitally searchable lexica by making the standard Latin and Greek reference works available online; the *Morgan-Owens Lexicon* attempts to make a similarly valuable tool for Neo-Latin available digitally in a free and open-access venue. *Morgan-Owens* does not pretend in the least to offer any complete repertory of the Neo-Latin vocabulary. Every Neo-Latinist knows that due to the massive volume of Neo-Latin writings, no inventory like that of Lewis and Short's can be made within a reasonable number of years.

After a brief history of the *Morgan-Owens Lexicon*, this paper focuses on the applications of the lexicon both for serious scholars of Neo-Latin and for students and

teachers practicing active Latin pedagogy. The paper also identifies some shortcomings of the project through a comparison with certain standards of digital lexicography and the trends in digital humanities within the Classics. The paper concludes with projections regarding the future trajectory of digital Neo-Latin lexicography.

### Bibliography

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