

Design as part of the plan: sustainability in digital editing projects

Digital Scholarly Editions as Interfaces
International symposium



We are

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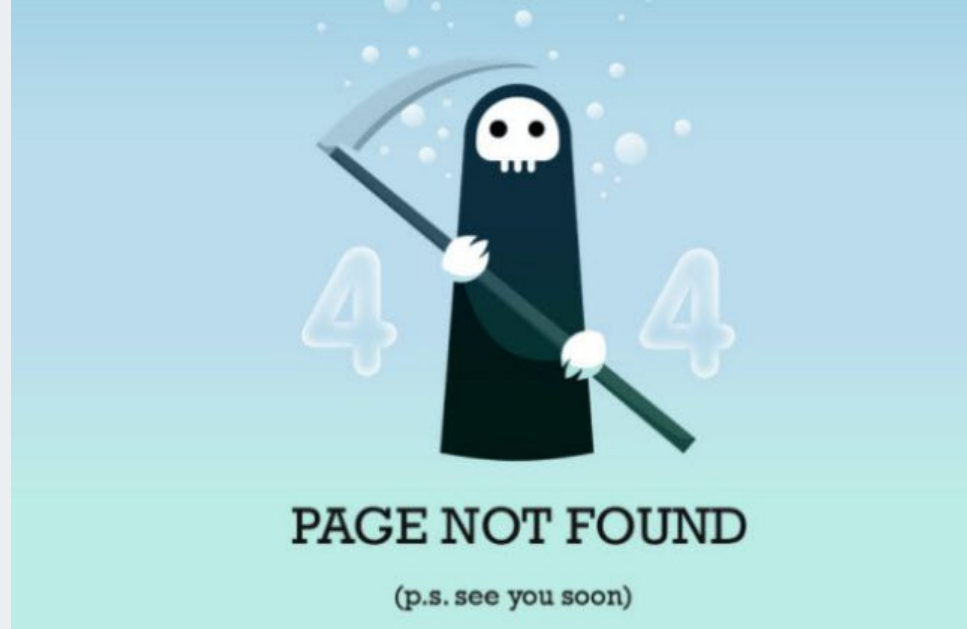
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From the
early 90s

...

Still
going
strong



Houston, we have a problem



In Mission Control the Gold Team, Apollo 13 Expeditions to the Moon, Houston - April 13, 1970 <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/pao/History/SP-350/ch-13-1.html>

What's that?

We are stuffing content in a box that doesn't fit.

Maybe we should build a new wrapper around the content.
And it has to last longer, maybe grow with it too.

It needs to be flexible, thus sustainable.

It's not just DSE

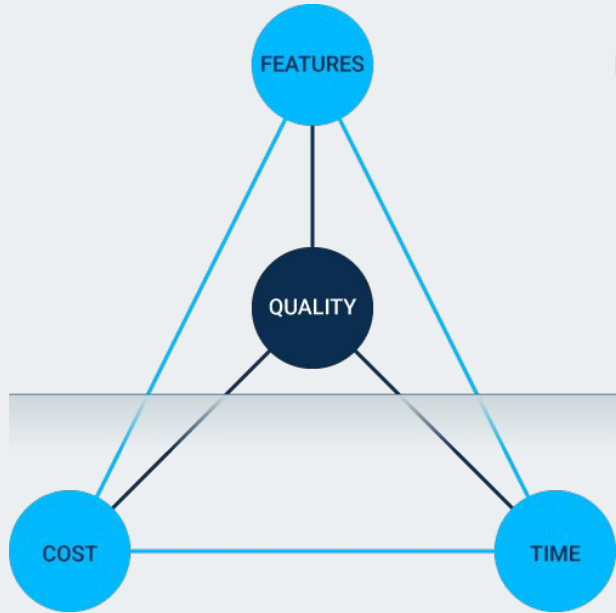
Project development = content design / information architecture

What's fixed and what can be flexible?

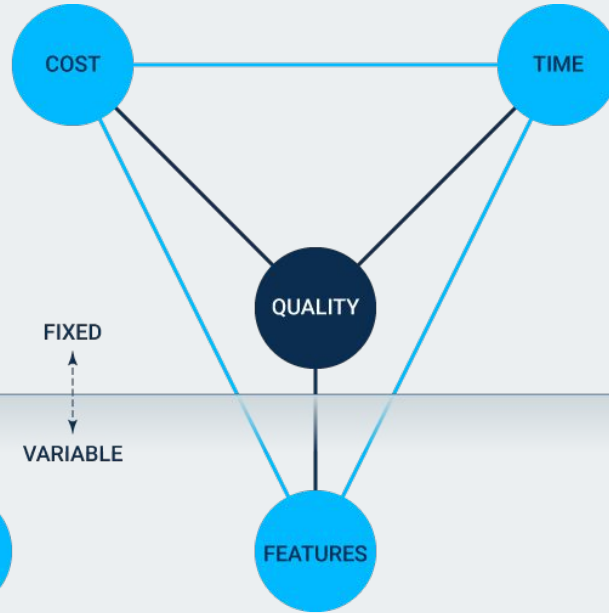
Time **vs** Costs **vs** Features

Without compromising on **quality**

Waterfalls



Agile



What to do?

We are trying to be more... Agile.

An iterative methodology that supports a flexible approach to development assigning different priorities to tasks.

Faults are discovered and fixed early in the process.
The final product is functional because the minimum requirements are always satisfied (if not, the project fails).

Agile in a nutshell

- Iterative / incremental design
- Willingness to explore & adapt
- Responding to change
- Face2face collaboration
- Valuable product
- Tasks' prioritisation - MoSCoW

Find out more about Agile: <https://www.agilealliance.org/>

MoSCoW approach

Must

The most vital things you can't live without

o

Should

Things you consider important, but not vital

Could

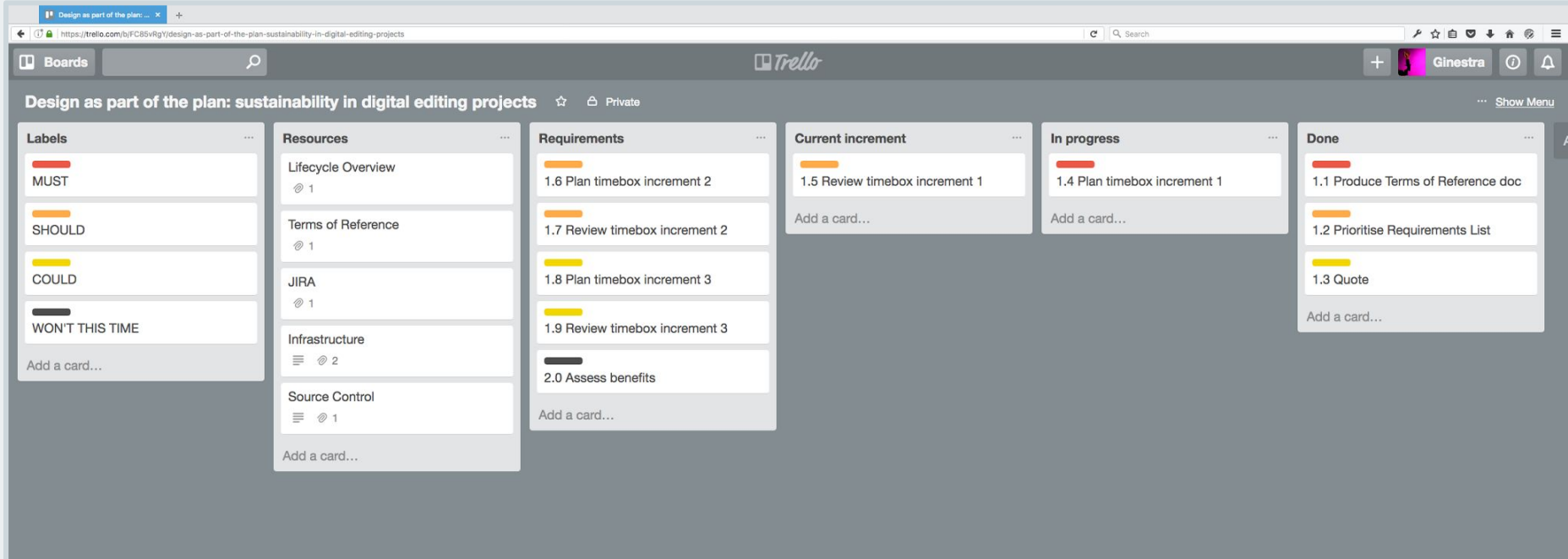
The 'nice-to-haves' ; desirable but not necessary

o

Won't do this time

Things that provide little value and that you can give up
- Life is short*

How does it look in an actual project?

A screenshot of a Trello board interface. The board is titled "Design as part of the plan: sustainability in digital editing projects" and is set to "Private". It features six columns: "Labels", "Resources", "Requirements", "Current increment", "In progress", and "Done". Each column contains a list of items, some with progress bars and "Add a card..." buttons. The "Labels" column lists MUST, SHOULD, COULD, and WON'T THIS TIME. The "Resources" column lists Lifecycle Overview, Terms of Reference, JIRA, Infrastructure, and Source Control. The "Requirements" column lists items 1.6 through 2.0. The "Current increment" column lists item 1.5. The "In progress" column lists item 1.4. The "Done" column lists items 1.1 through 1.3.

Design as part of the plan: sustainability in digital editing projects

Labels

- MUST
- SHOULD
- COULD
- WON'T THIS TIME
- Add a card...

Resources

- Lifecycle Overview (1)
- Terms of Reference (1)
- JIRA (1)
- Infrastructure (2)
- Source Control (1)
- Add a card...

Requirements

- 1.6 Plan timebox increment 2
- 1.7 Review timebox increment 2
- 1.8 Plan timebox increment 3
- 1.9 Review timebox increment 3
- 2.0 Assess benefits
- Add a card...

Current increment

- 1.5 Review timebox increment 1
- Add a card...

In progress

- 1.4 Plan timebox increment 1
- Add a card...

Done

- 1.1 Produce Terms of Reference doc
- 1.2 Prioritise Requirements List
- 1.3 Quote
- Add a card...

What does it have to do with Digital Scholarly Editing projects ?

Time and cost are often (strictly) fixed variables.

We all want to deliver good quality though.

Also, we all would like projects to keep running even after the funding period.

Sustainability

Set up an iterative workflow + Follow a process

Don't reinvent the wheel.

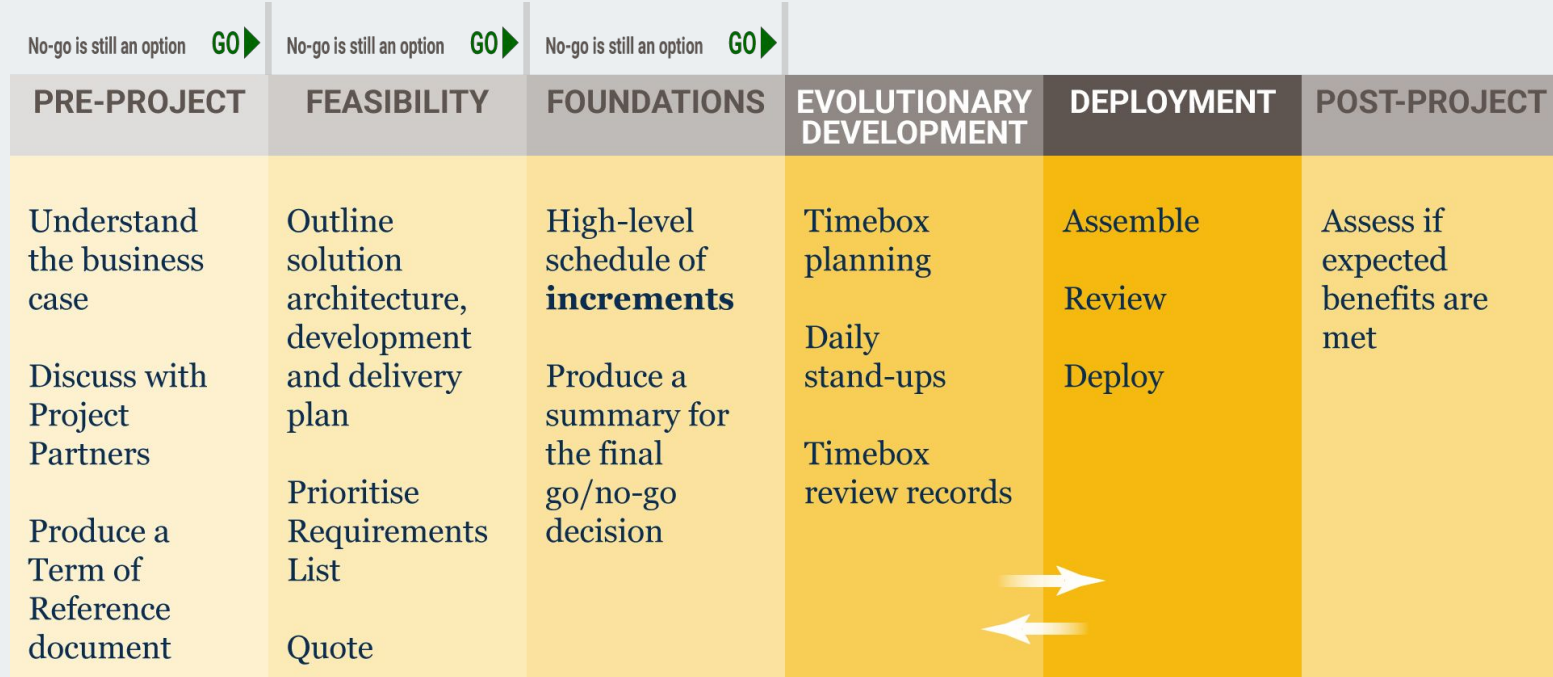
Don't do more than what you need.

(Do write documentation, but don't drown in it).

KDL's Workflow *

Also applicable to DSE projects

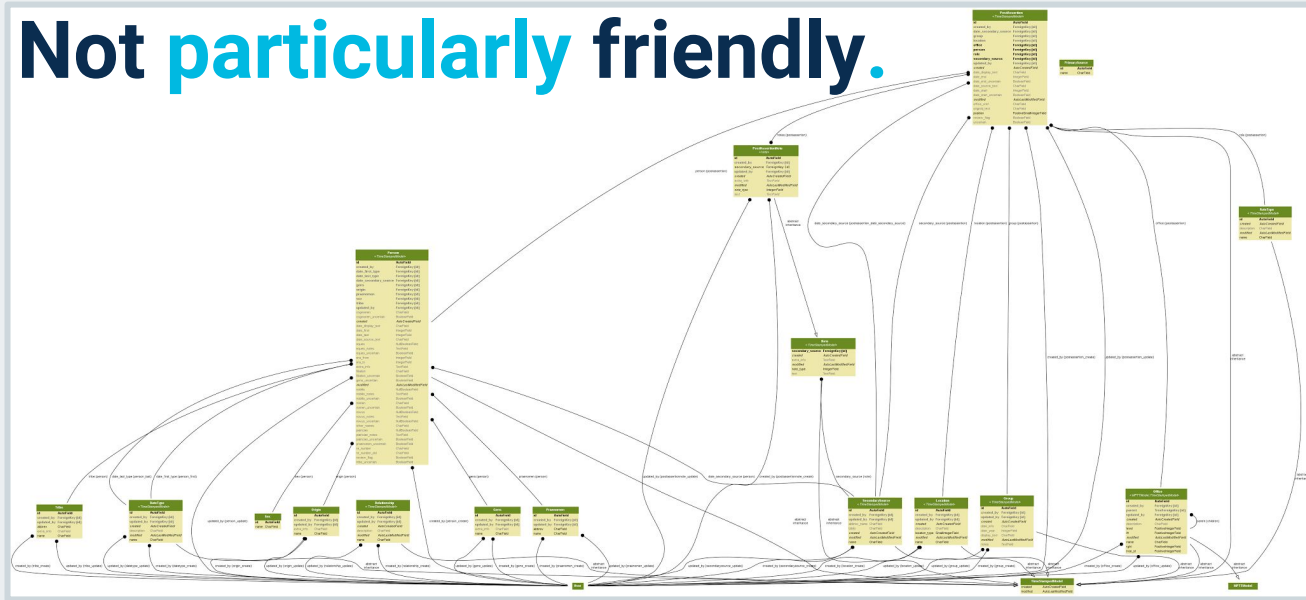
** Simplified for the sake of this presentation*



Content design / Information Architecture

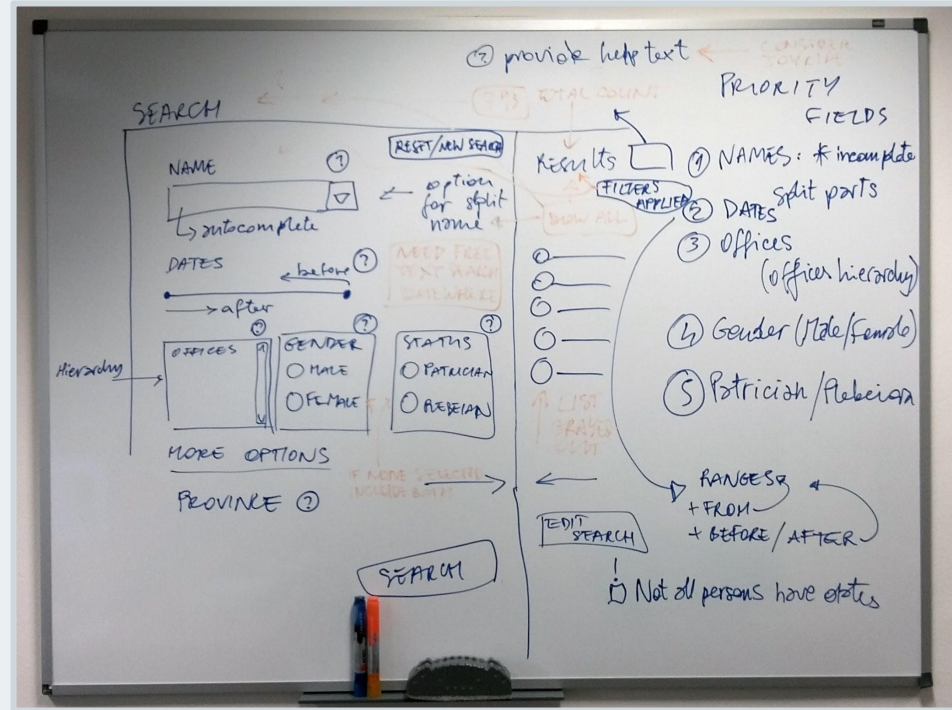
Content is **king**.
So let's build around it.

How a database structure looks like. Not particularly friendly.



Move towards Human friendly.

- Get the conversation started quickly
- Don't design, sketch!
- Get feedback
- Move on to the next step



Work together

- Some feedback could look like this ----->
- Might not look appealing, but if it gets the point across, work with it.
- Because **design will help**

Search Page

Person
Intelligent lists - must allow user to type in a value and then restrict to valid choices e.g. Praenomen "M" should give a list of "M, M', Mam, Marius, Minat". Adding a 2nd letter (e.g. "Ma") should restrict to "Mam, Marius"

male female patrician nobilis novus
 sen. sen. (expelled) eq. R. eq. R. (expelled)

Biographic Data
 - birth
 - death
 -- natural
 -- violent
 - exile
 - adopted

Dates
*To specify 'after' a particular date, fill in the 'from' date only; to specify 'before', fill in the 'to' date only.
 For one specific year, put the same value in both boxes.*

to

Career and Status
 Must allow choices of more than one item from each list (and/or). Must reflect the structure of the offices table and allow expansion of office hierarchy groups within the selection box.

<p>Magisterial Posts</p> <p>Promagisterial Posts</p> <p>Non-magisterial Posts</p> <p>Equestrian Functions</p> <p>Distinctions</p>	<p>Provinces or locations <i>valid for the following offices: consuls, praetors, quaestors, promagistrates, triumphs</i> Again - a nested hierarchical list which can be expanded</p> <p>Rome Italy Mediterranean</p>	<p>Priesthoods</p>
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Project partners, Developers, Users

<insert smiley emoji here>



Everyone is happy.



- Reset search
- Know instantly the size of the pool of data you are exploring
- Fine grain search
- Free text search (not a priority for **this** particular project)

What does design do for you?

Gets your content across.
Makes it more accessible
and more rewarding for users to explore.

Text vs Visual

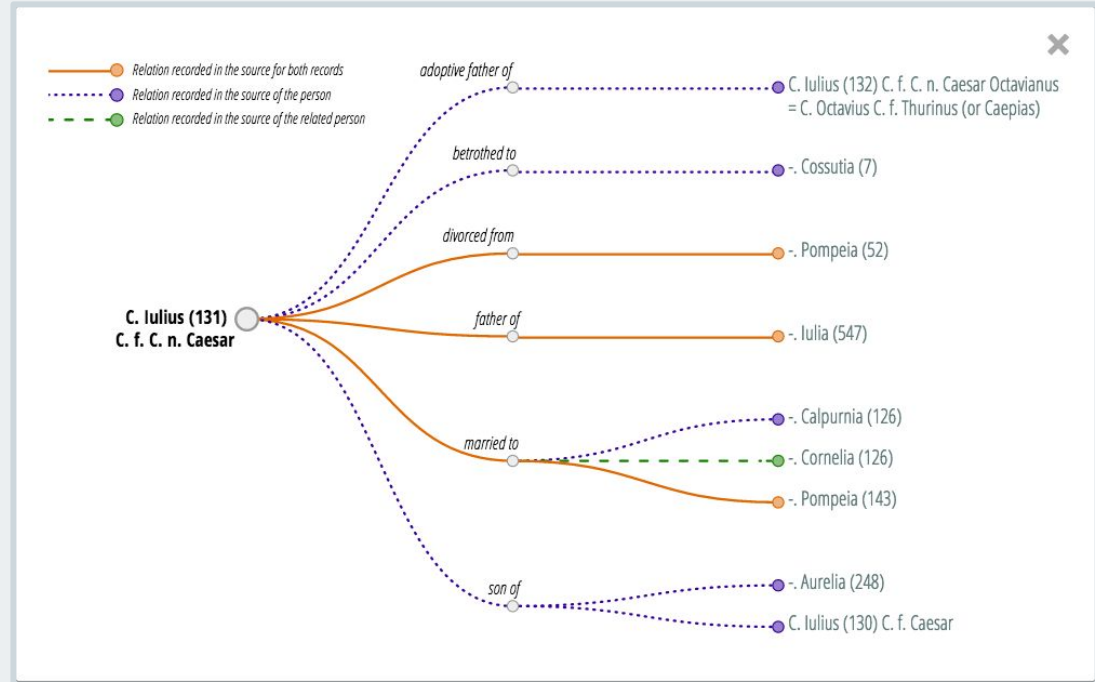
There is nothing wrong with text.

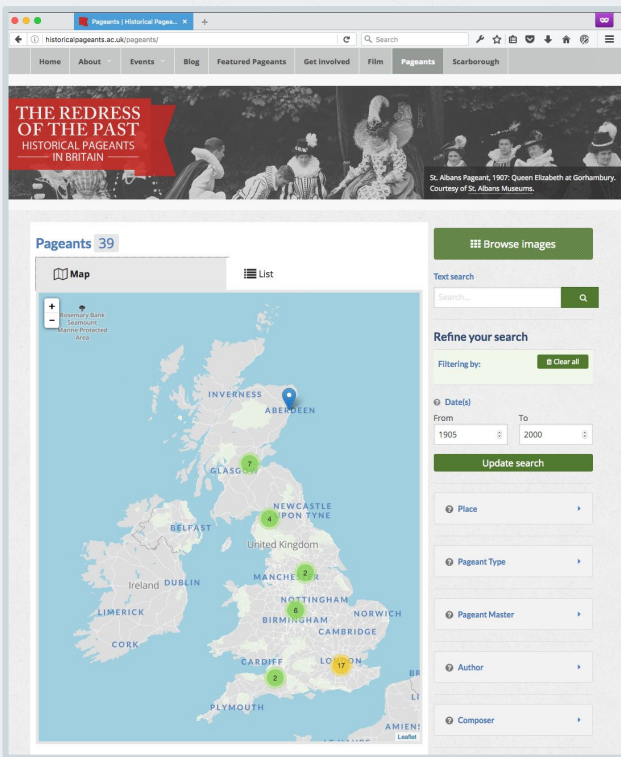
There is nothing wrong with visual.

Choose what delivers to your audience in that particular context.

Julius Caesar (131)

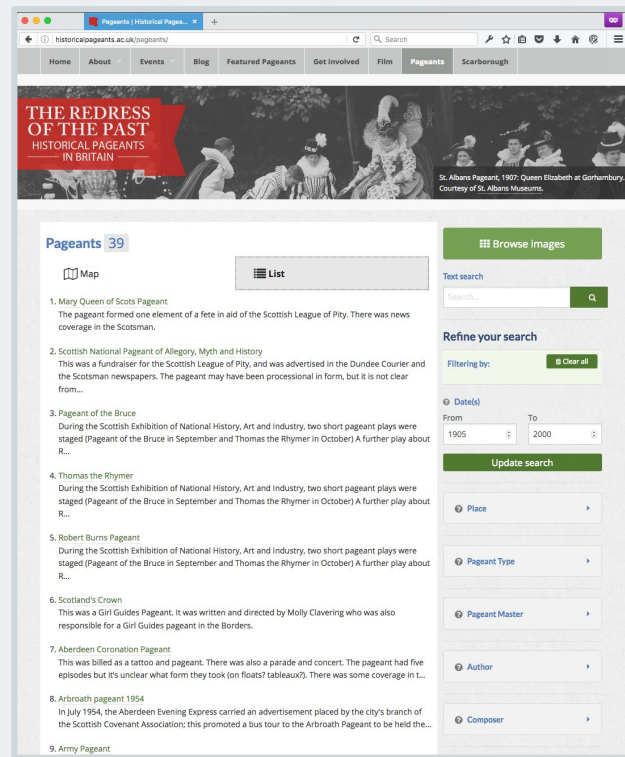
- Son of Aurelia (248) and Iulius (130)
- Married to Calpurnia (126), Cornelia (126), Pompeia (143)
- Father of Iulia (547)
- Divorced from Pompeia (52)
- Betrothed to Cossutia (7)
- Adoptive father Iulius (132)





Options

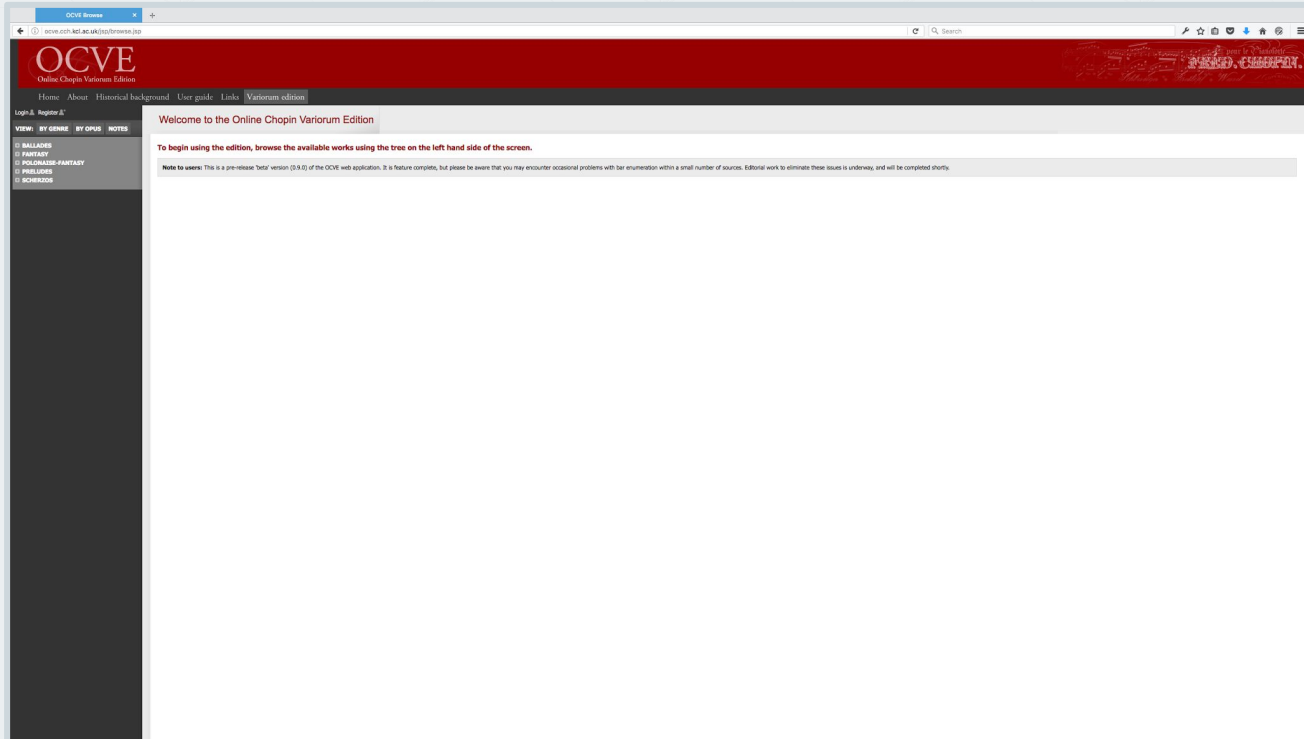
Whenever possible,
let users choose.



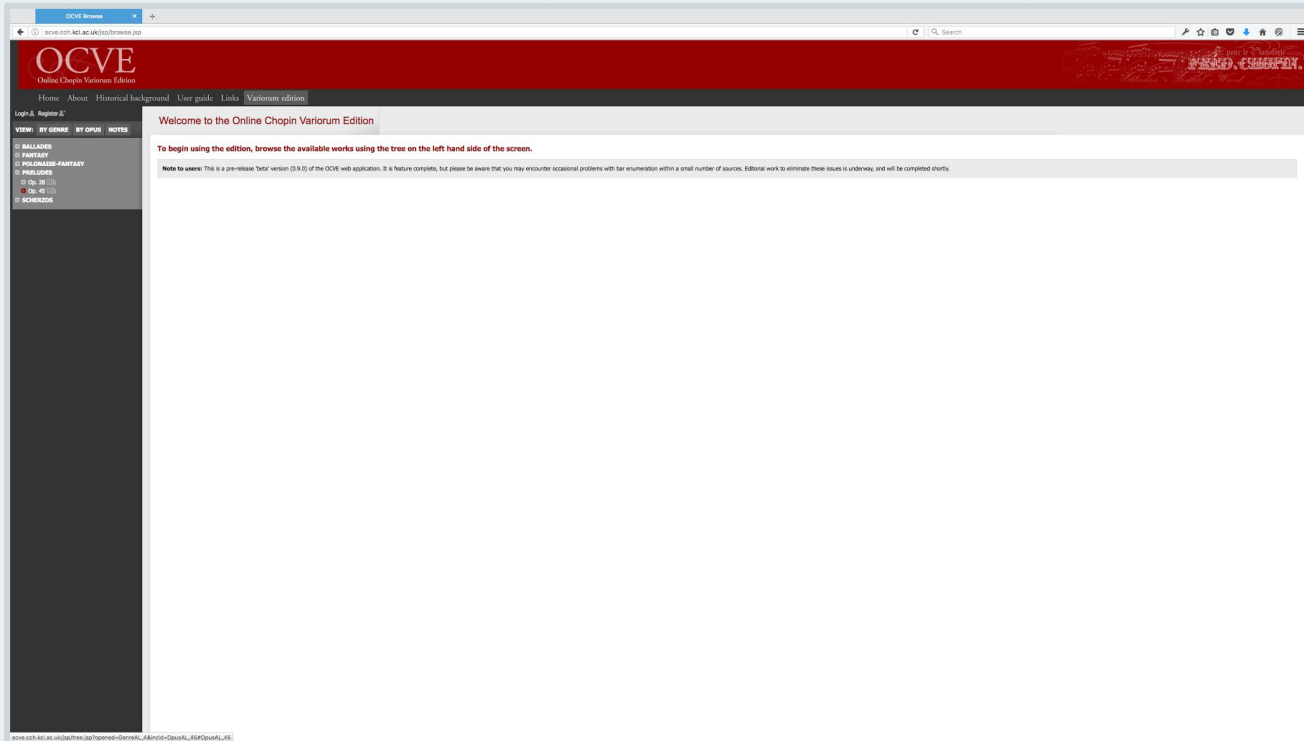
Search a body of work

Before

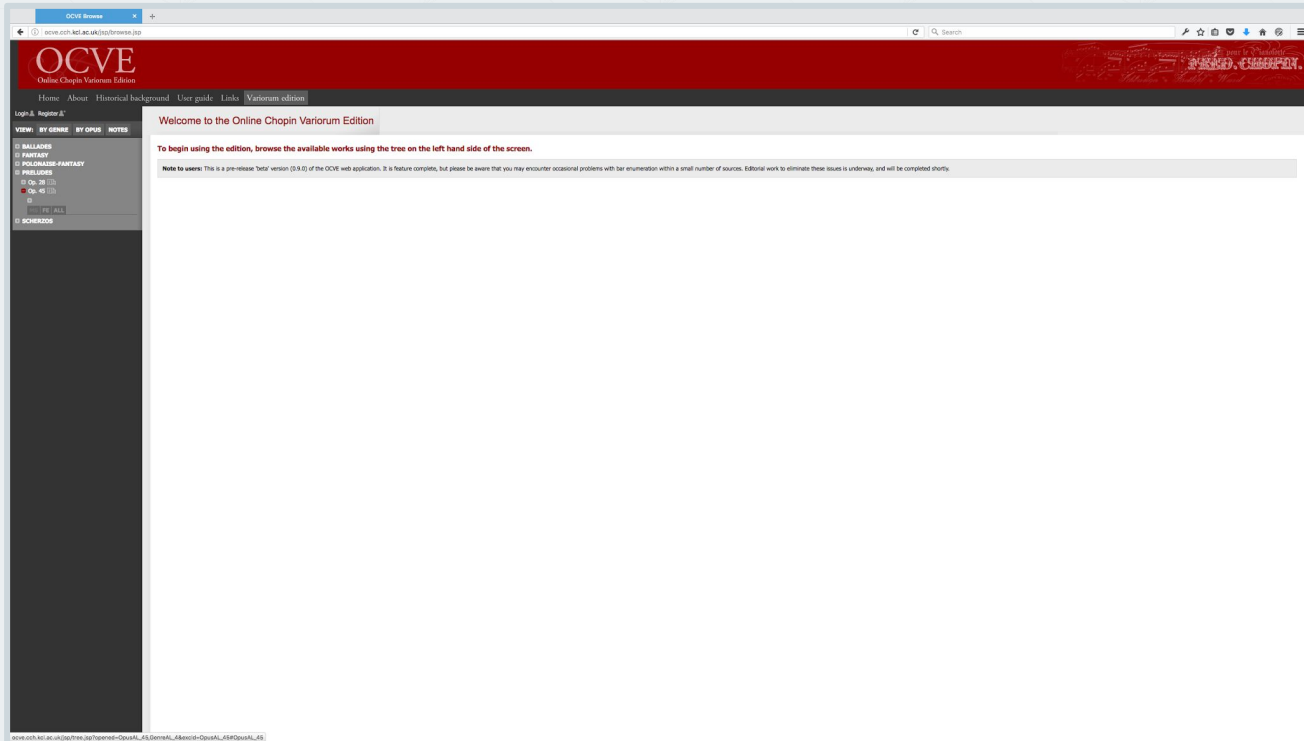
1



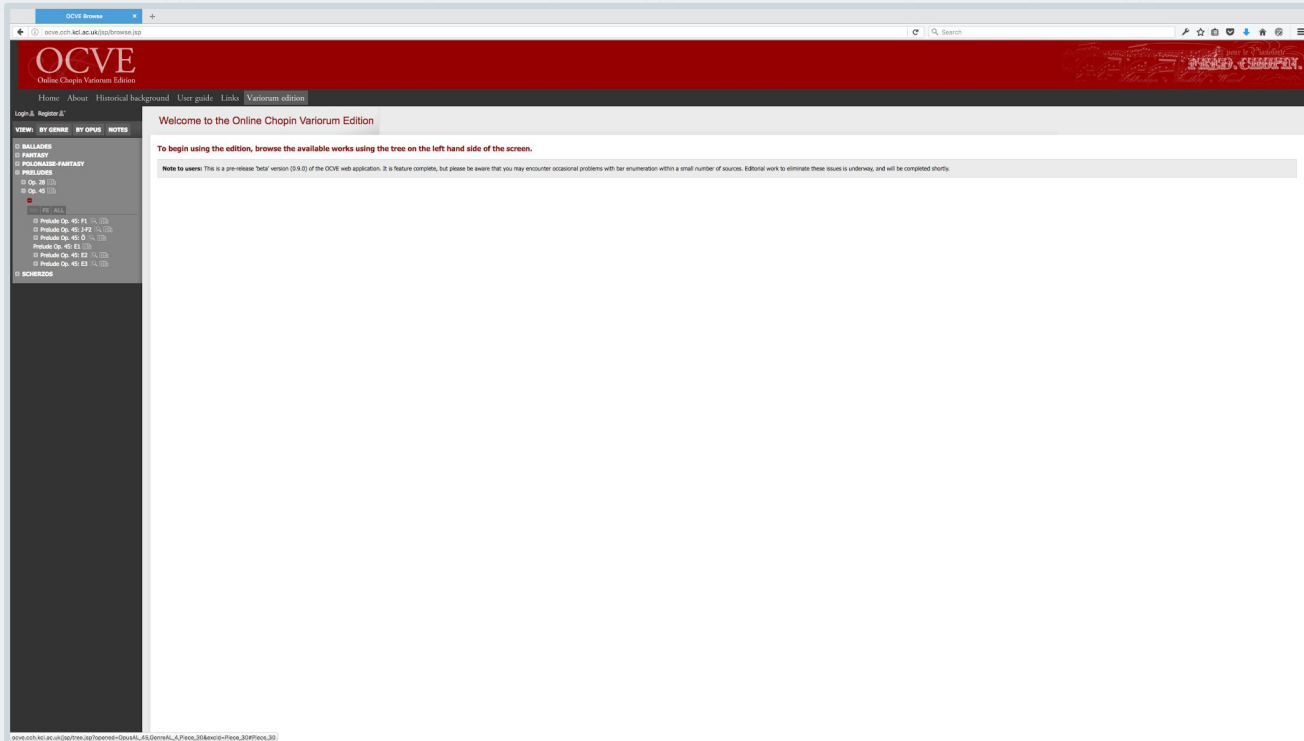
2



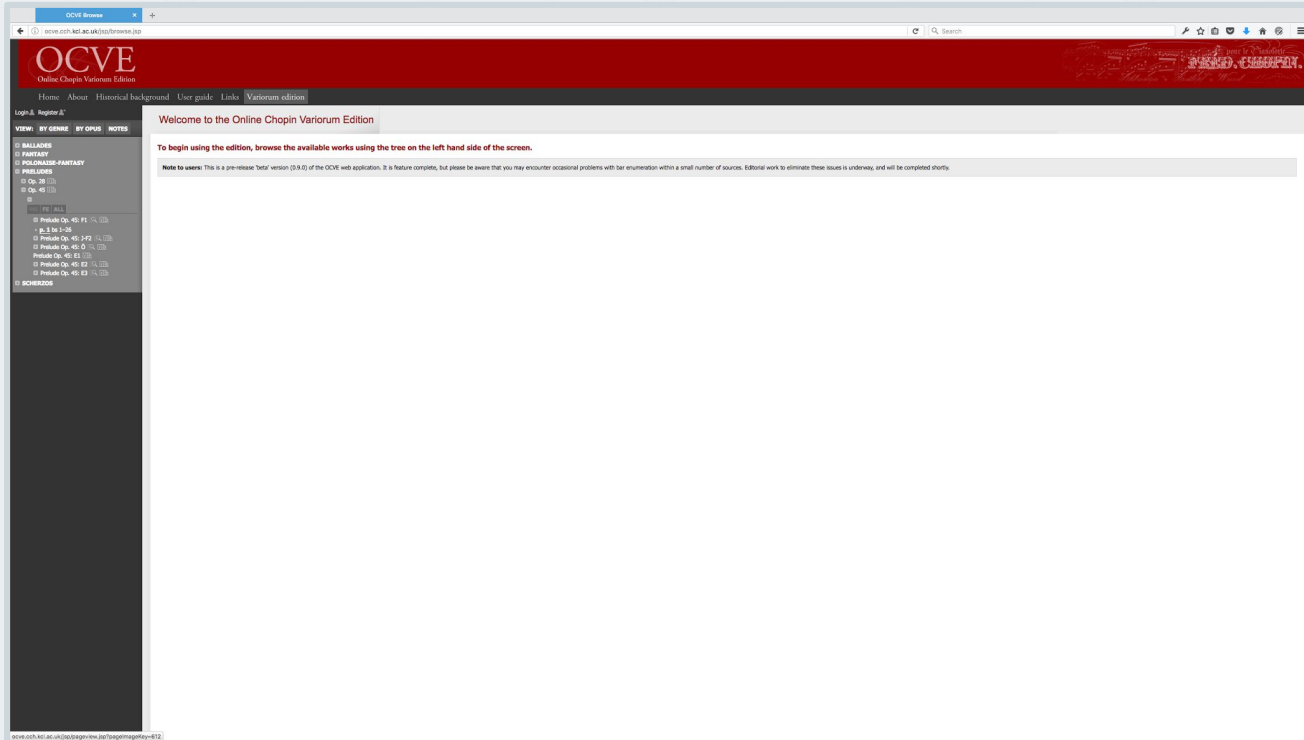
3

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the OCVE (Online Chopin Variorum Edition) website. The browser's address bar shows 'ocve.ech.ac.uk/ocv/overview.jsp'. The website has a red header with the OCVE logo and navigation links: Home, About, Historical background, User guide, Links, and Variorum edition. Below the header, there is a login area for 'Log in As: Register As:'. A main navigation menu on the left lists categories: BALLADES, FANTASY, NOCTURNE-FANTASY, PRELUDES, and SCHERZOS. The main content area features a 'Welcome to the Online Chopin Variorum Edition' message and a note to users stating that this is a pre-release beta version (2.9.0) and that some features may be incomplete or have bugs. The URL at the bottom of the browser window is 'http://ocve.ech.ac.uk/ocv/overview.jsp?language=Copernicus_Demeter_AlexisChopin_Variation_10'.

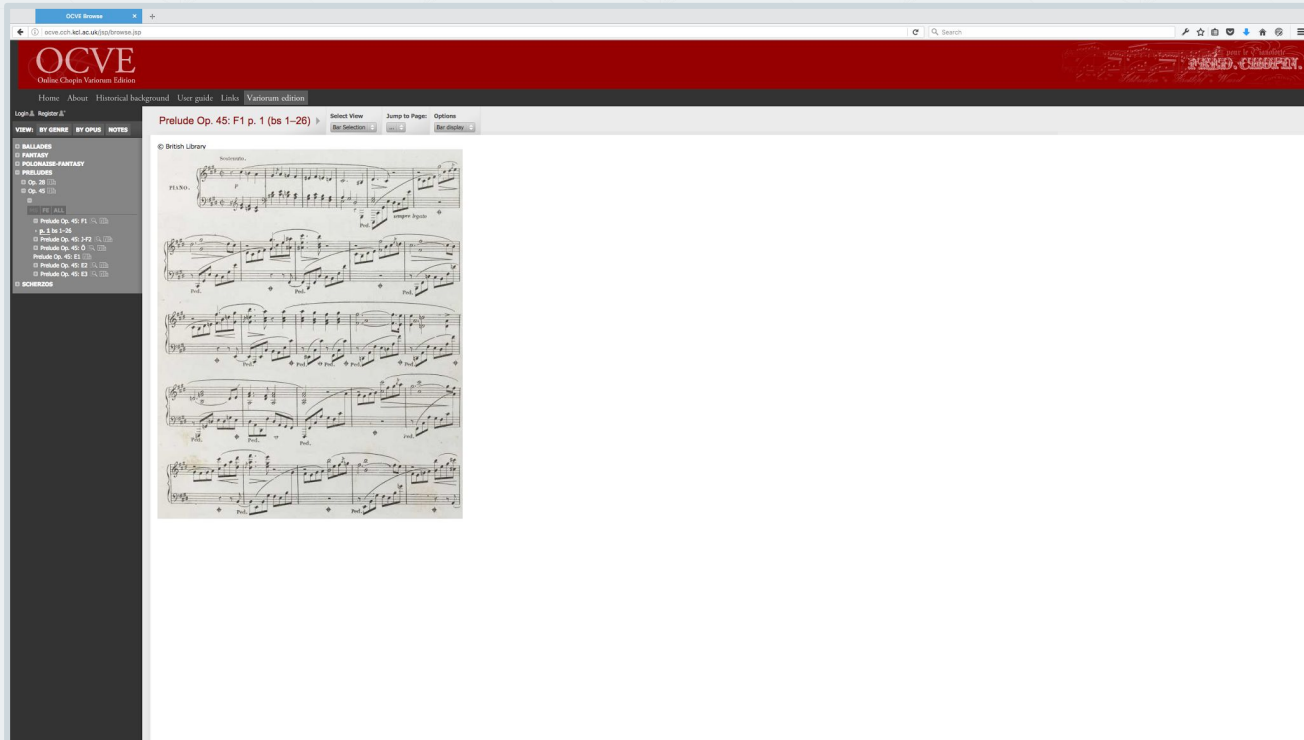
4

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the OCVE website. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'ocve.sch.kcl.ac.uk/ocvbrowser.js'. The website has a red header with the OCVE logo and navigation links: Home, About, Historical background, User guide, Links, and Variations edition. Below the header, there is a 'Welcome to the Online Chopin Variorum Edition' message. A 'Note to users' section follows, stating that this is a pre-release 'beta' version (2.9.0) and that some issues may still be present. On the left side, there is a navigation menu with categories: BALLADES, FANTASY, POLONAISE-FANTASY, and PRÉLUDES. Under PRÉLUDES, there are sub-items for Op. 28, Op. 45, and Op. 101. The main content area is currently empty.

5

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the OCVE website. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'ocve.och.kcl.ac.uk/ocv/index.jsp'. The website has a red header with the OCVE logo and navigation links: Home, About, Historical background, User guide, Links, and Variorum edition. Below the header, there is a login area for 'Log in As: Register As:'. The main content area is titled 'Welcome to the Online Chopin Variorum Edition' and includes a note to users stating that this is a pre-release beta version (2.9.0) and that some issues may still be present. On the left side, there is a sidebar menu with categories like 'VIEW: BY GENRE BY OPUS NOTES', 'BALLADES', 'FANTASY', 'NOCTURNE-FANTASY', 'PRELUDES', and 'SCHERZZO'. Under 'PRELUDES', several specific works are listed with their Opus numbers and links to view them.

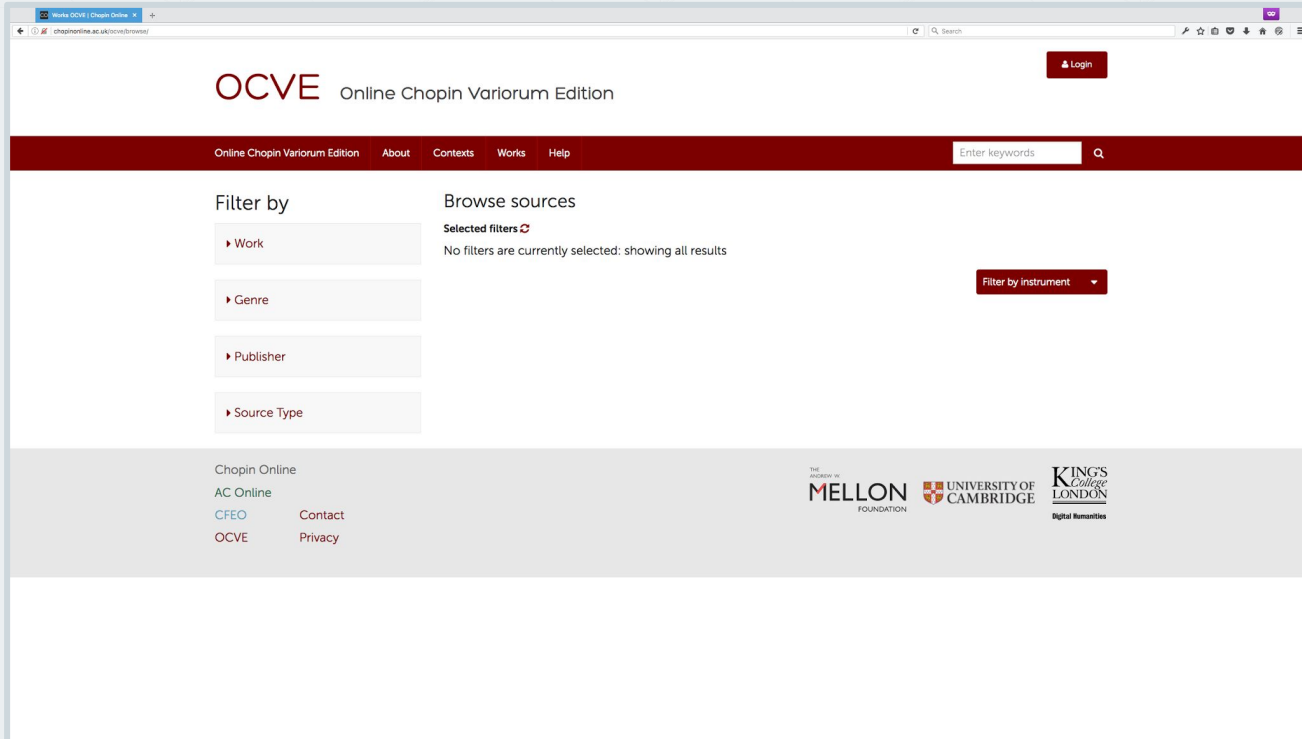
6

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the OCVE (Online Chopin Varietium Edition) website. The browser's address bar shows the URL "ocve.sch.kcl.ac.uk/ocv/index.jsp". The website has a red header with the OCVE logo and navigation links: Home, About, Historical background, User guide, Links, and Varietium edition. Below the header, there are options for "Log-in" and "Register". A sidebar on the left contains a navigation menu with categories like BALLADES, FANTASY, NOCTURNE-FANTASY, and PRELUDES. The main content area displays the title "Prelude Op. 45: F1 p. 1 (bs 1-26)" and shows the first page of musical notation for this piece. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 3/4 time signature. The music is arranged in two staves, with the right hand (RH) on top and the left hand (LH) on the bottom. The page is watermarked with "© British Library".

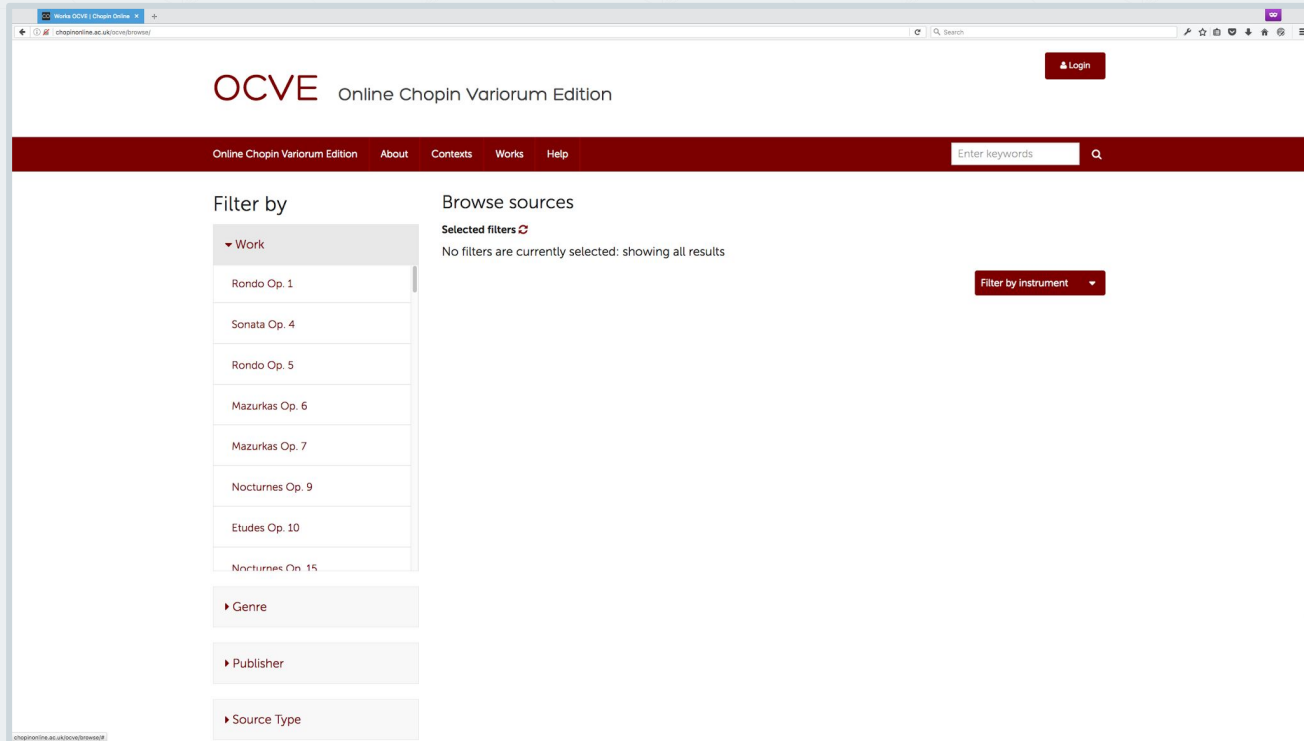
Search a body of work

After

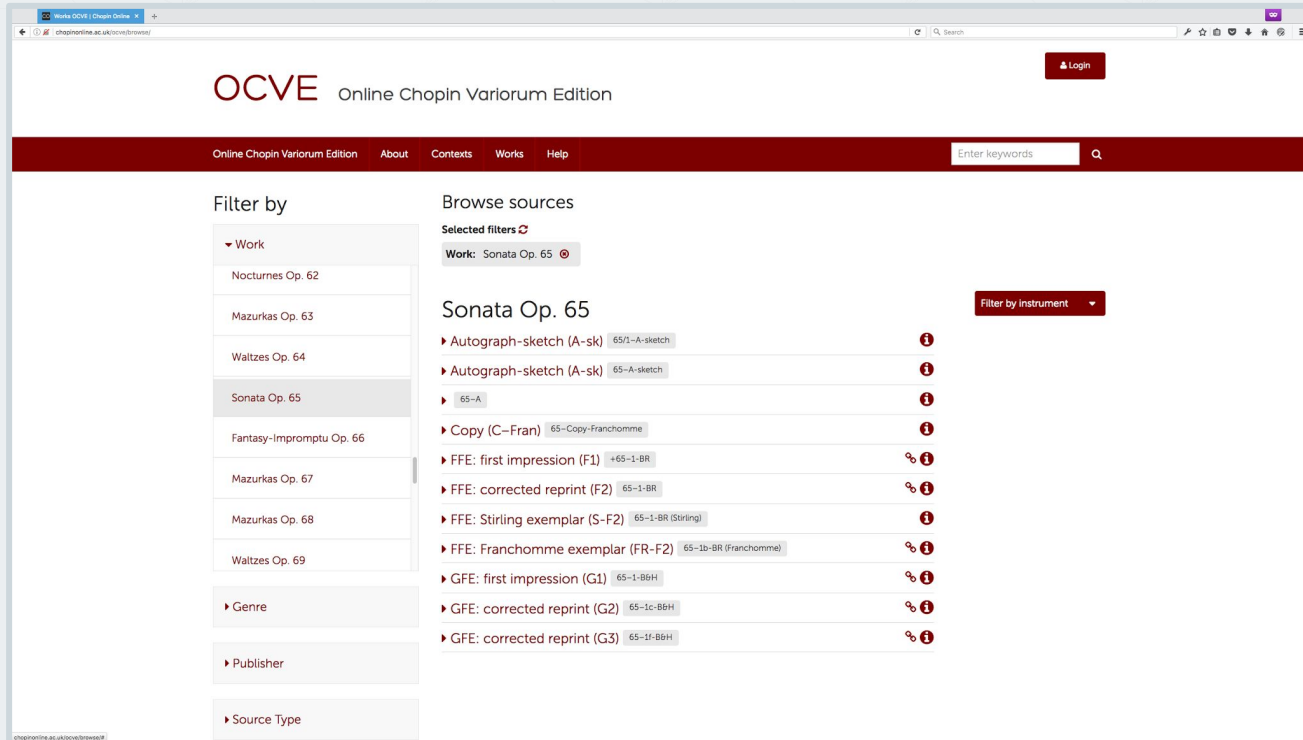
1

A screenshot of the OCVE (Online Chopin Variorum Edition) website. The browser address bar shows 'chopinonline.ac.uk/ocve/browse'. The page title is 'OCVE Online Chopin Variorum Edition'. A dark red navigation bar contains the text 'Online Chopin Variorum Edition', 'About', 'Contexts', 'Works', and 'Help', along with a search box labeled 'Enter keywords'. Below the navigation bar, the page is divided into two main sections: 'Filter by' and 'Browse sources'. The 'Filter by' section has four expandable menu items: 'Work', 'Genre', 'Publisher', and 'Source Type'. The 'Browse sources' section shows 'Selected filters' and a message: 'No filters are currently selected: showing all results'. A 'Filter by instrument' dropdown menu is visible on the right. The footer contains links for 'Chopin Online', 'AC Online', 'CFEO', 'OCVE', 'Contact', and 'Privacy', along with logos for 'THE MELLON FOUNDATION', 'UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE', and 'KING'S COLLEGE LONDON Digital Humanities'.

2

A screenshot of the OCVE (Online Chopin Variorum Edition) website. The browser address bar shows 'chopinonline.ac.uk/ocve/browse'. The page title is 'OCVE Online Chopin Variorum Edition'. A navigation bar includes 'About', 'Contexts', 'Works', and 'Help', along with a search box labeled 'Enter keywords'. A 'Login' button is in the top right. The main content area is divided into 'Filter by' and 'Browse sources'. The 'Filter by' section has a dropdown menu for 'Work' with options: Rondo Op. 1, Sonata Op. 4, Rondo Op. 5, Mazurkas Op. 6, Mazurkas Op. 7, Nocturnes Op. 9, Etudes Op. 10, and Nocturnes Op. 15. Other filter categories are Genre, Publisher, and Source Type. The 'Browse sources' section shows 'Selected filters' and 'No filters are currently selected: showing all results'. A 'Filter by instrument' dropdown is also present.

3

A screenshot of the OCVE (Online Chopin Variorum Edition) website. The browser address bar shows 'chopinonline.ac.uk/ocve/browse'. The page title is 'OCVE Online Chopin Variorum Edition'. A navigation bar includes 'About', 'Contexts', 'Works', and 'Help', along with a search box. A 'Filter by' sidebar on the left lists categories like 'Work', 'Genre', and 'Publisher', with 'Sonata Op. 65' selected. The main content area, titled 'Browse sources', shows a list of sources for 'Sonata Op. 65', including 'Autograph-sketch (A-sk)', 'Copy (C-Fran)', and 'FFE: first impression (F1)'. A 'Filter by instrument' dropdown is visible on the right side of the source list.

Works OCVE | Chopin Online

OCVE Online Chopin Variorum Edition

Online Chopin Variorum Edition About Contexts Works Help

Enter keywords

Filter by

- Work
 - Nocturnes Op. 62
 - Mazurkas Op. 63
 - Waltzes Op. 64
 - Sonata Op. 65
 - Fantasy-Impromptu Op. 66
 - Mazurkas Op. 67
 - Mazurkas Op. 68
 - Waltzes Op. 69
- Genre
- Publisher
- Source Type

Browse sources

Selected filters

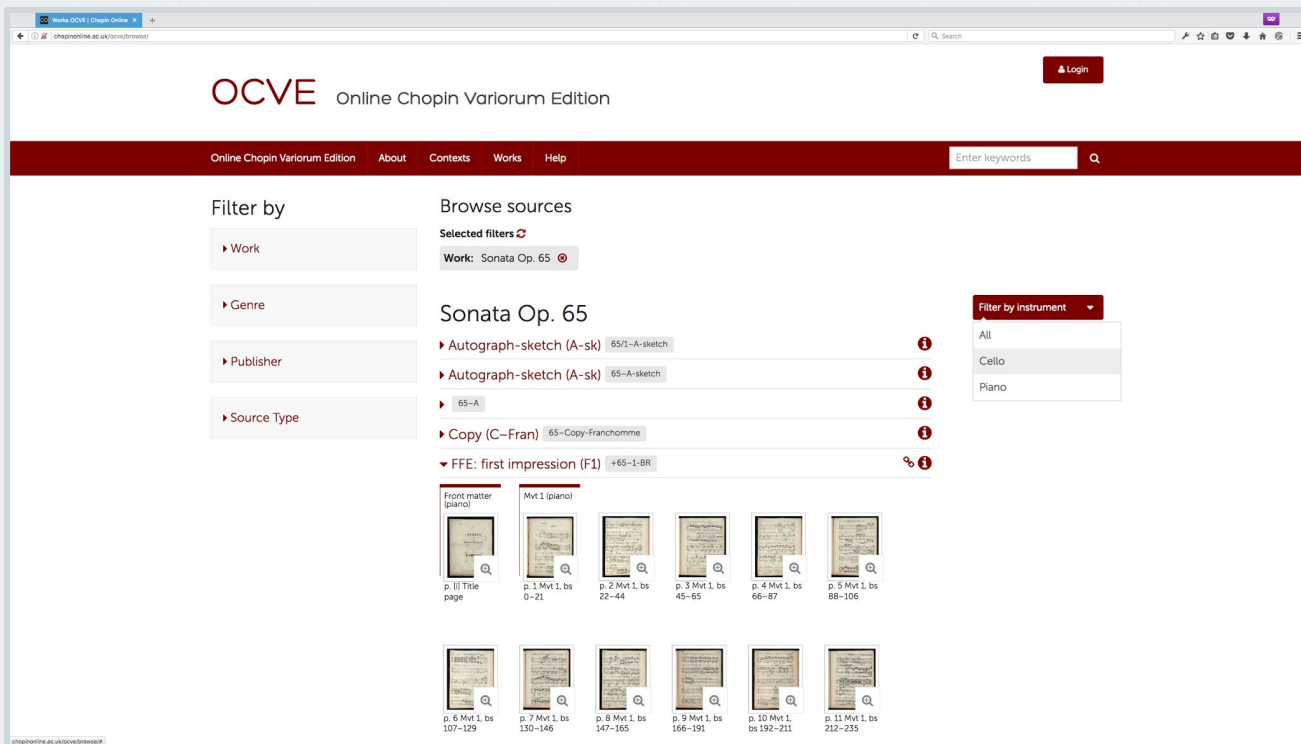
Work: Sonata Op. 65

Sonata Op. 65

Filter by instrument

- Autograph-sketch (A-sk) 65/1-A-sketch
- Autograph-sketch (A-sk) 65-A-sketch
- 65-A
- Copy (C-Fran) 65-Copy-Franchomme
- FFE: first impression (F1) +65-1-BR
- FFE: corrected reprint (F2) 65-1-BR
- FFE: Stirling exemplar (S-F2) 65-1-BR (Stirling)
- FFE: Franchomme exemplar (FR-F2) 65-1b-BR (Franchomme)
- GFE: first impression (G1) 65-1-B6H
- GFE: corrected reprint (G2) 65-1c-B6H
- GFE: corrected reprint (G3) 65-1f-B6H

4



The screenshot displays the OCVE (Online Chopin Variorum Edition) website interface. The page title is "OCVE Online Chopin Variorum Edition". A search bar at the top right contains the text "Enter keywords". The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Filter by:** A vertical list of filter categories: Work, Genre, Publisher, and Source Type.
- Browse sources:** A section showing "Selected filters" with "Work: Sonata Op. 65" selected. Below this, the title "Sonata Op. 65" is displayed, followed by a list of sources: "Autograph-sketch (A-sk) 65/1-A-sketch", "Autograph-sketch (A-sk) 65-A-sketch", "65-A", and "Copy (C-Fran) 65-Copy-Franchoimme". A "FFE: first impression (F1) + 65-1-BR" filter is also visible.
- Filter by instrument:** A dropdown menu on the right side of the page, currently set to "All", with options for "Cello" and "Piano".
- Document thumbnails:** A grid of 11 thumbnail images representing different manuscript pages. Each thumbnail includes a magnifying glass icon and a caption: "Front matter (piano)", "p. 0) Title page", "p. 1 Mvt 1, bs 0-21", "p. 2 Mvt 1, bs 22-44", "p. 3 Mvt 1, bs 45-65", "p. 4 Mvt 1, bs 66-87", "p. 5 Mvt 1, bs 88-106", "p. 6 Mvt 1, bs 107-129", "p. 7 Mvt 1, bs 130-146", "p. 8 Mvt 1, bs 147-165", "p. 9 Mvt 1, bs 166-191", "p. 10 Mvt 1, bs 192-211", and "p. 11 Mvt 1, bs 212-235".

Looking for a needle in a haystack

POMS: browse

db.poms.ac.uk/browse/allfacets/resulttype=people

PEOPLE OF MEDIEVAL SCOTLAND 1093-1314

Home About Database Information Schools News Contact Social Network Analysis Help

SEARCH BROWSE RECORD SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS MAP FAMILY TREES LABS

Searching for: **PEOPLE AND INSTITUTIONS** | [Factoids](#) | [Sources](#) | [Places](#)

Go to: **People and Institutions**

PEOPLE AND INSTITUTIONS

SURNAME ETC.

Aaron (1)	Abbet (1)
Ab' (1)	Abbot (2)
Abb of Brechin (1)	Abboth (1)
Abbe of Alnwick (1)	Abel (1)
Abbe of Falkirk (1)	more...

FORENAME

A. (24)	Ace (3)
Aaron (1)	Achard (2)
Abel (1)	Acharius (2)
Abraham (21)	Acheld (1)
Absalom (5)	more...

GENDER/TYPE

(Other) (3)	M (19709)
F (947)	MF (130)

INSTITUTIONS

Abbey of St Thomas of Canterbury (1)	Arbroath Abbey (fd.1178) (1)
Aberdeen Carmelite Friary (1)	Archdeaconry of Dunblane (1)
Aberdeen Cathedral (1)	Archdeaconry of Glasgow (1)
Aberdeen Trinitarian Friary (1)	Archdeaconry of Moray (1)
Almshouse of Coldingham (1)	more...

TITLES/OCCUPATIONS

? Brother (2)	? Dominus (Sir) cert (30)
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MEDIEVAL GAELIC FORENAME

Aed (1)	Allin (6)
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Challenges

Raise your hand if a project had **no** setbacks from start to finish.

Challenges

- Find a common language
- Embrace the Agile philosophy from the start
- Keep the communication channel open all the time
- Include design early in the process

*“If you build it they will come” **

And if they like it they will use it.

** “Field of Dreams”, USA 1989, directed by Phil Alden Robinson*

Thank you !

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