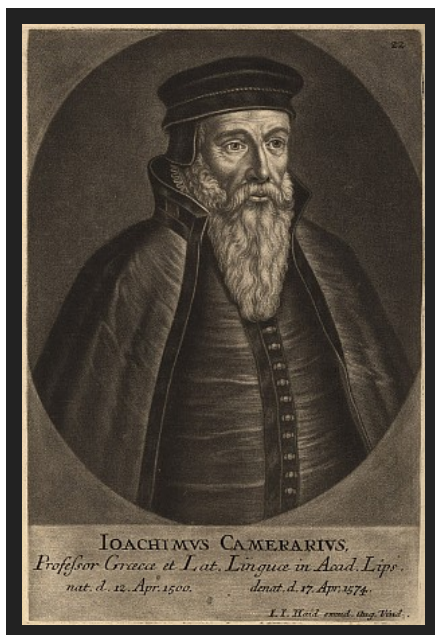


OPERA CAMERARII / CAMERARIUS DIGITAL

A semantic database for the printed works of Joachim Camerarius d. Ä. (1500-1574)

CAMERARIUS DIGITAL (2021-2024)

Camerarius digital



The Camerarius digital project funded by the German Research Foundation (approved for 36 months, beginning 2021) builds on the previous project "Opera Camerarii" and aims to present the extensive Greek-Latin oeuvre of Camerarius via "Optical Character Recognition" (OCR) as a make computer-readable full text accessible. To this end, philologists and computer scientists work in close cooperation to apply and optimize new methods for text recognition of historical prints. The Latin works of Camerarius will be available in citable and searchable transcriptions.

An online lexicon will be created in connection with this corpus. Structured according to contemporary fields of knowledge, this embeds Camerarius' oeuvre in the discursive landscapes of the 16th century and makes the contexts of its origins and effects visible. It thus locates the results of the work-centric predecessor project in a larger context and uses the advantages of a searchable e-text corpus.

In "Camerarius digital", computer science and philological research are closely coordinated: The OCR expands the WIKI with full texts and makes it possible to systematically examine the works of Camerarius using quantitative methods (frequency

analysis, topic modeling). The topic pages of the lexicon use all the advantages of the semantic link and, as a dynamic store of knowledge, form an interactive encyclopedia that refers to the OCR-recognized texts and the “Opera Camerarii” database and which can be accessed from there.

“Camerarius Digital” makes it possible to trace in detail the hitherto blurred profile of an influential early modern polymath and, starting from this, to measure the discourse landscapes of the 16th century in an exemplary manner. The benefit for the IT side of the project consists in the development, testing and refinement of technical procedures for OCR of historical prints as well as in the creation of training data and models, which are worked out in close cooperation with philologists on an extensive but manageable corpus. The gain for philological-historical early modern research lies in the comprehensive online-based access to the work of an author who acts in and with various thought collectives and is influenced by them.

With this innovative combination of philological and computer science research, “Camerarius digital” is a model for interdisciplinary cooperation in the field of historical digital humanities.

The project is realized by this working group at the JMU Würzburg . .

