

ABSTRACT

Offered as a contribution to the international debate on the theme, the article considers the main implications of having access to an enormous quantity of digitised early books on the worldwide web. In addition to pointing out the advantages for the scholarly community and the prospects of research which are opened up by digitisation projects, several shortcomings in the digital versions are also discussed (for example in the quality of the images or in the metadata). Such shortcomings – if they are not adequately dealt with during the phases of creating the images and putting them online – can lead to online digital resources which are misleading and of little use.