



# Data-Rich Information Design

---

A Case Study:

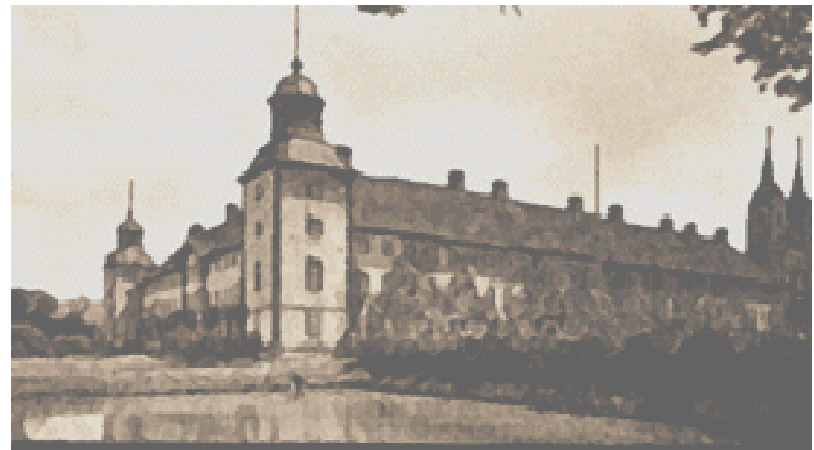
Corvey Women Writers on the Web



# Corvey Collection

---

- Library of late 18<sup>th</sup> / early 19<sup>th</sup> literature
- *Schloß Corvey*, northern Germany
- Rediscovered 1970's
- 73,000 volumes  
German, French, English
- 'Ephemeral' writing





## Corvey Women Writers on the Web (CW<sup>3</sup>)

---

Sheffield Hallam University – AHRB funding

Purpose:

- 'Catalogue' – Disseminate information about Corvey collection
- 'Scholarly Journal' – Act as focus for research into romantic-period women's writing



# Multi-disciplinary skillset

---

- Information Architecture
  - the underlying elements of information and their relationships
- User-interface Design
  - a web site is an 'active' document which users interact with
- Information Design
  - presentational aspects of communication of information

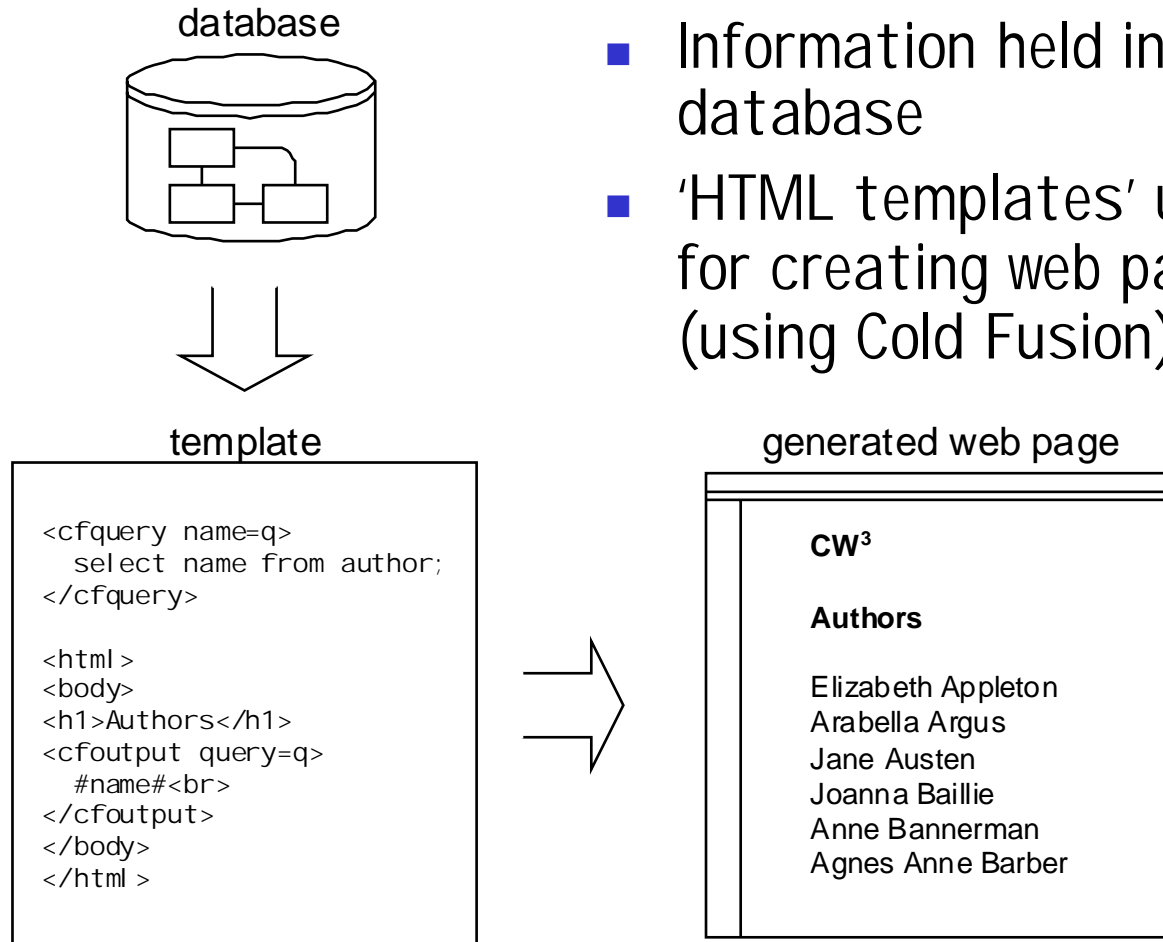


# Issues determining design

---

- Large quantities of reference information
  - 1000+ works by 400+ authors
  - Titles, publication details, ISBNs, author attributions
- Interrelated information
  - Interlinked authors, works, research contributions, keyword classifications, etc
- Intelligent searching facility required
- 'Documents' rather than 'system'

# Approach



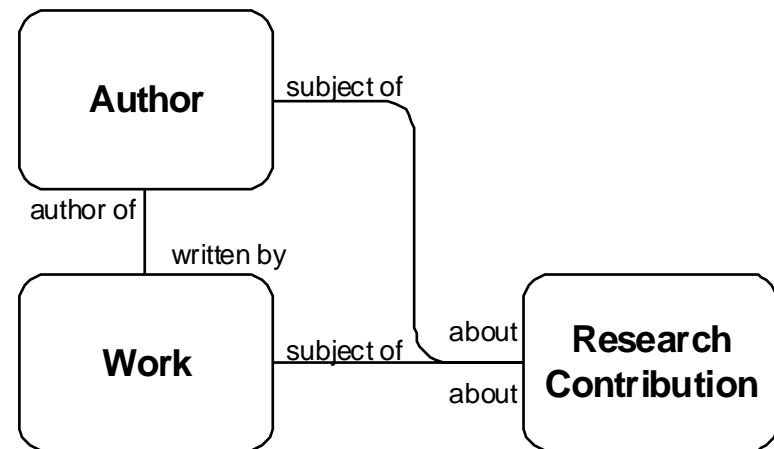
- Information held in a database
- 'HTML templates' used for creating web pages (using Cold Fusion)



# Solution

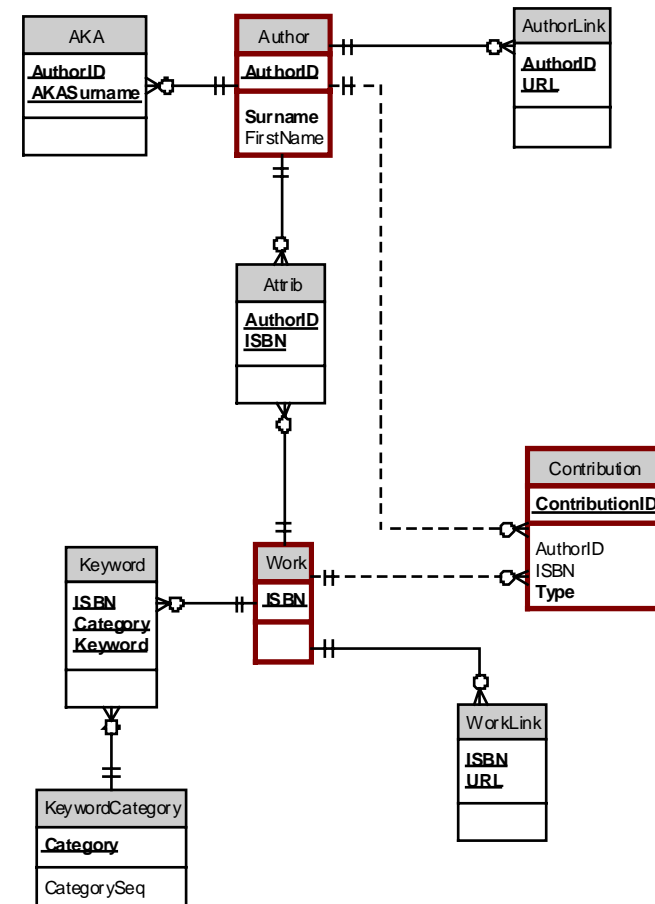
---

- 'Stepped back' from complexity
- Identified essential entities being handled as
  - Authors
  - Books
  - Research contributions
- Works are written by authors, research may be about books or authors

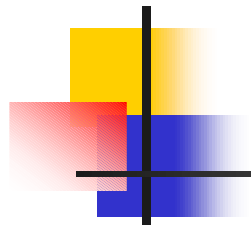


# Database structure

- Same Author / Work / Contribution structure provides basis for database structure (extra tables manage:
  - many-many relationship between authors & works
  - author aliases
  - keyword classifications
  - external web references)

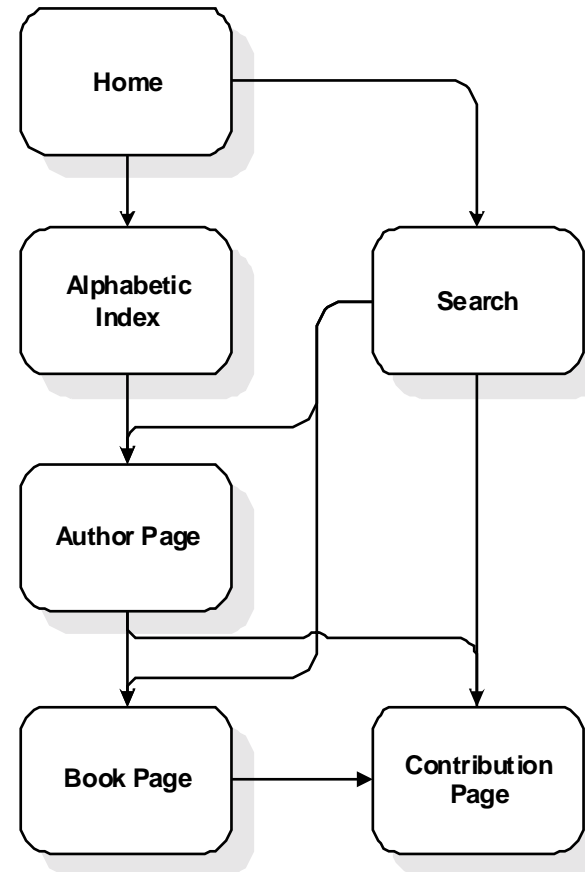






# Web Site Structure

- Same Author / Work / Contribution structure also provides basis for web site structure
- Augmented by 'entry' pages for navigational routes into site content



## Home Page

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the home page of the Corvey Women Writers on the Web (CW3) project. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.shu.ac.uk/corvey/CW3/>. The page features the Sheffield Hallam University logo and the CW3 logo, which includes the text "Corvey Women Writers 1771-1874 on the Web" and "supported by AHRC". A navigation menu in the top right corner includes "Corvey Home", "Author Index: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z", and "Search". The main content area has a decorative vertical border on the left and contains the following text:

### Corvey Women Writers on the Web (cw<sup>3</sup>): An electronic guide to literature 1796-1834

*Corvey Women Writers on the Web* is a database containing material on 417 women writers of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and 1,071 literary works published by them, based on the holdings of the Corvey Library. It includes biographies, bibliographies, contemporary reviews and memoirs, images, synopses and keyword descriptions of texts, as well as new criticism and contextual material. CW3 has been created by the Sheffield Hallam Corvey Project with funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Board of Great Britain.

CW3 is also an on-line scholarly journal, with an editorial board of leading specialists. We welcome contributions from scholars and graduate students on any woman writer or female-authored text in the collection. All contributions will be subject to peer review and those accepted will be fully credited. For further details see [guidelines for contributors](#). New contents are announced quarterly.

Please address enquiries to the editor Dr Emma Clery at [E.J.Clery@shu.ac.uk](mailto:E.J.Clery@shu.ac.uk). For information about using the Corvey Microfiche Edition at Sheffield Hallam University please contact Professor Robert Miles at [R.D.Miles@shu.ac.uk](mailto:R.D.Miles@shu.ac.uk).

---

You can read a fuller explanation of structure of the site, or you can start browsing by following links to alphabetical Author Index pages:

**A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z All**

Alternatively you can make detailed searches using the [search page](#).

Movable The CW<sup>3</sup> site was designed and developed for Sheffield Hallam University by Movable Type Ltd using Allaire

Done Internet

# Author Index

Sheffield Hallam University  
Corvey Women Writers  
1771-1874  
on the Web  
CW3  
supported by AHRC

CW3 Home | Corvey Home  
Author Index: A B C D E F G H  
I J K L M N O P Q R S T V W  
Y Z  
Search

### Author Index - authors' names starting with 'P':

<a href="#">Palmer, Alicia Tyndal</a>	<a href="#">Pickar, Mary</a>	<a href="#">Plunkett, Elizabeth &gt; Gunning, Elizabeth</a>
<a href="#">Pardoe, Julia</a>	<a href="#">Pickering, Ellen</a>	<a href="#">Polack, Mana</a>
<a href="#">Parker, Emma</a>	<a href="#">Pickersgill, Mrs</a>	<a href="#">Polglase, Ann E</a>
<a href="#">Parker, Mary Elizabeth</a>	<a href="#">Piggott, Harriet &gt; Thomson, Harriet</a>	<a href="#">Porden, Eleanor Anne</a>
<a href="#">Parlante, Priscilla &gt; Cavendish-Bradshaw, Mary Ann</a>	<a href="#">Pigott, Harriet</a>	<a href="#">Porter, Anna Maria</a>
<a href="#">Parsons, Eliza</a>	<a href="#">Pike, Mary &gt; Langdon, Mary</a>	<a href="#">Porter, Jane</a>
<a href="#">Pascoe, Charlotte Champion</a>	<a href="#">Pile, Barbara</a>	<a href="#">Porter, Matilda</a>
<a href="#">Patrick, Mrs F C</a>	<a href="#">Pilkington, Mary</a>	<a href="#">Princeps, Elizabeth Louisa Slater</a>
<a href="#">Peacock, Lucy</a>	<a href="#">Pinchard, Elizabeth</a>	<a href="#">Prowse, Mrs I S</a>
<a href="#">Peard, Frances Mary</a>	<a href="#">Plumptre, Annabella</a>	<a href="#">Purbeck, Elizabeth</a>
<a href="#">Peck, Frances</a>	<a href="#">Plumptre, Anne</a>	<a href="#">Purbeck, Jane</a>
<a href="#">Phibbs, Mary</a>	<a href="#">Plumptre, Jemma &gt; Layton, Jemima</a>	<a href="#">Putney, Charlotte</a>
<a href="#">Phillips, Mrs Lucius</a>		

> Click on an author's name to see the Author Page for that author.

# Author Page

Corvey CW3 | Author Page - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Address http://www.dhu.ac.uk/corvey/CW3/AuthorPage.cfm?Author=E1


Sheffield Hallam University  
Corvey Women Writers  
1771-1874  
CW3 on the Web  
supported by AHRC

CW3 Home | Corvey Home  
Author Index: A B C D E F G H  
I J K L M N O P Q R S T V W  
Y Z  
Search

## Author Page

### Elizabeth Inchbald

This page lists the titles of Elizabeth Inchbald held in the Corvey collection, together with associated Corvey Women's Writing on the Web contents.



#### Titles

	title page attr	published
<i>The British Theatre: or, A Collection of Plays, Which are Acted at the Theatres Royal, Drury Lane, Covent Garden, and Haymarket; Printed Under the Authority of the Managers from the Prompt Books</i>	Mrs. Inchbald	Editor London 1808
<i>Nature and Art</i>	Mrs. Inchbald	Editor London 1797
<i>A Simple Story</i>	Mrs. Inchbald	London 1799

Click on a title to see the details for that title, including ISBN, volumes information, contributions relating to the work, etc.

#### CW3 Contents

	by	
Synopsis of <i>A Simple Story</i>	J A Shaffer	1998 (Synopsis)

Done Internet

# Book Page


Sheffield Hallam University  
*Corvey Women Writers*  
**CW<sup>3</sup>** 1771-1874  
*on the Web*  
supported by AHRC

CW<sup>3</sup> Home | Corvey Home  
Author Index: A B C D E F G H  
I J K L M N O P Q R S T V W  
Y Z  
Search

## Book Page

***The Mummy!: A Tale of the Twenty-second Century***  
by **Jane C Loudon**  
writing anonymously

London: Colburn, 1828  
3 vols: I viii, 309p; II 331p; III 311p  
ISBN 3-628-48392-1

 In Loudon's application for support from the Royal Literary Fund she indicates that the first edition of this work was 1827

THE MUMMY!  
A TALE  
OF THE TWENTY-SECOND CENTURY.  
"ALL WHICH APPEAR IN THE FIRST  
PART OF THE WORK."  
BY JANE LOUDON.  
VOL. III.  
LONDON: COLBURN, AND ALLENBURY STREET, 1828.

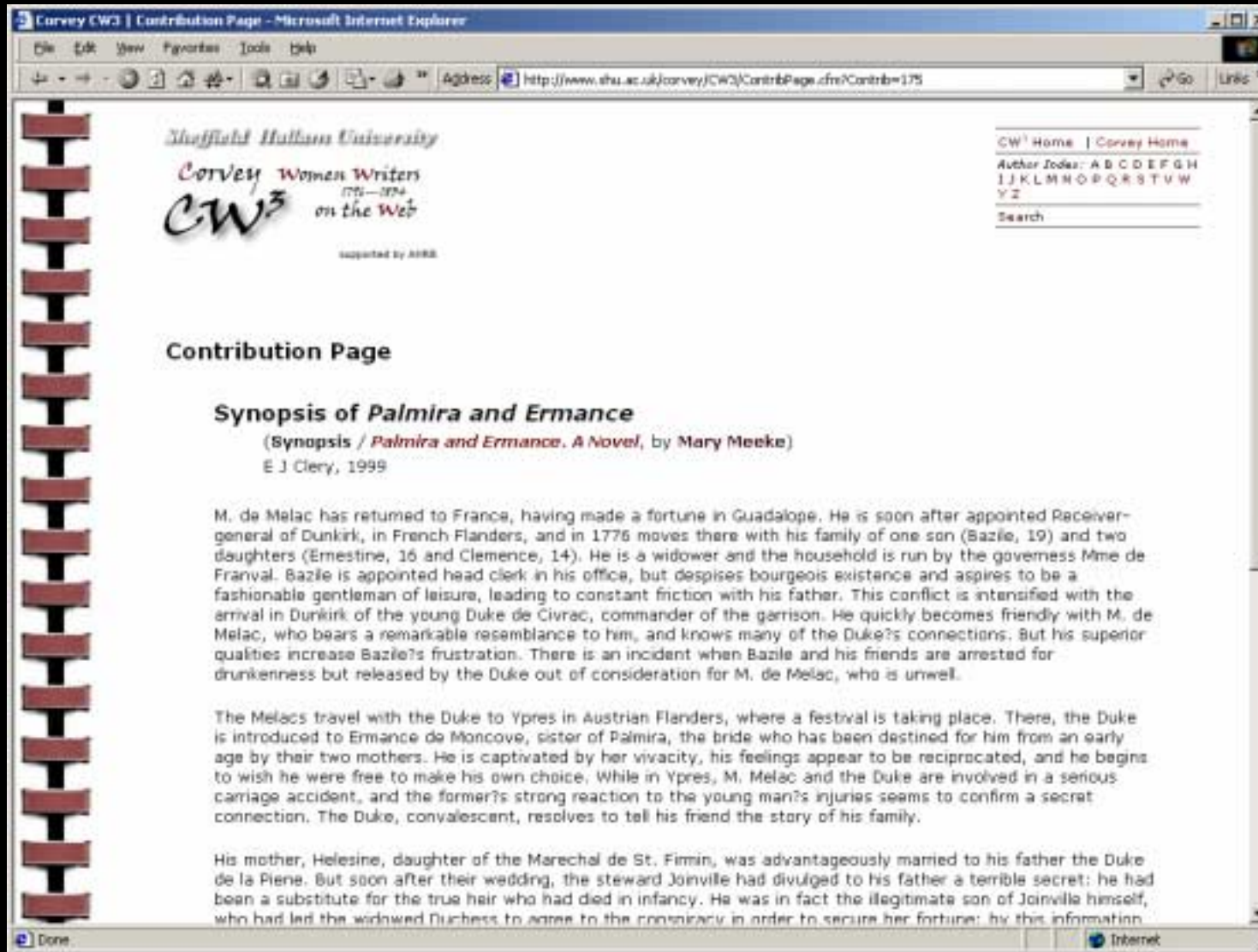
## CW<sup>3</sup> Contents

Refereed contributions have been subjected to critical peer-group review by leading authorities in the field.  
➤ Click on a title to see the contribution.

Done Internet



## Contribution Page



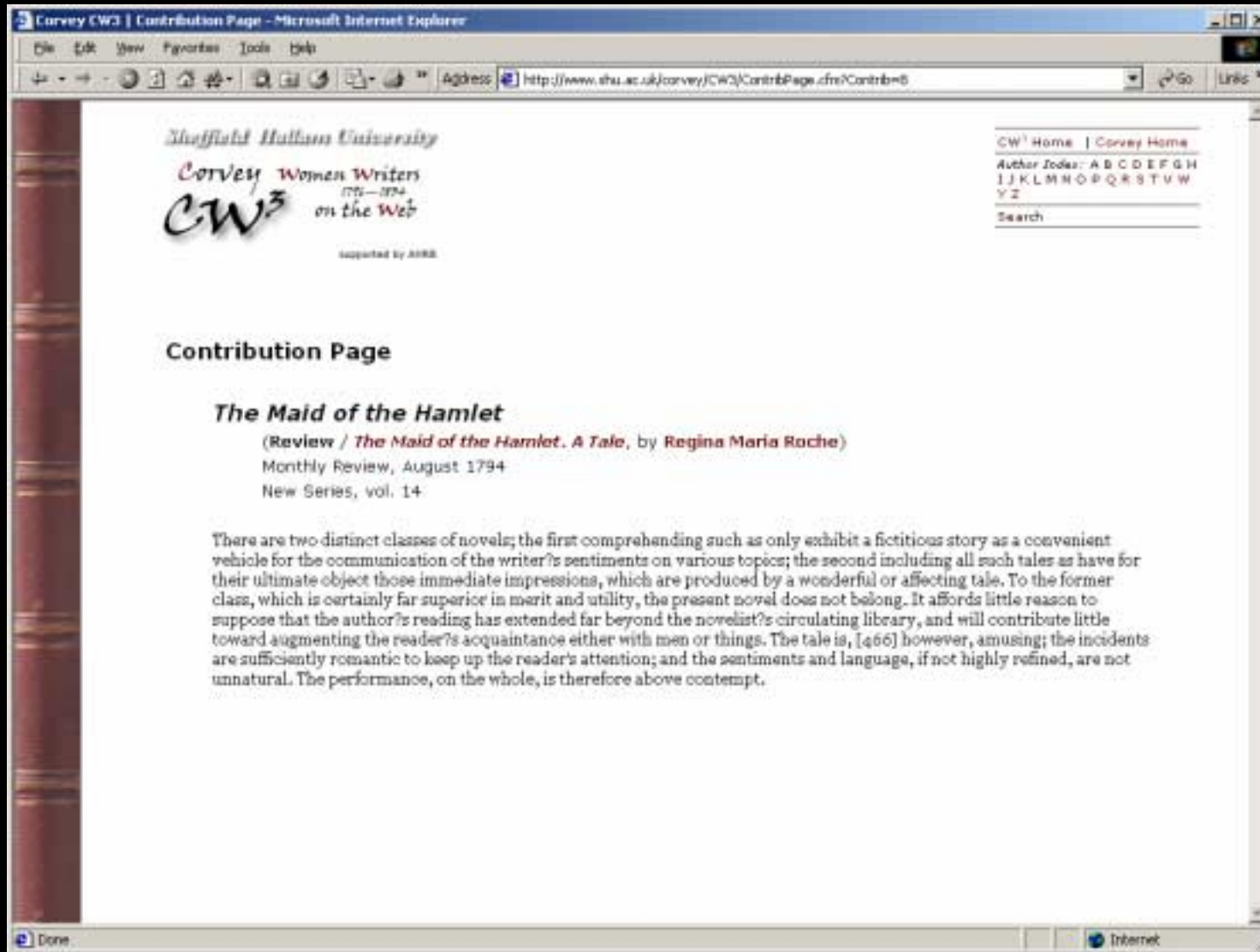
The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window. The address bar contains the URL: <http://www.dhu.ac.uk/corvey/CW3/ContribPage.cfm?Contrib=175>. The page header includes the Sheffield Hallam University logo and the text "Corvey Women Writers 1771-1874 CW3 on the Web supported by AHRC". A navigation menu on the right lists "CW3 Home", "Corvey Home", and "Author Index: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T V W Y Z Search". The main content area is titled "Contribution Page" and features a section for "Synopsis of *Palmira and Ermance*" by Mary Meeke, dated 1999. The synopsis text is as follows:

M. de Melac has returned to France, having made a fortune in Guadeloupe. He is soon after appointed Receiver-general of Dunkirk, in French Flanders, and in 1776 moves there with his family of one son (Bazile, 19) and two daughters (Ernestine, 16 and Clemence, 14). He is a widower and the household is run by the governess Mme de Franval. Bazile is appointed head clerk in his office, but despises bourgeois existence and aspires to be a fashionable gentleman of leisure, leading to constant friction with his father. This conflict is intensified with the arrival in Dunkirk of the young Duke de Civrac, commander of the garrison. He quickly becomes friendly with M. de Melac, who bears a remarkable resemblance to him, and knows many of the Duke's connections. But his superior qualities increase Bazile's frustration. There is an incident when Bazile and his friends are arrested for drunkenness but released by the Duke out of consideration for M. de Melac, who is unwell.

The Melacs travel with the Duke to Ypres in Austrian Flanders, where a festival is taking place. There, the Duke is introduced to Ermance de Moncove, sister of Palmira, the bride who has been destined for him from an early age by their two mothers. He is captivated by her vivacity, his feelings appear to be reciprocated, and he begins to wish he were free to make his own choice. While in Ypres, M. Melac and the Duke are involved in a serious carriage accident, and the former's strong reaction to the young man's injuries seems to confirm a secret connection. The Duke, convalescent, resolves to tell his friend the story of his family.

His mother, Helesine, daughter of the Marechal de St. Firmin, was advantageously married to his father the Duke de la Piene. But soon after their wedding, the steward Joinville had divulged to his father a terrible secret: he had been a substitute for the true heir who had died in infancy. He was in fact the illegitimate son of Joinville himself, who had led the widowed Duchess to agree to the conspiracy in order to secure her fortune: by this information

## Contribution Page – contemporary review



The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window. The address bar contains the URL: <http://www.sfu.ca/~corvey/CW3/ContribPage.cfm?Contrib=6>. The page header includes the logo for Sheffield Hallam University and the Corvey Women Writers CW3 on the Web project, supported by AHRC. A navigation menu in the top right corner includes links for CW3 Home, Corvey Home, and an Author Index with letters A through Z and a Search option. The main content area features the title 'The Maid of the Hamlet' in a bold, italicized font, followed by the text '(Review / *The Maid of the Hamlet. A Tale*, by Regina Maria Roche)', 'Monthly Review, August 1794', and 'New Series, vol. 14'. A paragraph of text follows, discussing the nature of novels and the specific work being reviewed.

Sheffield Hallam University  
Corvey Women Writers  
CW3 on the Web  
supported by AHRC

CW3 Home | Corvey Home  
Author Index: A B C D E F G H  
I J K L M N O P Q R S T V W  
Y Z  
Search

### Contribution Page

#### *The Maid of the Hamlet*

(Review / *The Maid of the Hamlet. A Tale*, by Regina Maria Roche)  
Monthly Review, August 1794  
New Series, vol. 14

There are two distinct classes of novels; the first comprehending such as only exhibit a fictitious story as a convenient vehicle for the communication of the writer's sentiments on various topics; the second including all such tales as have for their ultimate object those immediate impressions, which are produced by a wonderful or affecting tale. To the former class, which is certainly far superior in merit and utility, the present novel does not belong. It affords little reason to suppose that the author's reading has extended far beyond the novelist's circulating library, and will contribute little toward augmenting the reader's acquaintance either with men or things. The tale is, [466] however, amusing; the incidents are sufficiently romantic to keep up the reader's attention; and the sentiments and language, if not highly refined, are not unnatural. The performance, on the whole, is therefore above contempt.

# Search Page

Sheffield Hallam University  
*Corvey Women Writers*  
**CW<sup>3</sup>** 1771-1874  
*on the Web*  
supported by AHRC

[CW<sup>3</sup> Home](#) | [Corvey Home](#)  
Author Index: [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#)  
[I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [V](#) [W](#)  
[Y](#) [Z](#)  
[Search](#)

Use this search facility to find all **Titles**, **Authors**, or **Contributions** relating to works with the following conditions.

Title  ... matches search term within the title (or volumes/associated notes) of works

Author  ... matches search term within the author of works

Publisher

Publication date from  up to  use 'from', or 'up to', or both, to find works published after a date, before a date, or in a given range; enter the same year twice to find works published in that year

Genre

Keywords

- Sub-genre
- Setting
- Time
- People & events
- Economics & work
- Family & sexuality
- Social institutions
- Leisure & travel
- Crime
- Thematic concerns

Constantinople  
Edinburgh  
England  
Genoa  
Germany  
Great Yarmouth  
Greenwich  
Hyde Park  
India  
Lahore

Done Internet



## Database used for entering information

Corvey - [Contribution]

File Edit View Insert Format Records Tools Window Help

ContributionID

Author  or ISBN  Type

Title  surround book titles with <i>, </i>

Author  Date written  Published in   
(journal for contemporary contributions) (edition for contemporary contributions)

Text

Henry Westhorpe is widely assumed to be the natural son of Mr. Westhorpe, who lives with his family among the expatriate community in St. Omers, France. He is referred to as a nephew, and during most of his childhood he was fostered by the kindly Parkers at Bishop-Aukland. When he joined the family in France at the age of 15, he was quickly sent away again to boarding school due to the hostility of the shrewish Mrs. Westhorpe. He is handsome, elegant and an excellent scholar, in contrast to his cousins (two feckless boys and a bad-tempered girl). At school Henry befriends Frederick Astley, the son of a British Catholic aristocrat, and this sets a pattern of effortless upward mobility, in spite of his obscure origins (Mr. Westhorpe tells him that he is the product of a reckless marriage between his sister, who died in childbirth, and a soldier who died at the siege of Quebec, but refuses to reveal his father's name). Back in St. Omers Henry is taken up first by Chevalier Macharty, who arranges for him to join the French army, and then by the rich and worldly Marquis D'Orcy, who takes him to Paris, and then on a tour to Strasbourg and Spa. At Spa he becomes smitten with a lovely young woman called Josephine, but can obtain no information about her identity. Abruptly, she declares her love for him in a letter, and proposes marriage subject to strict conditions. The marriage must remain secret for an unspecified period, and after a brief time together, she must leave him for months, maybe years. Knowing his poverty, she will give him money in regular instalments through a banker. After much hesitation, Henry is assured by a chance sighting that Josephine is respectable and of high rank, and accepts.

After a month of bliss in a house near Spa, Josephine secretly departs, but Henry continues to receive loving letters, money and gifts. Henry returns to St. Omers and his new-found wealth and status enables him to rise above the back-biting of the Westhorpes and their pompous friend, Sir Richard Claymore. The family is visited by a Mr. Johnstone, who turns out to be the steward of Sir William Cleveland. It emerges that Henry is his grandson and the heir to vast estates. Sir William gained his wealth through trade, and when his social ambitions were frustrated by the marriage of his second son to the lowly Miss Westhorpe he disowned him. After the death of his first son, childless, Sir William resolved to search out young Henry.

Pass through paragraphs  ^1, ^2 for <i>, </i> ^3, ^4 for <blockquote>, </blockquote>  
^5, ^6 for <font face='Verdana, Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif' size='11'>, </font>

Record:      of 164

Form View



# Impact

---

- Single sourcing of data
  - each piece of information is stored once, however many different places it appears
- Formalised relationships
  - relationships between authors, books, research contributions are clearly defined
- Separation of data and presentation
  - information is entered and managed entirely separately from its presentation



## Benefits (1)

---

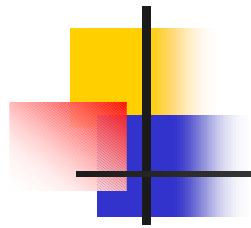
- Consistency & accuracy of information
  - single sourcing, db validation tools
- Reduced effort to maintain information
  - information management tools
- No html skills required for maintenance
  - separation of data & presentation
- No broken links
  - links generated automatically from internally consistent data



## Benefits (2)

---

- Ease of use of site, ease of locating information
  - clear site structure, structured search facility
- Contextualised and complex searching
  - database search tools
- Coherence of site
  - all pages follow templates rather than different contributors' preferences
- Balance of site
  - each author has author page, each book has book page: only quantity of associated research varies



## The Result

---

- Large, complex web site that's easy to use, as well as easy to create & develop
- Web site that supports academic research by making available current research, &
- Web site that strengthens academic community by being 'open' (subject to peer review)
- Achieved by:

Information  
Architecture

+

User  
Interaction  
Design

+

Information  
Design



# Addresses

---

- Corvey Women Writers on the Web
  - [www.shu.ac.uk/corvey/CW3](http://www.shu.ac.uk/corvey/CW3)
- This presentation
  - [www.movable-type.co.uk/InfoDesign2000](http://www.movable-type.co.uk/InfoDesign2000)
- Chris Veness
  - [chrisv@movable-type.co.uk](mailto:chrisv@movable-type.co.uk)