The Archaeology of Reading in Early Modern Europe (AOR) is a Digital Humanities initiative that examines how people read books centuries ago through the notes they left behind in the margins of their books. Complete, free digital images of heavily annotated Renaissance books appear alongside viewable and searchable transcriptions and translations of their manuscript marginalia. The AOR interface allows you to “look over the shoulder” of a Renaissance reader as he or she first engaged with information during the Printing Revolution more than 400 years ago. www.bookwheel.org
What is the Gary Harvey corpus?

The Harvey corpus includes important annotated books in modern languages, particularly in the sciences, arts, culture, politics, religion, and medicine. An important annotated book is a work in which the annotator has added direct, reference, illustration, and marginal notes to enhance the text. The Harvey corpus includes books written in languages such as English, French, Italian, and German, and contains a wide range of subjects, including medicine, law, science, and literature.

What is the John Dee corpus?

The John Dee corpus is a collection of books written by John Dee, a British scholar, adventurer, and astrologer. The corpus includes a broad range of subjects, including alchemy, astronomy, and medicine, and contains a variety of annotations, including marginal notes, symbols, and underlines. The corpus is an important resource for understanding the intellectual and cultural context of the early modern period.

Who are the archæologists?

The AOR team includes historians, librarians, digital humanists, and technologists, working together to create a digital environment for the study of marginalia. The team includes historians such as Earle Havens, Anthony Grafton, Matthew Symonds, and Matthew Newton, as well as librarians such as Daisy Owens, Finn Schulze-Feldman, Kristof Smeyers, and Alexandra Gillespie.

Who are the sponsors and partners?

The AOR project is funded through a series of three major grants from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Additional funding and support has been provided by the Getty Center for the History of Art and the Humanities, the Princeton University Library, the Huntington Library, and the British Library. The project has also received contributions from the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, and the Center for Digital Humanities, at the Princeton University Library.

What will I find on the AOR website?

The AOR website, www.archaeologyofreading.org, provides information on all aspects of the project, including books, digital tools, and projects. The website includes a "Transcriber’s Manual" file outlining the functionalities of the AOR viewer, and a "Transcriptions" file with descriptions of each digitized book available in the AOR corpus. The website also provides a "Project Bibliography," "Reference Guide," and "Project Glossary." The website is designed to be a dynamic and interactive environment for the study of marginalia.