Annotated Bibliography

This brief, annotated, general bibliography consists of each editor's favourite stemmatological book and a short phrase why he or she considers it very important:


– Foulet, Alfred, and Mary Blakely Speer. 1979. On Editing Old French Texts. Lawrence: The Regents Press of Kansas. – One of few introductions to the editing of mediaeval texts; of great interest also for other literatures than Old French. It contains a concise introduction to editorial philology and the Bédier controversy, and a detailed and practical discussion of actual editing.

– Greetham, David C. 1994. Textual Scholarship: An Introduction. New York: Garland. – A fine introduction to the academic study of texts, putting editorial philology into a broader context, such as the disciplines of bibliography (in various forms), palaeography and typography. Of the nine chapters, ch. 8 and 9 deal with textual criticism and scholarly editing, and even if this book is written mostly from the perspective of modern (i.e. post-Gutenberg) texts, the author shows that he has an impressive overview of the entire field.

– Havet, Louis. 1911. Manuel de critique verbale appliquée aux textes latins. Paris: Librarie Hachette. – An extensive study of the types of errors and a fascinating attempt to explain how they arise in the course of historical transmission. Havet argued that earlier explanations favouring graphical misapprehension were perhaps overly simple and missed more likely sources for variation. The book is also known for distinguishing true variants (leçons vraies) and authentic variants (leçons authentiques).


– Lemey, Philippe, Marco Salemi, and Anne-Mieke Vandamme, eds. 2009. The Phylogenetic Handbook: A Practical Approach to Phylogenetic Analysis and Hypothesis Testing. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. – The book presents a broad review of phylogenetic techniques, including among others, maximum parsimony, maximum likelihood, and distance-based methods. Each topic is divided into two chapters, one detailing the theory and assumptions underlying the approach in question and another one containing step-by-step instructions for running analyses based on the approach using one or more software packages.

– Luiselli Fadda, Anna Maria. 1994. Tradizioni manoscritte e critica del testo nel Medioevo germanico. Roma: Laterza. – Part I (Il segno scritto) focuses on the Germanic manuscript traditions in a comparative perspective. Part II (Codici e copisti) provides a full introduction to the mediaeval codex as a material object, and to the copy process theory. Part III (Il recupero storico del testo) deals with the major issues of restituto textus. A brief glossary is provided at the end of the book (pp. 265-271).


– Semple, Charles, and Mike Steel. 2003. Phylogenetics. Oxford: Oxford University Press. – This graduate-level textbook is mathematical in nature and nicely brings together numerous results central to the area of phylogenetics which otherwise would be spread over an ever increasing body of literature. In addition, it outlines how algorithms for phylogenetic tree reconstruction could be derived from the mathematical theory and also comments on the biological significance of some of the included concepts. The book is self-contained and easy to read with exercises at the end of each chapter.
