

Stemmatology

[stmtld]

Stemmatology is an umbrella term for all scholarly and scientific studies focused on [textual](#) genealogy and the creation of a [stemma codicum](#). It is usually concerned with reconstructing a specific [stemma](#) starting from the basis of the surviving witnesses, but may also deal with stemmata in a more abstract sense (hence this lexicon's name). The term is usually used as a synonym to [stemmatics](#). As with many other fields, the endings *-ology* (from 'word, meaningful or scientific utterance') and *-ic(s)* (the adjective forming suffix -, feminine because the feminine noun 'art, field of study' is intended) tend to be used for the same purpose, namely to label a 'scientific field about X'. If a difference between the two terms is perceived, stemmatology tends to be the wider term, whereas stemmatics may be confined to the [Lachmannian method](#).

The Latin term '*stemmatologia*' was already in use in the early 18th century, e.g. it appears in the title *Stemmatologia Tigurina: Das ist Zürichisches Geschlechter Buch* [...] by Erhard Dürsteler (*sine anno*, but apparently printed between 1706 and 1724). But the *stemmata* included in this book were genealogical trees of human beings, not of manuscripts. The word *stemmatographia* was used synonymously (cf. Joseph Ramminger, *stemmatographia*, in: *Neulateinische Wortliste. Ein Wörterbuch des Lateinischen von Petrarca bis 1700*, URL: www.neulatein.de/words/1/001317.htm (accessed on 12.12.2014)).

In other languages

DE: Stemmatologie
FR: stemmatologie
IT: stemmatologia

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