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[Internet Resource]

Perdita Manuscripts. Adam Matthew Digital. ISBN Contact publisher for pricing (based on Carnegie Classification and JISC); includes nominal hosting fee, payable every 5 years.

URL: <http://www.amdigital.co.uk/>

[Visited Dec'08] The Perdita Project, based at the University of Warwick and Nottingham Trent University, encompasses early modern British women authors who were "lost" because their writing exists only in manuscript form (*perdita* means "lost women"). For this database, these 16th-17th-century manuscripts have been sourced from archives and libraries in the UK and US. One of the key features of *Perdita Manuscripts* is that it gathers little-known material from various locations. It contains more than 230 digitized entries, and the manuscripts themselves are varied in their content. Genres represented include account books, diaries, prayer, prose, translations, travel writing, and verse. Short of visiting these repositories, most scholars previously lacked access to these documents. Whereas other sites, such as *Early Modern Resources* <<http://www.earlymodernweb.org.uk/emr/>> and the University of Maryland's *Early Modern Women Database* (CH, Dec'02, 40-1881), offer online early modern documents, they provide neither digitized photos of documents, nor such a gathering of women's writing in one location. An attractive layout and perhaps over-generously sized sidebar allow for browsing of the manuscript images by alphabetical listing, genre, repository, date, and language. One may locate documents through names in general, places, genre within document, first lines--poetry, or first lines--prose. Each route provides a listing, and clicking on an entry will generate a search. A basic keyword search box is available on all screens, and sample searches were successful. The database is searchable using wild cards, "phrase searching," word proximity searches, and Boolean operators between keywords. Networking access is unlimited with a paid subscription. No limits (aside from the usual caveats of fair use and publication law) exist on the number of images one may print/download and use for educational purposes. Downloads for viewing are speedy; the option to download for printing as a PDF file was not included in the reviewer's trial version. A section on biographies of authors is clearly an ongoing project--some blanks are understandable, based on lack of information on the author, but others for well-known figures such as Elizabeth I have not yet been added. A zoom in/out function helps, but those with a 15-inch monitor will find that getting a full-view page while also having the necessary detail to read the manuscripts can be tricky. While this is an interesting, useful resource for scholars and graduate-level students of history, women's studies, or literature, the lack of transcribed texts, coupled with nonstandardized spelling and old-fashioned handwriting, likely would challenge undergraduate users. **Summing Up:** Recommended. Graduate students and faculty/researchers. -- A. B. Johnson, *Ithaca College*