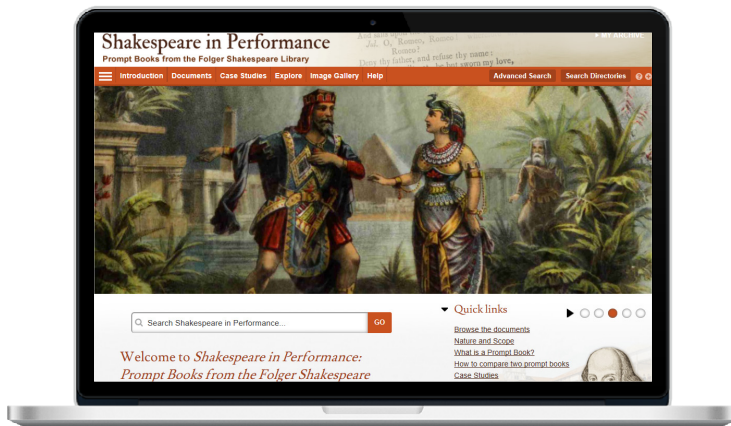


# Case Study: Shakespeare in Performance at the University of Toronto



## Doctoral research

Arlynda, a Doctoral research student at the University of Toronto, was writing a dissertation on how actors annotate scripts. Most supporting research was done using the archives of major Shakespeare companies, with historical research undertaken at the *Folger Shakespeare Library*, Washington D.C., which holds a comprehensive archive relevant to this project.

In many cases, finding notes in playbooks from only actors was a laborious and time-consuming task which involved requesting and viewing each playbook individually – page by page. In some instances, this would involve requesting and physically reviewing fifty to seventy-five playbooks a day.

The Adam Matthew Digital collection, *Shakespeare in Performance*, provided a solution to this challenge through a tagged and referenced digital copy of the archive held at the *Folger Shakespeare Library*.

*"It's an incredibly useful database, easy to understand and navigate, that allows the **Folger Shakespeare Library** to share important documents while preserving them safely. I could not have done my research nearly so extensively without it and I know from experience in paper archives that it allowed for far greater speed and efficacy than would have been otherwise possible."*

Not only could relevant documents be sourced and viewed with greater speed, Arlynda was able to access them without needing to travel to the library itself.

- Saved a significant amount of time not travelling to the library itself
- Additional time saved through the use of tagged search. Only relevant documents were highlighted and viewed
- No physical handling on documents helps ensure the perpetuity of the original documents.