

# RSVP A Question of Style Corpus 2017

The **RSVP A Question of Style Corpus 2017**, is an output of the A Question of Style project.

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The [A Question of Style](#) project's aim is to gain new insights on the writing and editorial practices of the Edinburgh Review during the editorship of Francis Jeffrey. The Edinburgh Review was the main literary journal in early nineteenth-century Britain. It reviewed the most significant publications in literature, history, politics and science and its contributors included some of the most prominent figures of the age. Authors believed that a review from the Edinburgh Review could make or break the fortunes of a publication. The A Question of Style project focuses on the period 1814-1820 and employs methods from periodical studies, book history, computational linguistics and computational stylistics.

The project was led by Dr Francesca Benatti, [francesca.benatti@open.ac.uk](mailto:francesca.benatti@open.ac.uk), Digital Humanities Scholar at the Open University, in collaboration with Dr David King, [david.king@open.ac.uk](mailto:david.king@open.ac.uk), Visiting Fellow at the Open University, during 2017-2018.

The project was awarded the inaugural Field Development Grant by the [Research Society for Victorian Periodicals](#) from the bequest of the Eileen Curran estate.

## Aims and content

This corpus supports the work of the A Question of Style project.

It comprises 85 articles selected from the Edinburgh Review and Quarterly Review, originally published 1814-1820.

## Purpose

The corpus is primarily intended to support stylometric analysis of early nineteenth-century literature. The corpus contents are also relevant to researchers interested in political and social history.

A secondary purpose of the corpus is to support research into curation of OCR processed texts. Typically, the OCR process is imperfect, especially on older texts. The contents of this corpus provide curated texts to set against the incorrect raw OCR text representation.

### Notes:

The A Question of Style project did not scan or OCR texts. The project worked solely on the shared PDF output from other projects made available through Google Books and Archive.org.

Owing to curatorial decisions relevant to the A Question of Style project, especially those relating to the handling of punctuation, this corpus is not suitable for examining critical editions of the original works.

## Curation

The articles are curated as described in the TEI header in each file. As such, the files are digital artefacts derived from the original published article.

## Use

The collection comprises 85 articles encoded in standard TEI XML. No TEI extensions are used.

The files can be processed with any XML or text tool.

The A Question of Style project uses XSLT to extract raw text from the XML files, both with and without quotations, for stylometric analysis.

## Selection

The corpus for the A Question of Style project comprises:

- files curated and encoded by Francesca Benatti for the Thomas Moore Archive project, 2005-2008  
<http://bit.ly/thomasmooore>
- files curated and encoded by Francesca Benatti and Justin Tonra during research for the English Bards and Unknown Reviewers article <http://oro.open.ac.uk/44297/>
- files curated and encoded by David King for the A Question of Style project.

Files encoded for the Thomas Moore Archive comprise four reviews authored by Thomas Moore or attributed to Thomas Moore and published in the Edinburgh Review in the period 1814-1820.

Files encoded for the English Bards and Unknown Reviewers article comprise 36 articles chosen from articles on literary subjects written within a two-year interval of the 1816 review of Samuel Taylor Coleridge's *Christabel* (1814 to 1818). Attributions were based on the The Wellesley Index to Victorian Periodicals, 1824-1900 online edition. The authors included are the following: John Allen, Henry Brougham, William Hazlitt, Francis Jeffrey, Sir James Mackintosh and Sir Francis Palgrave. We included larger samples from Francis Jeffrey and Henry Brougham to reflect the greater frequency of their contributions.

Files encoded for the A Question of Style project were chosen from reviews of literature, travel writing, history, and biography published in the Edinburgh Review and Quarterly Review in the period 1814-1820.

The 21 articles from the Edinburgh Review includes further reviews of the main literary authors of the period: Byron, Keats, Hemans, Hazlitt. We also included a selection of articles by Sidney Smith, one of the founders of the Edinburgh Review. These comprise reviews of travel writing, biography and politics.

For the Quarterly Review articles, we chose 24 articles that reviewed a text also examined in one of the 61 Edinburgh Review articles, or that reviewed one of the main literary authors of the period. Within these criteria, we prioritised the main reviewers for the Quarterly Review: John Wilson Croker, Walter Scott, William Gifford, Robert Southey, John Barrow.

## Listing

The corpus comprises 85 article files:

- Allen\_Hallam\_Middle\_Ages\_ER\_30\_1818.xml
- Allen\_Lingard\_Antiquities\_ER\_25\_1815.xml
- Allen\_Warden\_St\_Helena\_ER\_27\_1816.xml
- Anon\_Coleridge\_Christabel\_ER\_27\_1816.xml
- Barrow\_Burckhardt\_Nubia\_QR\_22\_44\_1820.xml
- Barrow\_Humboldt\_American\_Researches\_QR\_15\_30\_1816.xml
- Brougham\_Carnot\_Defense\_ER\_25\_1815.xml
- Brougham\_Columbus\_ER\_27\_1816.xml
- Brougham\_Forsyth\_Italy\_ER\_22\_1814.xml
- Brougham\_Franklin\_Correspondence\_ER\_28\_1817.xml
- Brougham\_Junius\_Letters\_ER\_29\_1817.xml
- Brougham\_King\_Memoirs\_ER\_32\_1819.xml
- Brougham\_Melanges\_ER\_30\_1818.xml
- Brougham\_Nelson\_Letters\_ER\_23\_1814.xml
- Brougham\_Park\_Journey\_ER\_24\_1815.xml
- Brougham\_Phillips\_Speeches\_ER\_29\_1817.xml
- Brougham\_Restoration\_Poland\_ER\_23\_1814.xml
- Brougham\_Semple\_Germany\_ER\_22\_1814.xml
- Brougham\_Shepherd\_Paris\_ER\_23\_1814.xml
- Brougham\_Stendhal\_Italy\_ER\_29\_1817.xml
- Cockburn\_Culloden\_Papers\_ER\_26\_1816.xml
- ColeridgeJT\_Hazlitt\_Table\_QR\_17\_33\_1817.xml
- ColeridgeJT\_Hemans\_Poems\_QR\_24\_47\_1820.xml
- Croker-Gifford\_Morgan\_France\_QR\_17\_33\_1817.xml
- Croker\_Hobhouse\_Letters\_QR\_14\_28\_1816.xml
- Croker\_Hunt\_Rimini\_QR\_14\_28\_1816.xml
- Croker\_Keats\_Endymion\_QR\_19\_37\_1818.xml
- Croker\_Scott\_Antiquary\_QR\_15\_29\_1816.xml
- Croker\_Scott\_Guy\_Mannering\_QR\_12\_24\_1815.xml
- Croker\_Shelley\_Frankenstein\_QR\_18\_36\_1818.xml
- Ellis\_Scott\_Lord\_of\_the\_Isles\_QR\_13\_26\_1815.xml
- Gifford\_Hazlitt\_Shakespeare\_QR\_18\_36\_1818.xml
- Gifford\_Hazlitt\_Sketches\_QR\_22\_43\_1819.xml
- Gilchrist-Gifford\_Clares\_Poems\_QR\_23\_45\_1820.xml

- Hay\_Labaume\_Campaign\_in\_Russia\_QR\_12\_24\_1815.xml
- Hazlitt-Jeffrey\_Coleridge\_Literary\_Life\_ER\_28\_1817.xml
- Hazlitt-Jeffrey\_Hunt\_Rimini\_ER\_26\_1816.xml
- Hazlitt\_Coleridge\_Lay-sermon\_ER\_27\_1816.xml
- Hazlitt\_Schlegel\_Drama\_ER\_26\_1816.xml
- Hazlitt\_Sismondi\_Literature\_ER\_25\_1815.xml
- Hazlitt\_Standard\_Novels\_ER\_24\_1815.xml
- Hunt\_Nott\_Surrey\_ER\_27\_1816.xml
- Jeffrey\_Byron\_Corsair\_Bride\_ER\_23\_1814.xml
- Jeffrey\_Byron\_Manfred\_ER\_28\_1817.xml
- Jeffrey\_Edgeworth\_Tales\_ER\_28\_1817.xml
- Jeffrey\_Hazlitt\_Shakespeare\_ER\_28\_1817.xml
- Jeffrey\_Keats\_Endymion\_ER\_34\_1820.xml
- Jeffrey\_Moore\_Lalla\_Rookh\_ER\_29\_1817.xml
- Jeffrey\_Rogers\_Human\_Life\_ER\_31\_1819.xml
- Jeffrey\_Scott\_Lord\_of\_the\_Isles\_ER\_24\_1815.xml
- Jeffrey\_Scott\_Waverley\_ER\_24\_1815.xml
- Jeffrey\_Wilson\_City\_Plague\_ER\_26\_1816.xml
- Jeffrey\_Wordsworth\_Excursion\_ER\_24\_1815.xml
- Jeffrey\_Wordsworth\_White\_Doe\_ER\_25\_1815.xml
- Lyall\_Wordsworth\_White\_Doe\_QR\_14\_27\_1815.xml
- Mackintosh\_Godwin\_Milton\_ER\_25\_1815.xml
- Mackintosh\_Rogers\_Poems\_ER\_22\_1814.xml
- Mackintosh\_Stael\_Allemagne\_ER\_22\_1814.xml
- Mackintosh\_Wraxall\_Answer\_ER\_25\_1815.xml
- Maturin\_Edgeworth\_Dramas\_QR\_17\_33\_1817.xml
- Moore\_Boyd\_Fathers\_ER\_24\_1815.xml
- Moore\_French\_Novels\_ER\_34\_1820.xml
- Moore\_Jorgenson\_Travels\_ER\_28\_1817.xml
- Moore\_Thurloew\_Poems\_ER\_23\_1814.xml
- Palgrave\_Goethe\_part1\_ER\_26\_1816.xml
- Palgrave\_Goethe\_part2\_ER\_28\_1817.xml
- Palgrave\_Northern\_Poetry\_ER\_26\_1816.xml
- Playfair\_Bright\_Travels\_in\_Hungary\_ER\_31\_1818.xml
- Playfair\_Labaume\_Campaign\_in\_Russia\_ER\_24\_1815.xml
- Scott-Erskine-Gifford\_Scott\_Landlord\_QR\_16\_32\_1817.xml
- Scott\_Austen\_Emma\_QR\_14\_27\_1815.xml
- Scott\_Byron\_Childe\_Harold\_III\_QR\_16\_31\_1816.xml
- Scott\_Byron\_Childe\_Harold\_IV\_QR\_19\_37\_1818.xml
- Scott\_Maturin\_Women\_ER\_30\_1818.xml
- Seymour-Playfair\_Lewis-Clarke\_American\_Travels\_ER\_24\_1815.xml
- Smith\_Bowditch\_Ashantee\_ER\_32\_1819.xml
- Smith\_Burckhardt\_Nubia\_ER\_34\_1820.xml
- Smith\_George\_Memoirs\_ER\_30\_1818.xml
- Smith\_Heude\_Voyage\_ER\_32\_1819.xml
- Smith\_Ireland\_ER\_34\_1820.xml
- Smith\_Oxley\_Botany\_Bay\_ER\_34\_1820.xml
- Smith\_Travellers\_in\_America\_ER\_31\_1818.xml
- Southey\_Lewis-Clarke\_American\_Travels\_QR\_12\_24\_1815.xml
- Southey\_Montgomery\_Flood\_QR\_11\_21\_1814.xml
- Wilson\_Byron\_Childe\_Harold\_IV\_ER\_30\_1818.xml

The filenames are based on:

- reviewing author(s)
- original author(s)
- short title of article
- periodical - either ER for Edinburgh Review or QR for Quarterly Review
- volume number
- issue number if QR
- year of review's publication

## Size

Status	Articles	Total Word Count	Non-quote Word Count	Quote Word Count	Non-quote Percentage	Quote Percentage
ER	61	569,740	357,045	212,695	63%	37%
QR	24	217,801	155,657	62,144	71%	29%
Totals	85	787,541	512,702	274,839	65%	35%

NB Depending on your tokenisation method you may get slightly different word counts.

## Reuse

The corpus is freely available for reuse.

The corpus may be downloaded from the A Question of Style project's [online data site](#).

The [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International \(CC BY-SA 4.0\) Licence](#) applies to this corpus.

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## Contact

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