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English 3204

6 September 2004

Evaluation of *The Corpus of Romanesque Structures in Britain and Ireland*

The Corpus of Romanesque Structures in Britain and Ireland (http://www.crsbi.ac.uk/) is

an electronic archive of stone structures erected by the British and Irish peoples during the eras

postdating the Norman Conquest. The homepage of this website boasts that it is "the first

searchable, digital archive of British and Irish Romanesque stone sculpture." The information

provided on this site is concise yet thorough, designed in such a way as to allow all users to

move freely throughout the material. While the text is precisely detailed, it offers clear

explanations of the study to users who may not be familiar with the science of medieval

sculptures. *The Corpus* affirms its claims as "an authoritative scholarly resource," offering a

wealth of data and affording little doubt in credibility.

Using the "Evaluating Internet Information" criteria provided by Virginia Tech's library

website, the appraisement of *The Corpus of Romanesque Structures in Britain and Ireland*

resulted in an overall positive review. The site does not supply an author's or webmaster's name

or credentials, yet a mailing address, telephone number, and email address are included on a

contact page. The CRSBI staff is credited, however the user must assume that the site is managed

by one of the members listed because it is never clearly dictated. Background on the team

members is sparsely presented, though a paragraph does state "Professor George Zarnecki CBE

FBA, the doyen of the study of Romanesque sculpture in Britain and it is guided by a committee

of experts in the field." The author of the site goes no further in explaining the necessary details which afford the term "experts" in describing the committee members.

The Corpus considers itself as "evolving," yet the site does not include the time of the last update. This seems it would be an essential element in their documentation, especially on such pages as Progress Update. However, the author of the site was considerate enough to include a link to a questionnaire on the contact page, allowing users to convey feedback.

The site was aesthetically acceptable, neither adorned with excessive designs nor bare and bland. Links were functional, leading to striking photographs of medieval sculptures, to the countries in which the research is being conducted, and to definitions in a very useful and accessible glossary. The data offered by *The Corpus of Romanesque Structures in Britain and Ireland* is extensive and notable, as all research is funded by the distinguished British Academy, The Arts and Humanities Research Board (AHRB), The Henry Moore Foundation, The Marc Fitch Fund, The Heritage Council of Ireland, and The Courtauld Institute of Art. The site displays little bias, which may be more aptly seen as enthusiasm for their work and the need to express concerns of preservation of the historical structures. A comprehensive conclusion of the website's merits results in a praise of the both quality and quantity of all information supplied through this simplistic yet methodical database.