

Website Evaluation Project

"Footwear of the Middle Ages" is a website that focuses on the history and development of footwear up to the end of the sixteenth century. It is by I. Marc Carlson of the University of Tulsa. I know that anyone can build a website, so how do I know that Mr. Carlson's is accurate? I will do this by examining the page's authority, objectivity and accuracy. The homepage of the site is located at <http://www.personal.utulsa.edu/~marc-carlson/shoe/SHOEHOME.HTM>.

To know "Footwear of the Middle Ages" you must know its author, I. Marc Carlson. By looking at the bottom of the homepage we notice his email address: MARC-CARLSON@UTULSA.EDU. This URL indicates that he is affiliated with an established university, giving evidence that he knows what he's talking about. If you click on the Introduction link on the home page you will find a subheading called "Introduction to Version 9". I discovered a couple spelling errors in this paragraph that makes me wonder how scholarly this man actually is. An example is his use of "hear" when the proper word is "here". This could be a simple typo error, but it's not the kind of mistake that should be made by a man trying to portray an accurate website. Through reading this we learn that Carlson thinks of himself as THE expert in this particular field, further enhancing his credibility.

The fact that the author thinks of himself as the only person who really knows about footwear of the middle ages is a very biased comment. I'm sure there are other people in this world with knowledge on the subject. He should embrace the points of view of others and work together with them to gain more knowledge. Most of the information is unbiased, though, as it is hard to have changing opinions on shoes from a thousand years ago. Carlson does provide an extensive list of links (that can be accessed from the homepage), which let's us know that he is trying to be unbiased and allow for further study.

This website is well maintained and accurate. The copyright section at the bottom of the homepage let's us know that he has added information to the website quite often, and as late as this year. Every page gives the year at which the page was made, too. The information is reliable and Carlson backs it up with a bibliography page.

I would say that this website is a reliable source for information on medieval footwear. If you want to learn a lot about this topic, or just plain have a foot fetish, check out this site.

