

Evaluating *The Geoffrey Chaucer Website*

This informative website about Geoffrey Chaucer is a Harvard University affiliated website edited by L.D. Benson. The site attempts to give an overview of Chaucer's works and life, in addition, the site gives a 101 introduction to reading Old and Middle English (see the link "Chaucer's Language"). The website is located at <http://www.courses.fas.harvard.edu/~chaucer/> and my analysis is based on the links indicated on the page. My review is based on the website's content, authority in how it was written and the way it is organized.

On authority, *The Geoffrey Chaucer Website* seems like a personal webpage but upon investigation on each of the links, I found that it was much more. Each page is copyrighted at the bottom by Benson. There is no detailed information on Mr. Benson but the copyright is credited to President and Fellows of Harvard College. In addition, the website's homepage also includes a statement that it is "written for Harvard University's Chaucer classes in the core program, the English Department and the Division of Continuing Education," which is indicative that the website is viewed with high regard and the information is accurate.

The content of *The Geoffrey Chaucer Website* contains many topics. The life of Chaucer, chronology of events during his life, translations, Middle English are just a few of the topics covered on the page. Many of the links are to websites also edited by Benson and there are few links to outside sources. A lot of internal content on this page suggests that the page was constructed with knowledge on Chaucer. Each page has color-coded text which differentiates between the editor's words and Chaucer's work. I

believe one of the downsides to the website is the introduction on Old English to readers who do not understand or have tremendous difficulty on the language. It diverts into another subject and takes the focus of the reader onto a whole different subject. While I do believe that it takes understanding of Old English to read many of Chaucer's work, I think that the website takes focus off of Chaucer by introducing the art of reading the language at the time.

On organization, *The Geoffrey Chaucer Website* is well organized. The links on the homepage are arranged into two columns with the links in descending order. Each page is well written and the quotes are fully cited to Chaucer. The introduction to learning Old English is very educational, with media clips of how to pronounce certain words. Most useful of all is the Index page, so that people will not have to bother with browsing through every page just for information on a certain topic.

I believe that this website is very well done and provides the reader with a lot of information about Geoffrey Chaucer, most of which is well organized. Whether students want to know an overview of Chaucer or they are just simply getting information to write a research paper, this is a site students can use with ease