

Medieval Literature at www.fact-index.com

An off-site article by Wikipedia, *Medieval Literature* is a brief and broad overview of, obviously, medieval literature. The site is fairly short, only about 2 screens (pages) long, yet it contains, through links, a wealth of information. http://www.fact-index.com/m/me/medieval_literature.html is the web address. Link relevance, content, and authority will be considered in this evaluation.

The site is composed of brief descriptions of types of writing in the medieval period, and notable examples of these types. Throughout the descriptions, key words are linked to other Wikipedia articles, providing information to flesh out the brief overview given in the original article. Some words, however, do not seem to require links, but have them anyways, such as “Europe”, “sacred”, “profane”, and “theological.” On the other hand, there don’t seem to be any topical words left without a link, until we get to the “Notable Literature” section. Out of 34 works, only 15 have links, and only 14 authors are linked, which leaves the literature-specific information somewhat lacking.

The Wikipedia site was updated on Sept. 12, 2004, though there is no date specifically pertaining to the Medieval Literature article. Wikipedia is a free, online encyclopedia, run by a non-profit organization. It’s articles are well-written and well organized, though it does not cite anything that it states in it’s descriptions, possibly because it is itself a reference. Its outside links section is woefully small, though the three sites linked are high quality and well known, being *The Labyrinth*, Berkeley’s *Online Medieval and Classical Library*, and *The Internet Medieval Sourcebook*, of Fordham University, New York.

Medieval Literature at fact-index.com is a decent enough resource for someone only vaguely interested in medieval literature, but since it is only a small part of a generalized dictionary, it does not yield as much information as more tightly focused web sites do.