

anthea@antheamakepeace.co.uk

John Latimer's Annals of Bristol online (9.10.15)

Document with working hyperlinks at :

<http://www.antheamakepeace.co.uk/latimer1.pdf>

John Latimer, a former Editor of the Bristol Mercury (newspaper) published 4 volumes on the history of Bristol between 1887-1908. They comprise a unique chronological local history resource.

The volumes were reprinted photographically in 1970 by Kingsmead Reprints. This edition is definitive

They are currently available http://www.amazon.co.uk/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=latimers+annals

The current reprints seem to be a digital reconstructions by Optical Character Recognition (OCR) from scanned copies of the original. They are admitted to contain **Typos** from uncorrected OCR errors.

There are now versions available free online – (search: *Latimer annals Bristol*)
Sixteenth Century (1908) – not found free online
seventeenth Century (1900)

<https://archive.org/details/annalsofbristoli00latiuoft>

Eighteenth Century(1893)

<https://archive.org/details/annalsbristolin02latigoog>

Nineteenth Century(1887)

<https://archive.org/details/annalsofbristoli00lati>

Nineteenth Century supplement to 1900 (1902) – not found free online

These are provided by a Google digitisation project from originals held in various American University Libraries.

They are available in a whole range of file formats (see below)

The text version may be saved from your (Firefox) Browser as *Web Page Complete* and then loaded into *Word* or its equivalent. The whole document may then be searched using the *find* command and cut & pasted into a user document.

You will notice obvious errors caused by limitations in the OCR software.

Where accuracy is required you should also consult the .PDF version which is a true scanned facsimile. The pagination has been set to match the original books with the Prelims (Roman numerals in the original) having a NULL page number, thus making for easy searching.

General Discussion

This is a general discussion on distribution and reprinting of out of copyright material

Should links to online versions of classic texts be included in Library catalogues?

Although teachers may say anyone today can find things on the internet in practise this is not true especially with the older generaton and we may all need guidance with a precise URL as above. The internet does not have the permanence of the deposited printed word and as those maintaining websites with extensive links know there is a need for time consuming checking for broken links.

Even so library catalogues would be enhanced by providing links to digitised versions.

OCR errors and historical research

OCR is not perfect. It will improve but at present manual editing is required.

Print on demand publication is ideally suited to OCR versions rather than photographic facsimile and an increasing number of classic reprints being are available as OCR versions. Some publishers actually offer a free downloadable .pdf facsimile to purchasers of their reprints.

Teaching on historical method should discuss how we approach what is going to become an increasing problem as OCR reprints become the norm.

I believe that for the present at least we should publish facsimile and OCR versions in parallel.

File types and sizes for The volumes referred above:

Nineteenth century options

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eighteen century options

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seventeenth century options

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