

Technical Requirements

System Requirements:

Computer/Processor:	486DX/ 66 MHz or higher Processor, Pentium recommended. Macintosh/ Power-Macintosh: Macintosh II or System Software from Version 7x on.
Hard disc:	Windows: minimum 16 MB RAM. Apple: minimum 12 MB RAM. More memory will improve performance.
Free hard disc memory:	6 MB, if a browser is already installed, otherwise 30 MB.
Drive:	CD-ROM or DVD-ROM.
Monitor:	minimum thousands of colors, 800 x 600 pixel resolution.
Peripheral equipment:	Mouse.
Software:	Windows 95/ 98/ NT; MAC/ PowerMac; Linux;

Illustrations on centre pages from left to right

- Portrait of Johannes Gutenberg
- Gutenberg Bible or 42 line Bible (B 42)
Bible, latin [Mainz: The printers of the 42 line Bible (Johannes Gutenberg together with Johannes Fust and Peter Schöffer), around 1454, before September 1456].
Shelfmark: 2° Bibl. I, 5955 Inc. Rara Cim.
Vol. 1, fol. 1r
- Detail. Göttingen Model Book.
Vellum manuscript, around 1450. Shelfmark: 8° Cod. Ms. Uff. 51 Cim.
- Detail. The minutes of the trial Fust vs. Gutenberg:
Helmasperger's Notary Instrument.
Vellum manuscript. Mainz, 6. XI. 1455.
Shelfmark: 2° Cod. Ms. hist. lit. 123 Cim.
Provenance: Johann David Köhler, 1741.

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At a glance

CONTENTS: *CD-ROM 1:* The complete Göttingen Gutenberg Bible with a total of 1,282 facsimile pages.
CD-ROM 2: Göttingen Model Book (12 double pages)
Helmasperger's Notary Instrument (1 double page);
numerous enlargements of the Gutenberg Bible, especially from the 85 illuminated pages on this CD-ROM.

FEATURES: Numerous links between Bible pages, enlarged illustrations, quotations and commentaries.

LANGUAGES: English, German

INTERFACE: 4th generation Web browser,
activated JavaScript-Option, Flash-Plugin

TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION:

imhof multimedia consulting (imc)
Digitalisierungszentrum (GDZ) of the
SUB Göttingen (Martin Liebethuth)

TECHNICAL PARTNERS

Apple Computer, Anagramm, Colorblind, X-Rite,
H+H Zentrum für Rechnerkommunikation,
SmartStorage, Grundig AG

Gutenberg digital

Göttingen Gutenberg Bible, Model Book and Helmasperger's Notary Instrument

Edited by Elmar Mittler (Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen) – Stephan Füssel (Institut für Buchwissenschaft an der Universität Mainz).

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Implemented by Martin Liebethuth (Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen) and Andres Imhof (imc)

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This project will also be presented in the internet.
More information is available at the following address
<http://www.gutenbergdigital.de>

GUTENBERG DIGITAL

The Göttingen Gutenberg Bible, Model Book and Helmasperger's Notary Instrument





The project “Gutenberg digital”

As part of the project “Gutenberg digital” both volumes of the vellum copy of the Göttingen Gutenberg Bible were digitized at the Digitalisierungs-Zentrum (GDZ) of the Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen. Using a professional digital camera, a special

cradle and taking maximum care of the book, each page was scanned in the highest quality.

The CD-ROM “Gutenberg digital”

With the interactive CD-ROM edition “Gutenberg digital” users now have access to images of all 1,282 pages of the complete Göttingen Gutenberg Bible on their own computers. The most beautiful, hand colored pages can also be enlarged and viewed in detail.

The viewer has the unique opportunity to compare the bible illuminations directly with original patterns that were laid out in a manuscript of the 15th century held only in the library at Göttingen. This unique manuscript, the “Göttingen Model Book”, has also been recorded on CD-ROM. Besides the special features of the book decoration, interactive access to the actual text of the Gutenberg Bible is possible in several languages (Hebrew, Greek, English, French and German) by selecting well known verses from the Bible.

Finally, Helmasperger's Notary Instrument, the most important document dealing with the history of the invention of printing by Gutenberg, is also found on this CD-ROM.



The Göttingen Gutenberg Bible

Even though Gutenberg is neither mentioned by name as the printer of the 42 line latin Bible nor of any other books attributed to him it is now considered certain that he created this first major work with Johannes Fust and Peter Schöffer at their printing company. With its elegantly formed characters (missaltype, textura) and the harmonious unity of the typeset, this Bible represents an unsurpassed masterpiece of printing. An estimated 180 copies (150 paper and 30 vellum copies) were printed. Today 49 complete and incomplete examples are known worldwide, including both the missing Leipzig copies and 12 bibles printed on vellum. The copy in the Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen is one of the few complete vellum copies. The others are to be found in London (British Library), Paris (Bibliothèque Nationale), Washington (Library of Congress) and, with several missing pages, Berlin (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin).

The Göttingen Model Book

The “Göttingen Model Book” is a coloring book for the production of foliage, initials and patterned grounds in various color combinations. Examples of the book illumination in this manuscript of the mid15th century can be found in several copies of the Gutenberg Bible, including the Göttingen copy. It is therefore very likely that this model book (of which only one parallel manuscript is known) provided the patterns for the decoration of the Göttingen Bible. With its very precise instructions for the mixing and heightening of colors, the Model Book also played an important role in research on medieval book illustration techniques carried out in Göttingen, in a joint project by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and the Volkswagen-Stiftung.



Helmasperger's Notary Instrument

Ulrich Helmasperger, a cleric of the diocese of Bamberg, imperial notary and official clerk at the court of the archbishop of Mainz, drafted the notary instrument

named after him on 6th November 1455. This document is the only contemporary source of information dealing with Gutenberg's invention, known as the “Werk der Bücher” (work of books), and Gutenberg's business relations with Fust. In it is recorded that the citizen of Mainz, Johannes Fust, swore an oath maintaining that he had advanced Gutenberg the sum of 1550 florins, which he himself had received on loan at a rate of six percent interest. The sum of money that was not spent to their mutual benefit on the printing press was regarded by Fust as a loan, which he demanded back with interest. A trial followed and a brief report is given about the first charge – the repaying of the sum owed – and about the verdict passed in Fust's favour. Nothing is said in the notary instrument regarding the final decision on Fust's demand that the company be liquidated or of the consequences. The document leaves a number of questions unanswered. The manuscript was donated to the university library in 1741 by the Göttingen historian Johann David Köhler, who provided important stimulus for research on Gutenberg with his publication “Hochverdiente und aus bewährten Urkunden wohlbeglaubte Ehrenrettung Johann Gutenbergs”, published in the same year. The manuscript was forgotten until its rediscovery in 1886 by Karl Dziatzko.

