



Unravelling Academese: a glossary of academic terms for historical martial artists

Academese term	Definition	Notes
Analogous translation	Translation that takes phrases and context into account. Also metaphrase	
Book	A volume, or a section of a text	
Codex/codices	A bound book in the modern sense	
Collation	The organisation of signatures or quires in a codex	
Copperplate	A method of printing images by etching them into copper plates.	
Diacritic	Marks used to distinguish similar letters, e.g. e, ë, the " is a diacritic.	
Diplomatic (transcription)	A diplomatic transcription records the characters on the page as exactly as possible, without (e.g.) expanding abbreviations, modernising punctuation, etc.	
Edition	A version of a treatise or book	
Facsimile	An exact copy of a work	
Foliation	The ordering of leaves in a codex	
Folio	A single leaf of a book. Also a size reference; one sheet folded once. Usually approx 9x12" or 23x30cm	
Gathering	Same as quire or signature. Leaves folded and assembled together, before being stitched along the fold.	
Gloss	An explanation or definition of a word, phrase, or whole text.	
Illuminated	Mss only: has coloured images	
Illustrated	Has drawings	
Incunable/incunabulum/incunabula	A book printed before 1500	
Literal translation	A word-by-word translation, also metaphrase	
Manuscript	A text written by hand	

Academese term	Definition	Notes
Metaphrase	A word-by-word translation, also literal translation.	
Octavo	A book size- one sheet folded three times. Usually approx	
Palaeography/palaeographer	The study of old texts and writing methods	
Palimpsest	A manuscript that has been erased and written over.	
Paraphrase	Translation that takes phrases and context into account. Also analogous translation	
Parchment	Rawhide prepared for writing on	
Quarto	A book size- one sheet folded twice. Usually approx 4.5x6" or 12x15cm	
Quire	As gathering, or signature. Leaves folded and assembled together, before being stitched along the fold.	
Rubric	Red text, especially chapter headings	
Scroll	A text rolled into a tube for storage	
Signature	As gathering or quire. Leaves folded and assembled together, before being stitched along the fold.	
Syntax	The rules of sentence structure	
Transcription	A copy of a text from one form to another- eg manuscript to typed.	
Translation	Translating	
Treatise	A systematic treatment of a subject	
Undertext	The deleted but recoverable text on a palimpsest	
Vellum	Rawhide prepared for writing on	
Volume	A single bound book	
Woodcut	A method of printing images by carving them into wooden plates	

Academese term	Definition	Notes