

2-1-2001

Gutenberg Digital (Review)

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Recommended Citation

McKeigue, E. "Gutenberg Digital." (Review) *Library Journal* 1 February 2001.

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DATABASE & DISC REVIEWS

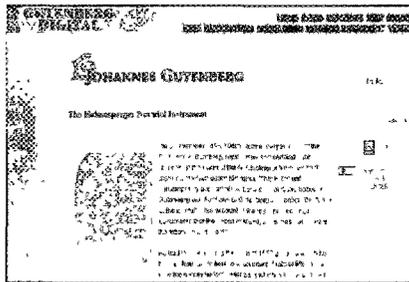
with some added gains in reading speed” When I took the post-test, my reading score was 1,182 words per minutes, a 107 percent gain in seven minutes! The program is careful to emphasize that reading gains must be maintained with practice, miniexercises, and personal training.

The Bottom Line: eyeQ is much more than speed-reading: it effectively combines video, audio, and interactive computer technology to train users to read and process information faster. Online learning publishers should take special note of this product: the interface is one of the easiest to use and navigate that this reviewer has encountered. Strongly recommended for academic, school, special, and public libraries, as well as for individual and circulating collections.—*Christine Oka, Bibliographic Svcs., Northeastern Univ., Boston*

GUTENBERG DIGITAL

K.G. Saur Verlag (+49 089 769 02-269, CustomerService_Saur@csi.com), www.saur.de
Windows 95+/Mac OS 7x+/
PowerMac/Linux. 2000.
ISBN 3-598-40470-0.
Price: \$55.

If you've never had the pleasure of seeing an actual printed Gutenberg Bible, here's



the next best thing: **Gutenberg Digital**. Presented on two CD-ROMs are the fully digitized Goettingen Gutenberg Bible and other supplemental texts.

Getting started is simple: choose whether you want to use the English or German version from the “Home” page. Since the program runs in Netscape and navigation is facilitated with a menu bar along the top, it is easy and familiar to get around. Even if you don't take the time to read the detailed instructions, the program will be completely intuitive for anyone who's ever used an Internet browser.

Information is arranged in chapters listed in the navigation bar. The “Contents” link provides a table of contents for all that one can link to from the navigation bar. From here, you can link to additional digitized texts on Gutenberg and his im-

port (such as a biographical sketch and the full-text of *Helmasperger's Notarial Instrument* of 6 November 1455, the document that records the legal dispute between Gutenberg and his primary investor, Johannes Fust, and provides the proof that Gutenberg was the inventor of moving-type printing). A “Bible” button leads directly to the 1,282 pages of the Gutenberg Bible. You can choose among the Books of the Bible via a pull-down menu. Thumbnail icons provide a quick overview of the pages. Clicking on a thumbnail brings up the full, gloriously colored images. You can choose to view one page at a time or two at once. Once the second disc is installed, users can instantly translate the original Latin text of the most well-known Bible passages into English, French, German, Greek (for New Testament passages only), and Hebrew (for Old Testament only) with the click of the mouse.

An “Illumination” chapter highlights the ornately decorated pages of the Gutenberg Bible. This is also the section where you can compare these pages with the *Goettingen Model Book*, a 15th-century manuscript held in the library at Goettingen that laid out the original decorative patterns. There are three ways of examining the pages: “Compare Bible pages—model-book,” “Detailed view,” and “Compare Model Book—Bible pages.” You can compare the illuminated pages with the respective patterns from the *Goettingen Model Book* and vice versa: use the magnifying feature to view details of the designs.

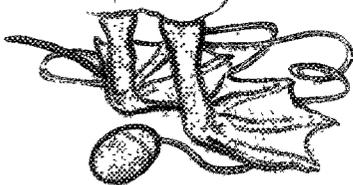
An “Online” link connects you to further contents of “Gutenberg Digital” offered on the Internet. The total contents of this CD product are, in fact, fully presented on the Internet. However, this disc version does offer some slight advantages over the Internet version: the CD's pages load instantly, while with the online version you can have slower server response, especially when viewing the scanned images of the illustrated pages. The Internet version does offer the advantage of including everything the CD does and more for free, but, again, response time is not as good as it is on the CD.

The Bottom Line: Even though **Gutenberg Digital** is available in its entirety on the Internet, biblical and printing scholars (and those libraries serving them) will want to pay the \$55 for this disc and use it as it is intended, in tandem with the online version's additional features. A superior product, highly recommended for academic and research libraries.—*Elizabeth McKeigue, Access Svcs., Widener Lib., Harvard Univ.*

“..this product is a godsend.
Highly recommended.”

—Book Report

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