<table>
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<th><strong>Title</strong></th>
<th>Ossian Online: Crowdsourcing Annotation and the Social Edition</th>
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"[W]e are witnessing the nascent stages of a new 'social'
edition existing at the intersection of social media and
digital editing" [1].

"[W]e need to extend our understanding of the scholarly
edition in light of new models of edition production that
embrace social networking and its commensurate tools…to
consider the social edition as an extension of the traditions
in which it is situated and which it has the potential to
inform productively" [2].

Ossian Online is a project to publish the various editions of the sequence of eighteenth-century works
known collectively as the Ossian poems. Initially presented by Scottish writer James Macpherson as
fragments of original manuscripts he had found on journeys around the Highlands of Scotland, the
Ossian poems grew into a body of work that inspired readers, courted controversy, and profoundly
influenced the literature of the Romantic period.

The project will make the complex textual development of Ossian available to a new generation of
readers and researchers. The online archive allows the reader to view and compare the multiple
incarnations and permutations of Macpherson’s corpus—from the first edition of *Fragments of Ancient
Poetry* in 1760 to the ‘carefully corrected and greatly improved’ 1773 edition of *The Poems of Ossian.*
*Ossian Online* permits readers to read different editions, to view the differences between editions, and
to make analyses and interpretations informed by variation and revision. The site will also facilitate
the interdisciplinary annotation that the work demands, by means of a crowdsourced annotation tool.

Though much discussed, Ossian is still rarely read: *Ossian Online* will make the primary sources
available in a reliable and freely accessible scholarly format. By providing the stimulus for a
collaborative network of commentators inside the academy and beyond, *Ossian Online* will open
Macpherson’s work to a genuinely interdisciplinary and transnational community of readers and
researchers.

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**Project workflow**

1. **Archive:** accurate, TEI-encoded texts and accompanying images of all printed editions from
   the Ossian corpus between 1760 and 1773.

2. **Annotation Tool:** crowdsourced collaboration model of textual annotation, allowing users to comment
   on the text and enabling interdisciplinary debate.

3. **Critical edition:** trace, visualise, and explore changing texts of Ossian by means of TEI genetic
   edition encoding.

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**Main image:** Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres. *The Dream of Ossian* (1813).

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