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## Crowdsourcing annotation and the social edition

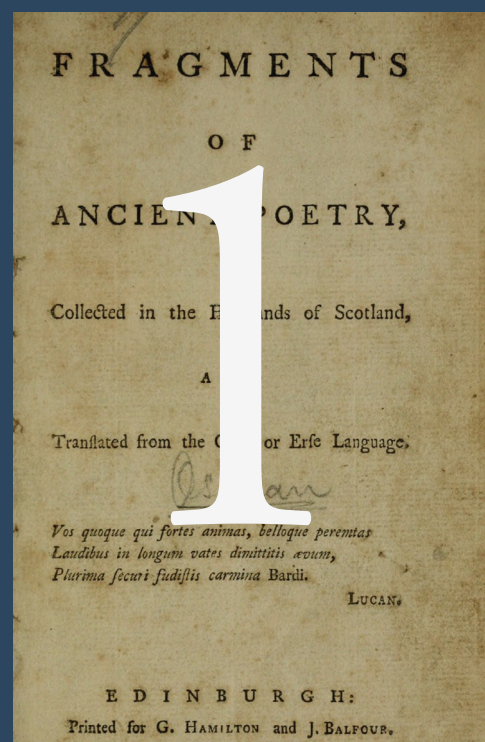
*Ossian Online* is a project to publish the various editions of the sequence of eighteenth-century works known collectively as the Ossian poems. Initially presented by Scottish writer James Macpherson as fragments of original manuscripts he had found on journeys around the Highlands of Scotland, the 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.

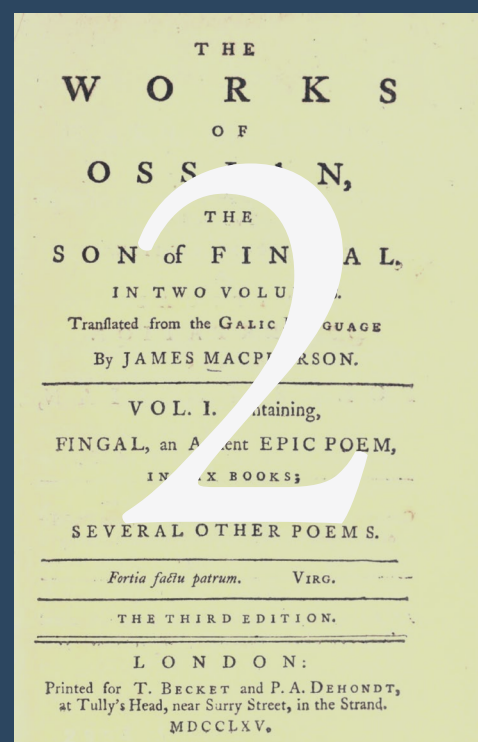
Though much discussed, Ossian is still rarely read: *Ossian Online* will make the primary sources available in a reliable and freely accessible scholarly format. By providing the stimulus for a collaborative network of commentators inside the academy and beyond, *Ossian Online* will open Macpherson's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



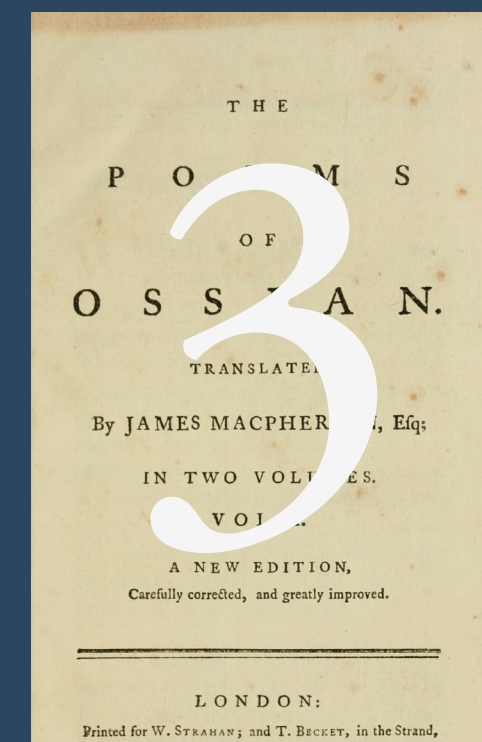
### Project phases



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

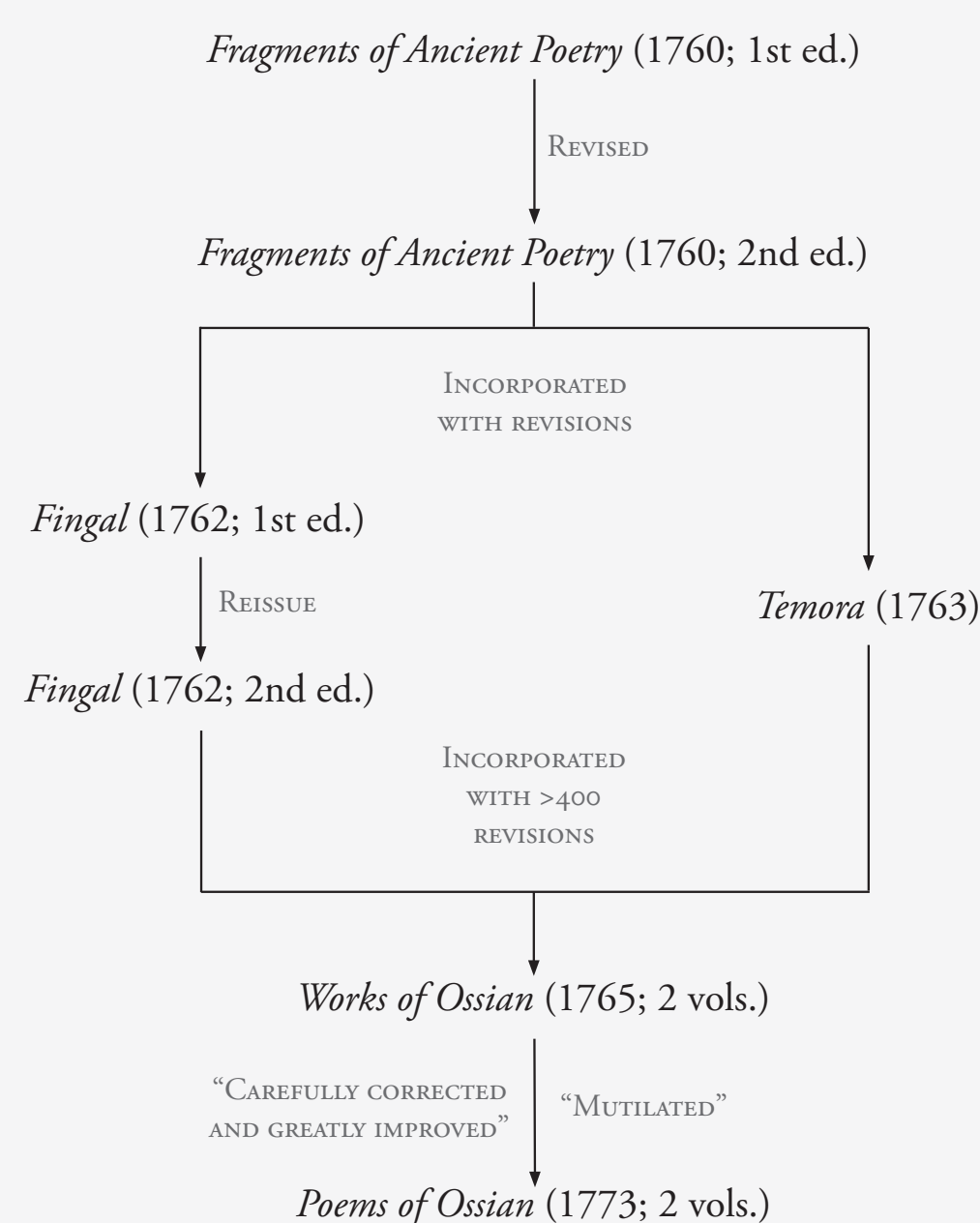


2 Annotation Tool: crowdsourced collaboration model of textual annotation, allowing users to comment on the text and enabling interdisciplinary debate.



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

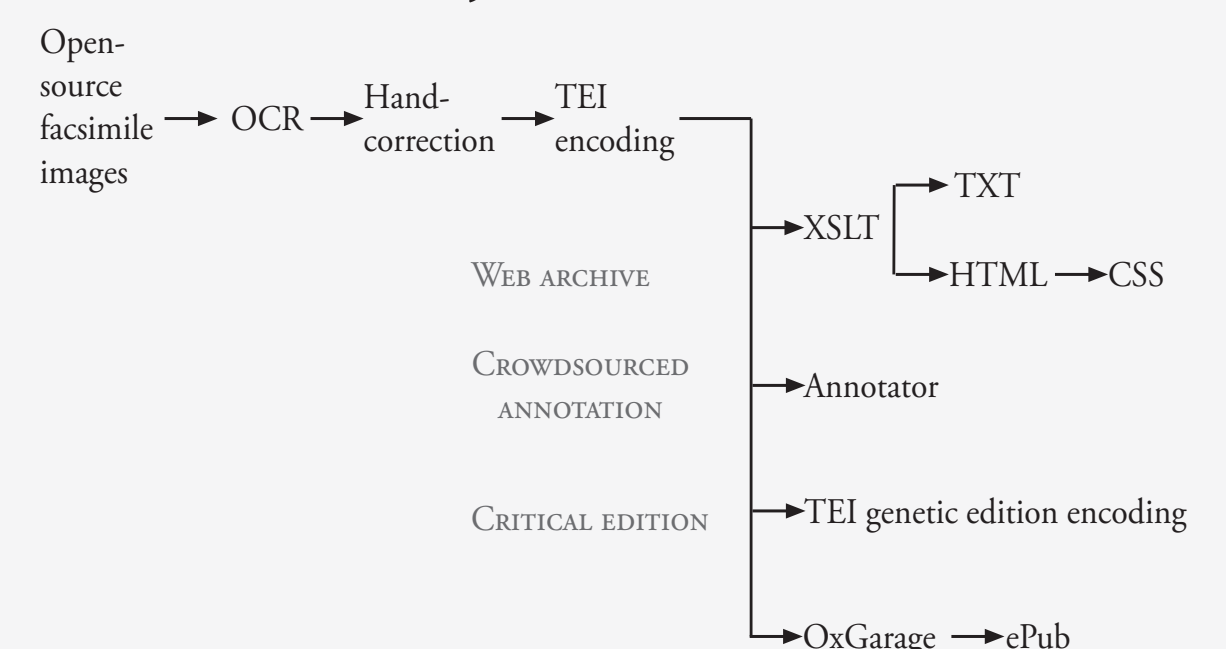
### Textual transmission of Ossian



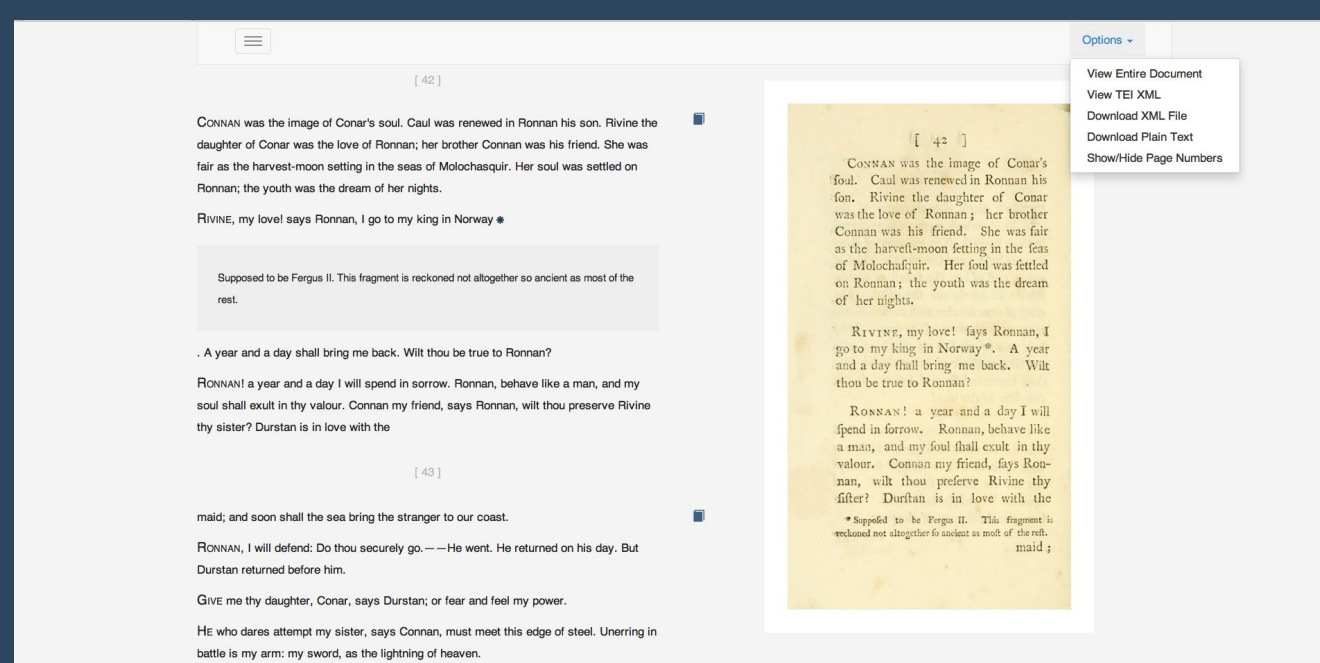
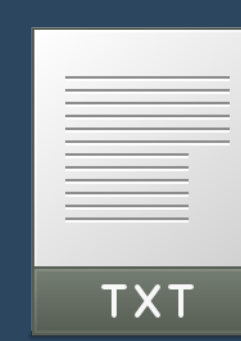
### The social edition

“[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].

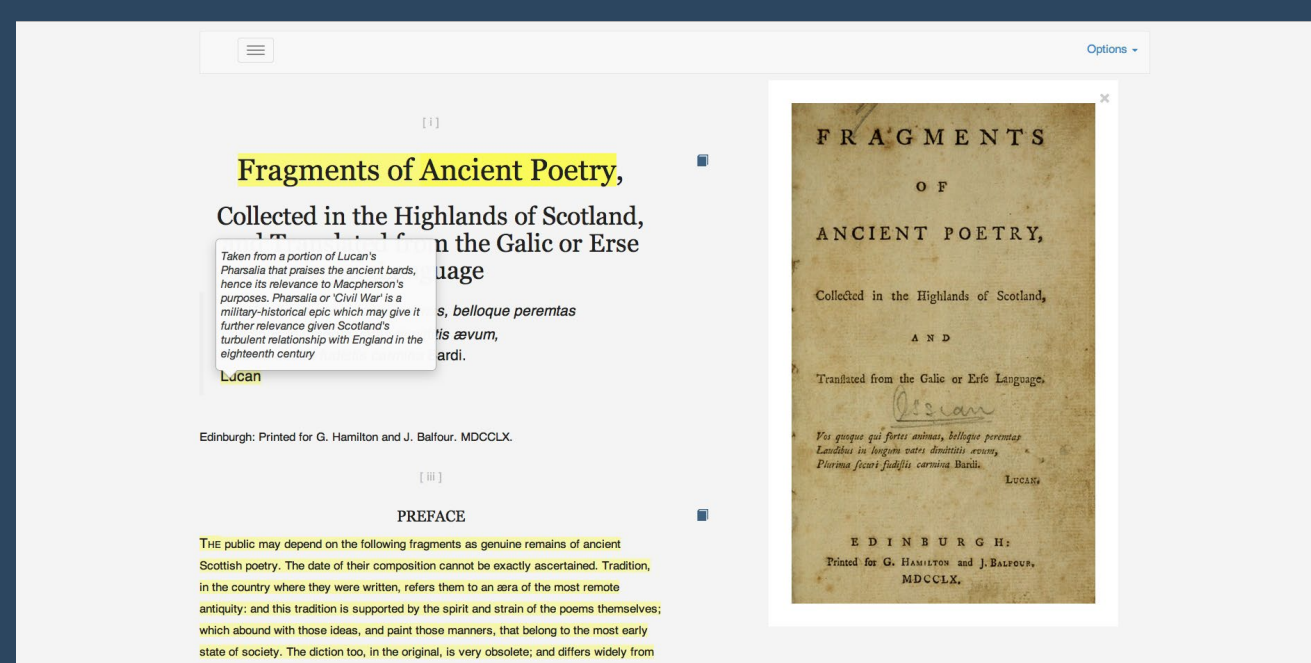
### Project workflow



### Text formats



Text / facsimile view



Annotation view

### People

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

[1] Siemens, Ray et al. “Toward Modeling the Social Edition: An Approach to Understanding the Electronic Scholarly Edition in the Context of New and Emerging Social Media.” *Literary and Linguistic Computing* 27.4 (2012): 445–461. 446.

[2] Siemens, Ray et al. “Pertinent Discussions Toward Modeling the Social Edition: Annotated Bibliographies.” *Digital Humanities Quarterly* 6.1 (2012): n. pag.