



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 metaphor	
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	
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 metaphor	
Manuscript	A text written by hand	
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	

Academese term	Definition	Notes
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	
Rubric	Red text, especially chapter headings	
Scroll	A text rolled into a tube for storage	
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	