

## ***PhiloBiblon*: Planning for the Future of a Union Catalog of the Primary Sources for the Study of the Literature and Culture of Medieval and Early Modern Iberia**

The senior scholars who have led *PhiloBiblon* since the early 1980s are at or near retirement age. The goal of this eighteen-month project is to take steps now, while those scholars are still active, to provide for its sustainability. *PhiloBiblon* currently serves as a vehicle for four major bio-bibliographical databases on the Romance vernacular cultures (Castilian, Portuguese, Galician, Catalan) of medieval and early modern Iberia (containing a total of almost 315,000 records). They record the primary manuscript and printed sources of those cultures along with the individuals and institutions involved in their creation and dissemination. Succession planning is under way for staff and host institutions, but we must also ensure that both the database application software and the web-hosting software will remain viable vehicles for the dissemination of materials critical for the study of medieval and early modern Iberia, and, more importantly, that the data themselves remain available to generations of scholars yet unborn.

The enhanced web access to *PhiloBiblon* made possible by the previous NEH grant (2007) has been a resounding success, with approximately a thousand unique users each month. Nevertheless, over time, that access will be seriously jeopardized unless we take steps now to ensure its continuation. Younger scholars are being groomed to take over the project; and we are engaged in discussions with an institution in Spain to add at least one mirror site there and organize a workshop in 2015 to teach young scholars and advanced graduate students how to use and contribute to *PhiloBiblon*.

Experience with the website over the past two years demonstrates that certain modest improvements would substantially improve its usability. Changes to the hosting software will provide access to the full range of data in *PhiloBiblon* and to the increasing number of digitized texts and medieval manuscript facsimiles available on the web. Improvements to the data base management system (DBMS) will allow us to provide a full-feature PC version of *PhiloBiblon* and its data as well, providing the searching, sorting, and reporting capabilities that cannot easily be replicated on the web.

*PhiloBiblon* will continue to stimulate interest in recovering the primary manuscript and printed sources of medieval Iberian culture by highlighting those that remain unedited and unstudied, save scholars untold amounts of time and money as they begin research projects based on those sources, serve as a guide for digitization projects (both text and image), and widen considerably the study of the medieval Iberian literatures by providing access to neglected non-canonical texts.

An integral part of the project is the continued addition of data to *PhiloBiblon*'s component databases by the scholars in charge of each database. Between 2007 and 2013 almost 45,000 new records were created and tens of thousands more were updated. Specifically we plan to incorporate the 7,000 15<sup>th</sup>-c. Spanish lyrics from Brian Dutton's *Catálogo/índice de la poesía cancioneril del siglo XV* (1982), the last major Iberian textual corpus still lacking