Beethoven Arrangements

Can digital approaches widen our investigative reach?

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The Beethoven in the House project

Beethoven-Haus Bonn:
Elisabete Shibate, Christine Siegert, Christin Heitmann

Centre for Music, Edition, Media (ZenMEM), Paderborn University:
Mark Saccamano, Lisa Rosendahl, Johannes Kepper

RISM Digital:
Andrew Hankinson

University of Oxford e-Research Centre:
David Lewis, Kevin Page

Beethoven Arrangements

Background

Steiner arrangements

Vocal arrangements

Digital Challenges

Digital Benefits

Summary

Background

Prior Art
November

Arrangement as a translation

> "The 'age of musical arrangements' in Beethoven's time is [....] a flourishing of musical 'domestication', which involves a 'translation' between two musical entities (the original and the arrangement)."

Nancy November, *Beethoven's Symphonies arranged for the Chamber. Sociability, Reception and Canon Formation* (Cambridge, 2021), p. 38

Steiner arrangements

7th Symphony, 8th Symphony, Wellingtons Sieg

Mature studies
Steiner arr.

Translating for a domestic audience

Op. 93. Quintet, First mvt.
Recapitulation, vln 1
[D-BNba C 93 / 26]

Op. 93. Orchestral score,
First mvt. (Steiner, 1816)
Recapitulation,, vln 1
[D-BNba C 93 / 30]

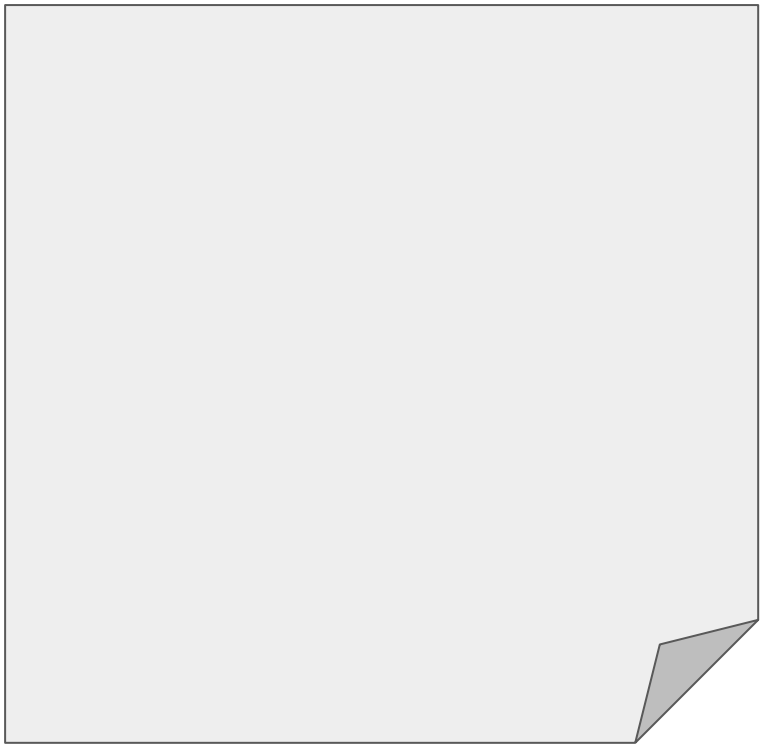
Translating and domestication

Beethoven, *8th Symphony arr. for Quintet*, Op. 93. (Steiner, 1816). Vln 1, opening
[D-BNba C 93 / 26]

Beethoven, *8th Symphony arr. for piano trio*, Op. 93. (Steiner, 1816). Vln, opening
[D-BNba C 93 / 23]

Mature studies
Steiner arr.

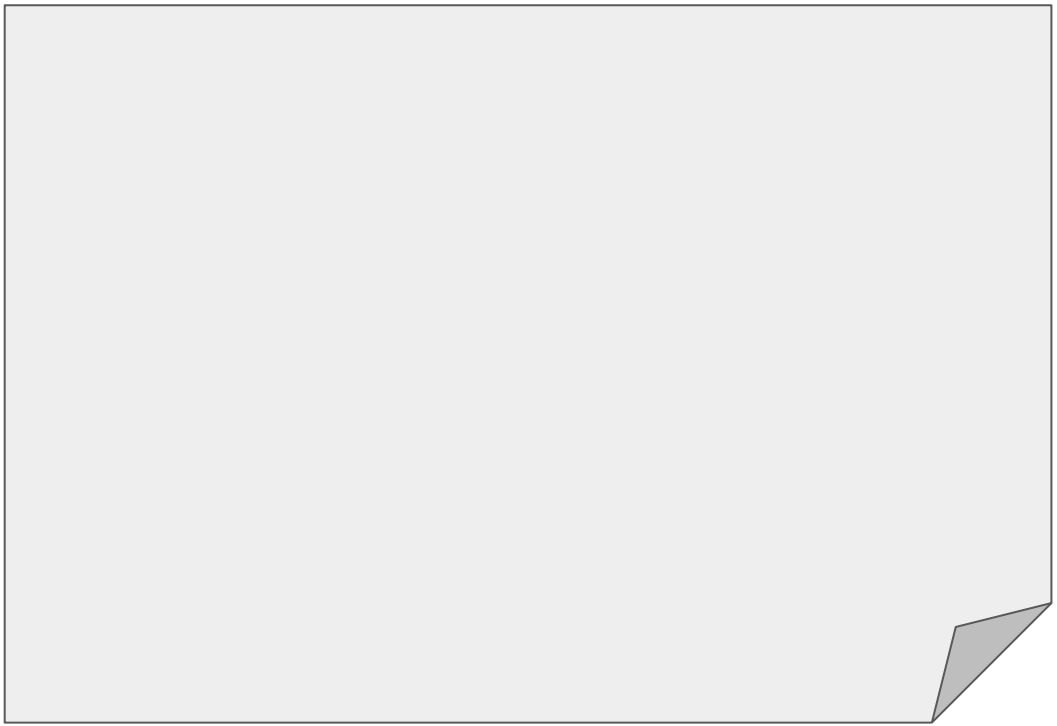
Textural vs pitch fidelity



Op. 93 Orchestral Score, First mvt, start of development section

Mature studies
Steiner arr.

Textural, pitch and genre fidelity



Op 93. Piano Trio, first mvt, start of development section, Piano

Vocal arrangements

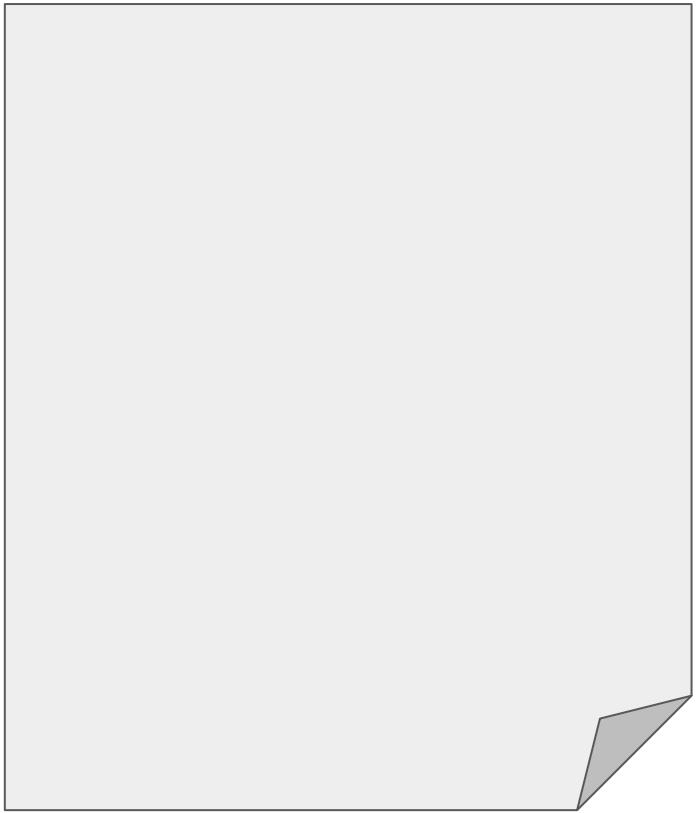
7th Symphony and beyond

Early investigation
Vocal arr.

More substantial transformation

Friedrich Silcher, *Persischer Nachtgesang* in Beethoven-Album : ein Gedenkbuch dankbarer Liebe und Verehrung für den grossen Todten ... (Hallberger, 1846), text from a collection by Heinrich Stieglitz.

[D-Bnba HCB Nc 4 / 1846 Schi]

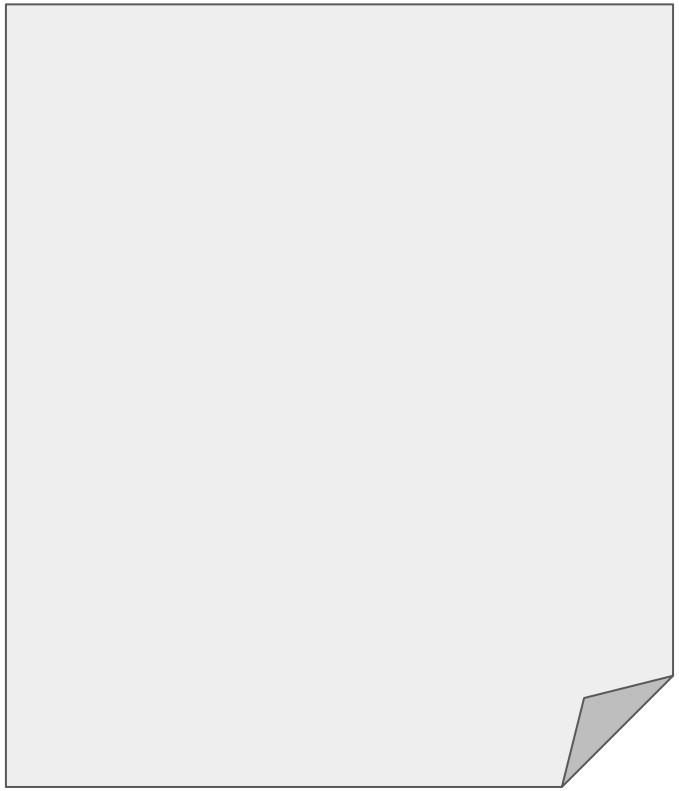


Early investigation
Vocal arr.

More substantial transformation

Josiah Pittman (Augener & Co, c.1855), *The Epiphany*, ‘Beethoven’s Melodies adapted to Holy Days’, No 7

[D-Bnba C 92 / 48]



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More substantial transformation

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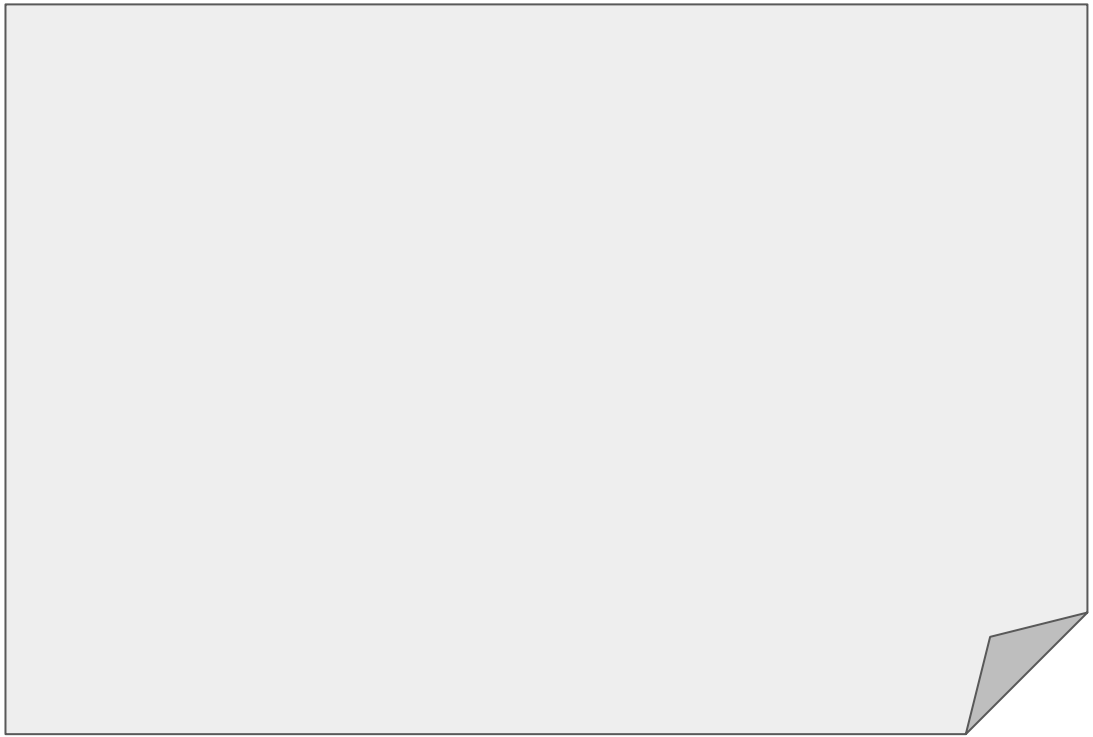


Early investigation
Vocal arr.

William Gardiner, *Sacred melodies from Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven* (self-published, 1807) [D-BNba C 252 / 150]

November, Beethoven Symphonies

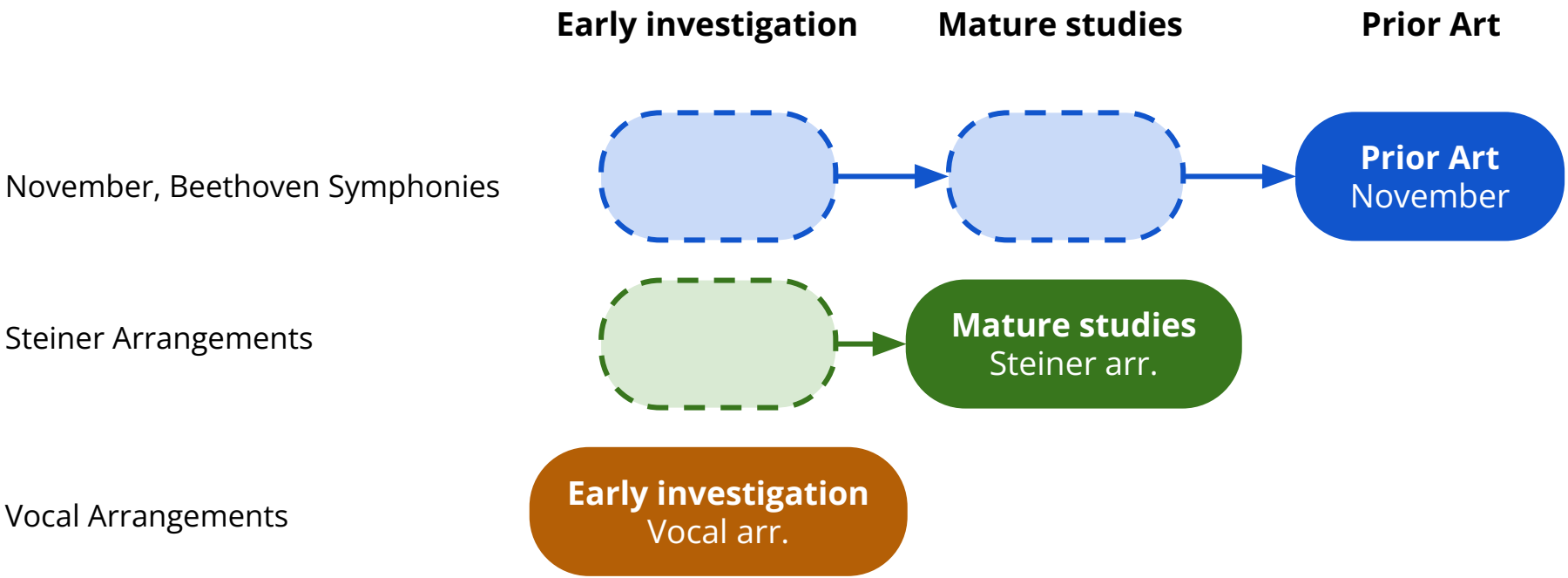
Steiner Arrangements

Vocal Arrangements

Prior Art
November

Mature studies
Steiner arr.

Early investigation
Vocal arr.


Early investigation
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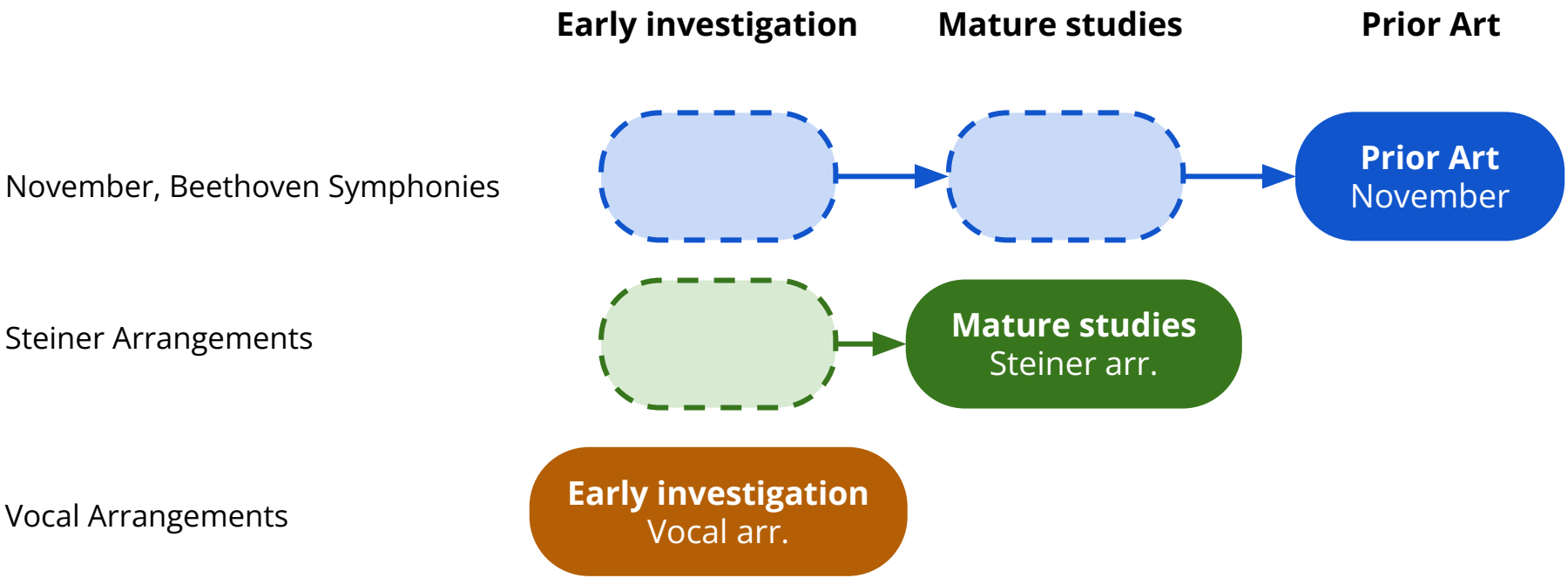
Vocal Arrangements
Early investigation
Vocal arr.

Digital Challenges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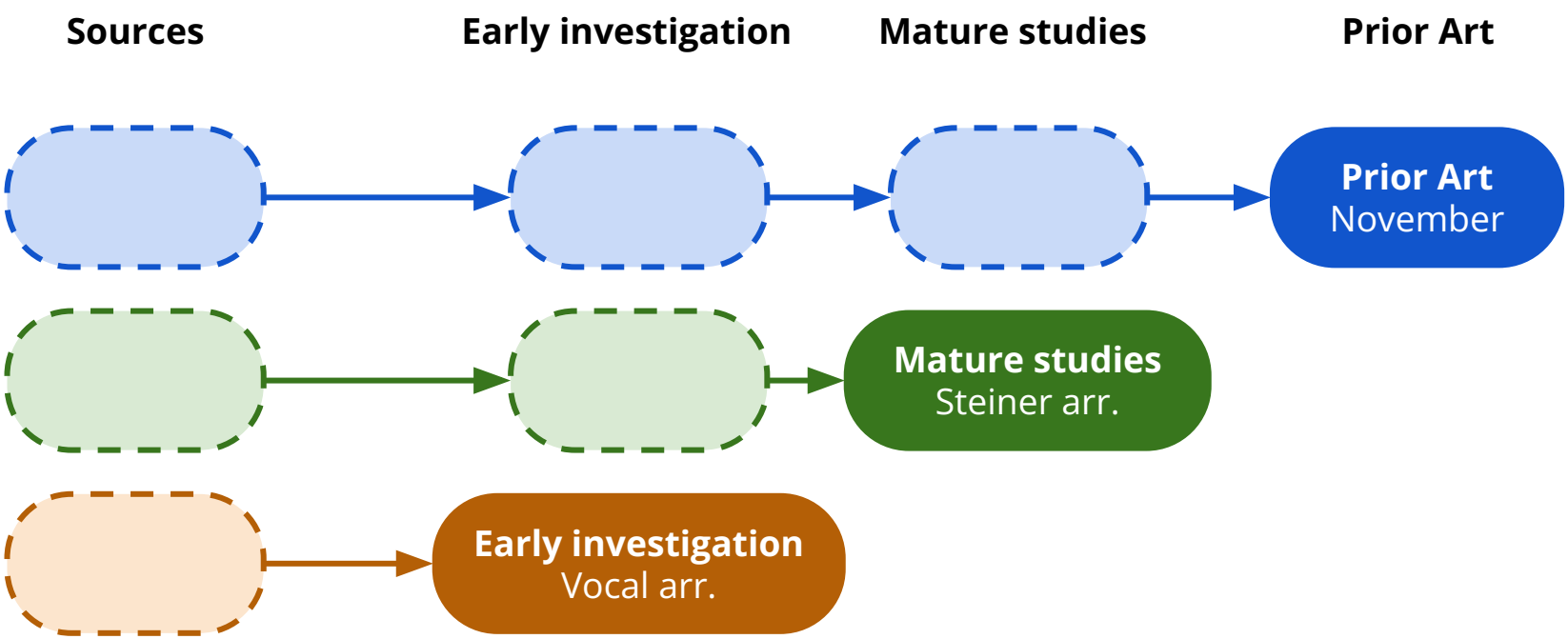
Sources
Early investigation
Mature studies
Prior Art
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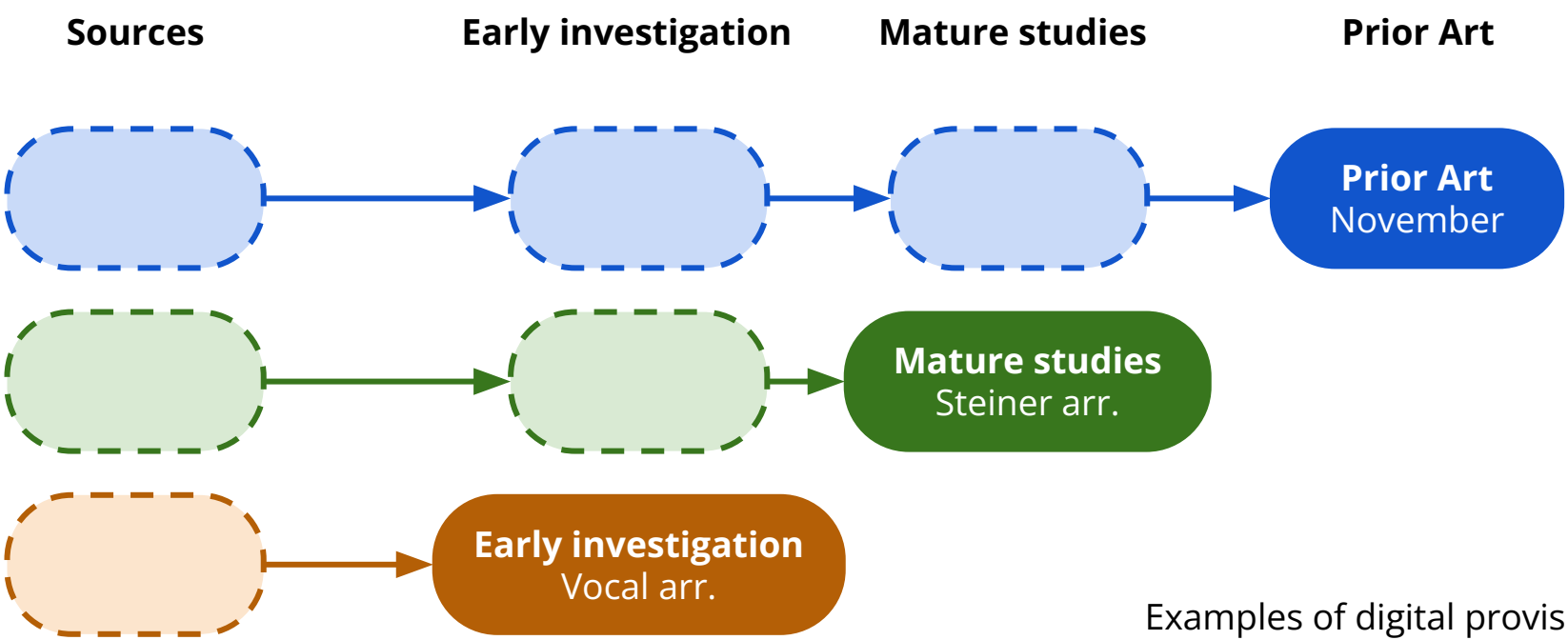
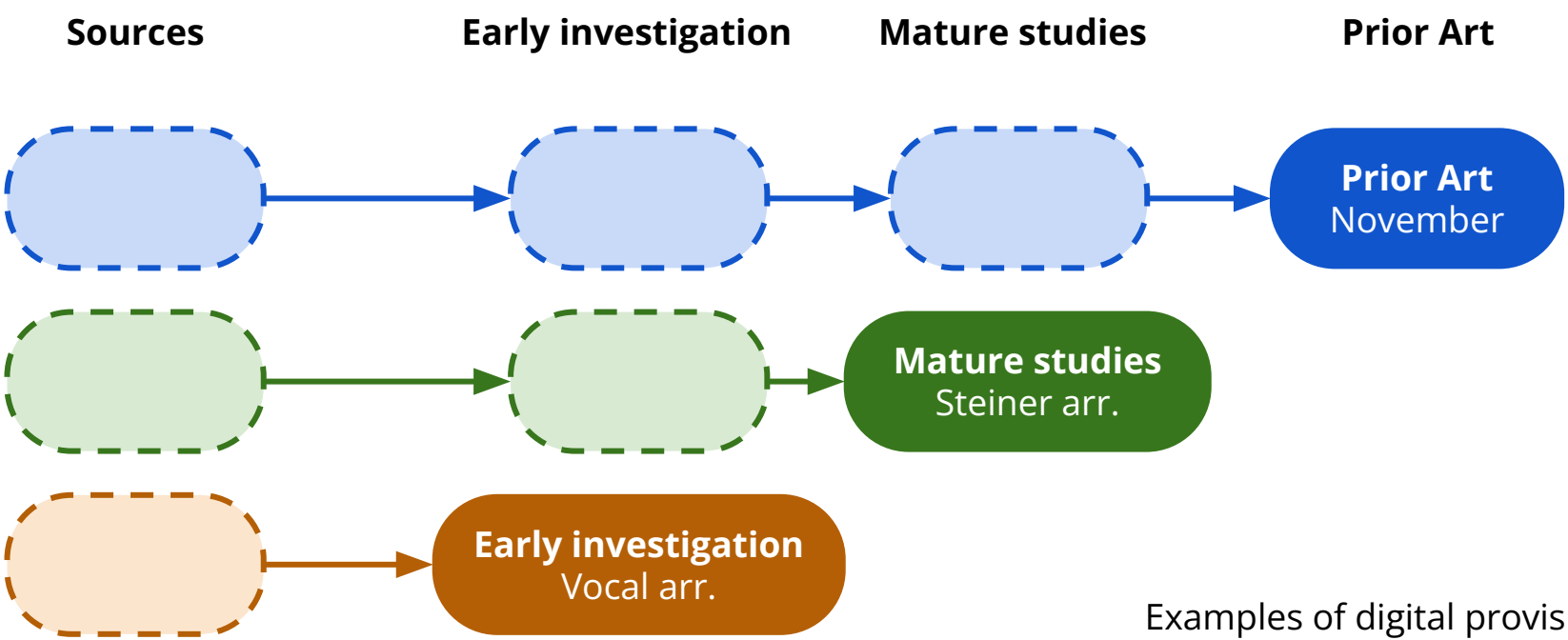


Examples of digital provision

RISM DIGITAL CENTER

GND

DIAMM



Examples of digital provision

RISM DIGITAL CENTER

GND

DIAMM

Early Music Theory

STIFTUNG MOZARTEUM SALZBURG

The Lost Voices Project

Sources | Early investigation | Mature studies | Prior Art

Prior Art
November

Mature studies
Steiner arr.

Early investigation
Vocal arr.

Examples of digital provision

RISM DIGITAL CENTER

GND

DIAMM

ARUSPIX

MEI

Early Music Theory

STIFTUNG MOZARTEUM SALZBURG

TEI

SONIC VISUALISER

The Lost Voices Project

How might this digital flow of information be realised?

(from an early study through to a mature one)

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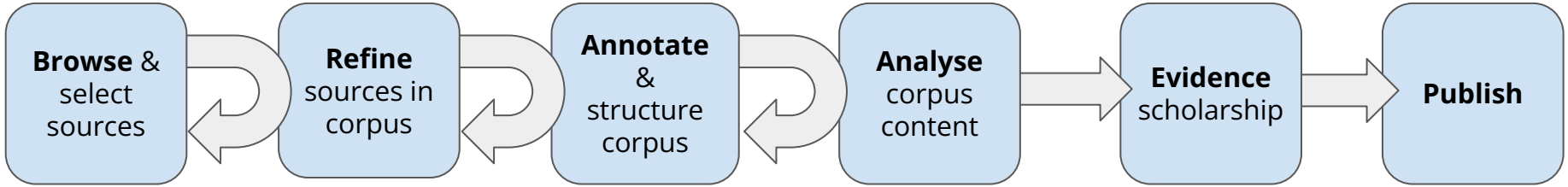

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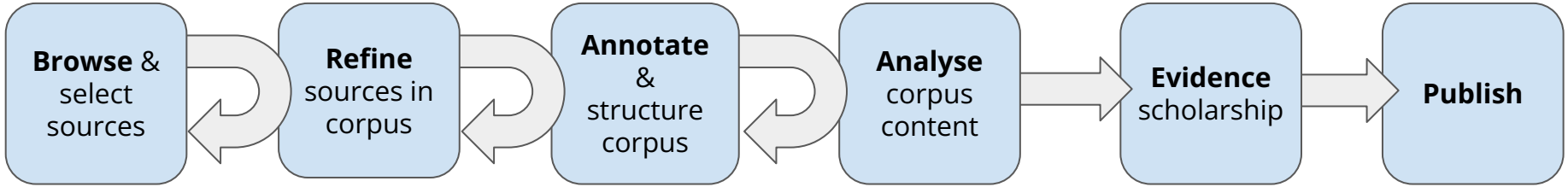

How do we adapt to the form and format of the source material?

What notes or judgements ("annotations") will wish to scholar make?

Digital Benefits

Vocal arrangements

Early investigation
Vocal arr.

What do we mean by “annotations”?

Commentary
(“this is because…”)

Observation
(“The perfect fifth has been changed into a tritone”)

Area of interest
(bar 6, second beat)

Musical material
(facsimile or edition)

Modelling work in collaboration with Elisabete Shibate (Beethoven-Haus Bonn), Mark Saccamano (Centre for Music, Edition, Media (ZenMEM), Paderborn University)

Digital tools appropriate to the form and format of the source material

Browse & select sources

Explore Bodleian and Beethoven-Haus catalogues for vocal arrangements

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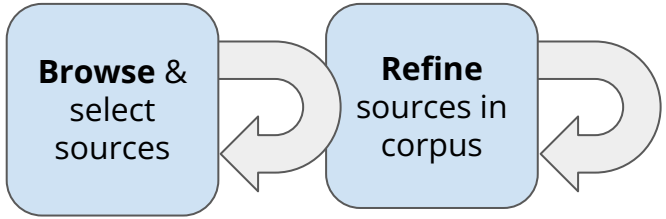
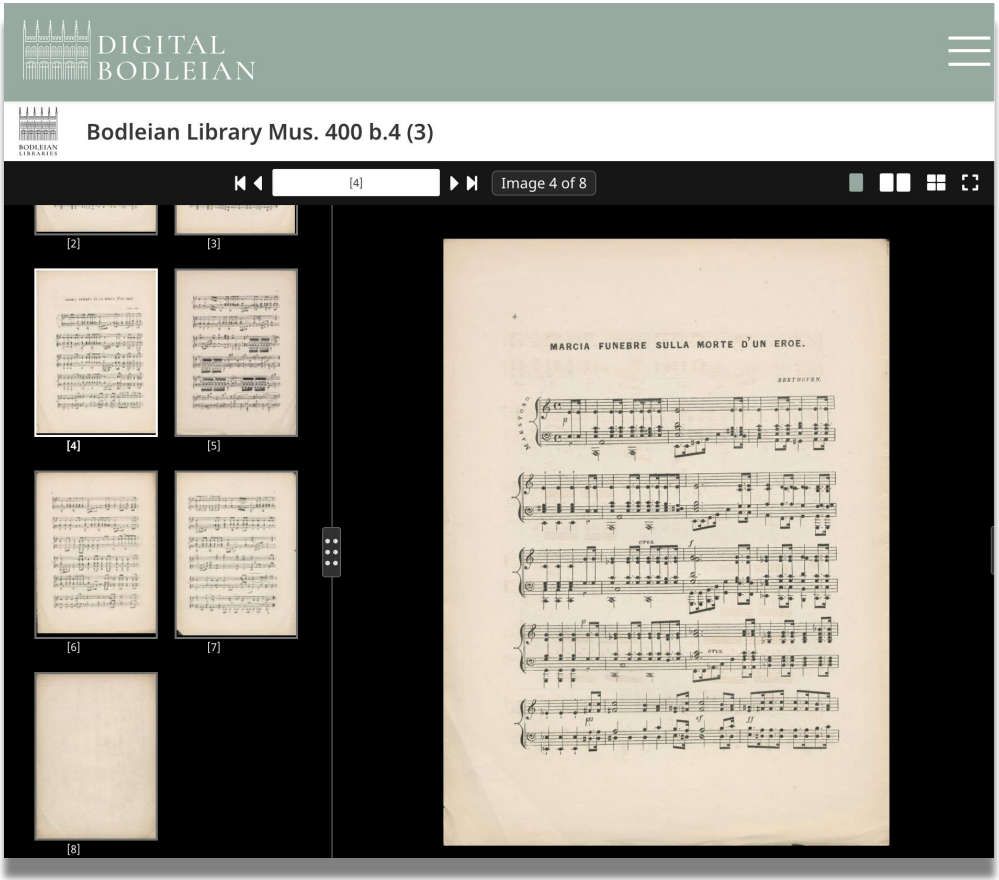


Explore Bodleian and Beethoven-Haus catalogues for vocal arrangements

Browse IIIF images of scores and catalogue information enriched from GND for promising items



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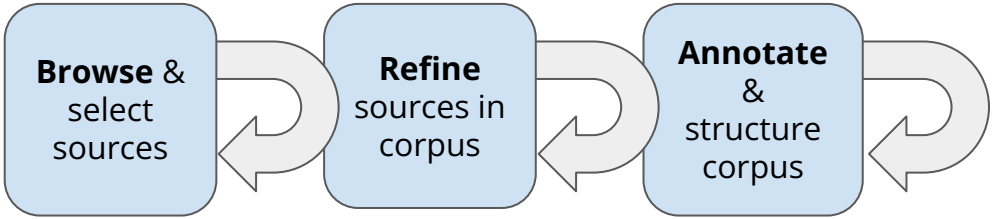

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Annotate parallel passages for rapid comparison

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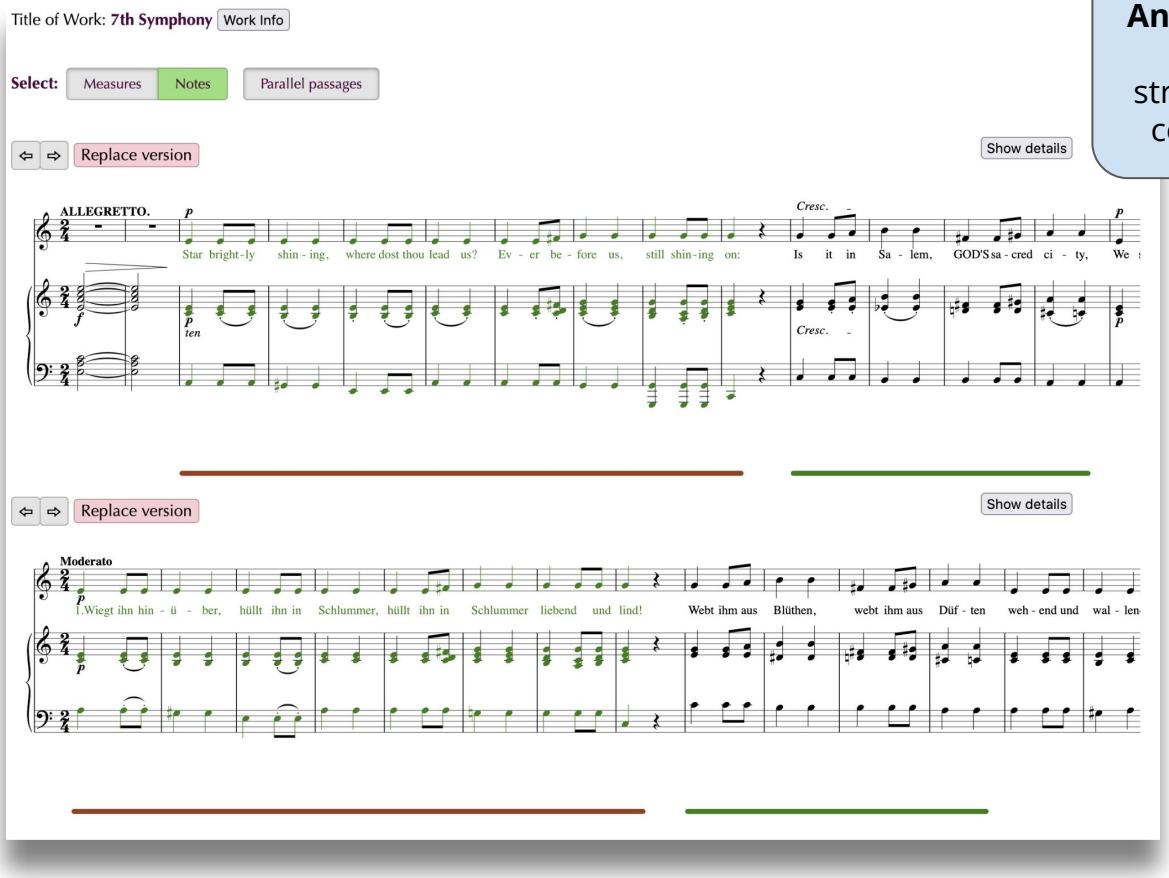
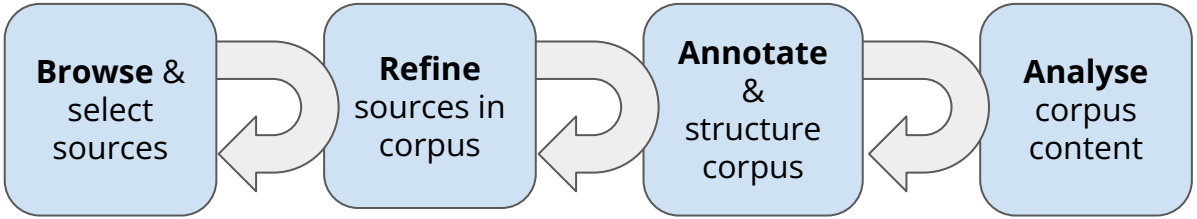


Annotate
&
structure
corpus

Digital tools appropriate to the form and format of the source material



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Annotate parallel passages for rapid comparison

Add commentary on changes made by arrangers. Look for patterns across corpus.

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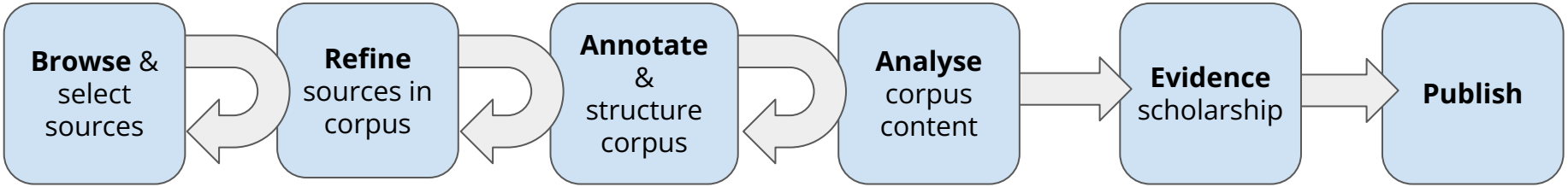

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Article on vocal arrangements for popularising composers and works

'Research Object' gathering digital evidence base for scholarship

Summary

We need better tools to support early and mid-stage musicological investigation

These tools must be motivated by musicological needs above technological expedience

Approaches must accommodate novel research

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