

When I first began researching for my project, now entitled *The Evolution of the Three Living and Three Dead: From Moral Meaning to Memento Mori*, then still in its infancy and little more than a vague inclination to do a paper on a particular medieval motif, I came to Fondren as I always do when working on a project.

I started with a simple perusal of the catalogue, first locating Paul Binski's *Medieval Death* and a few other books which provided the base knowledge necessary for my endeavor. Then, I studied the citations in the books I had previously checked out and returned to the catalogue intent on collecting those books.

Truly, the catalogue was the main tool I used in my research, often utilizing the view books on shelf feature to find books I would not have otherwise encountered, as well as looking at the different sorting by subject provided in the catalogue to locate more obscure texts I would not have found with a simple search.

If I found that Fondren did not possess the book I required, I simply put in an Interlibrary Loan Request and, like magic, the book needed typically appeared in a few days, or a week or two at most. On occasion, I found that books I needed were in the off-site storage area, and so requested them to be delivered, and they always arrived promptly.

As my paper grew from vague inclination to a narrowed thesis, I began to consult more online sources. I used Fondren's Medieval Manuscript libguide to see which facsimiles were stored at the library, and if there were any facsimiles of the manuscripts I was working with in my paper. Indeed, Fondren had facsimiles of two of the manuscripts I featured in my paper, the *Très Riche Heures du duc de Berry* and *Les Petites Heures du duc de Berry*. Luckily, I had already seen the former in class so I did not feel inclined to request to see it but it was assuring to know that had I wanted to examine it, I could have.

I also consulted JSTOR and ARTSTOR, access to which is provided by Fondren, in my quest for knowledge and images. The articles I found on JSTOR not only led me to more books to use in my paper, but also helped me find crucial information such as a timeline for the motif discussed in my paper as well as further visual examples. JSTOR was, truly, a wonderful tool to have access to.

Finally, when it came to printing and submitting my paper, I turned to Fondren's printers. The color printer, especially, was useful to print out the required images for my paper.

Overall, Fondren was an invaluable source when it came to completing this, and all the other research papers I have done at Rice.