

Early Modern London Theatres (EMLoT)

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Early Modern London Theatres (EMLoT) is a bibliographic database affiliated with the Records of Early English Drama (REED) project at the University of Toronto. EMLoT surveys, digests and abstracts published transcriptions of original documents relating to professional performance in purpose-built theatres and inns in the London area before 1642, and thus provides unique access and insight into the rich documentary afterlife of the early English stage. Rather than offer new transcriptions from the documents, EMLoT identifies all published sources in which they appear, assesses the bibliographic conventions according to which they have been transcribed and edited, and furnishes encyclopædic abstracts of each record. More than a bibliographic, archival and historical resource, EMLoT provides a unique historiographical perspective on the early English stage, allowing users to trace the transmission and treatment of early documents in published sources from 1642 to the present time.

EMLoT's interface organizes and provides access to data by a range of categories – bibliographic record, event, venue, troupe, people – and is also searchable by general keyword. Forays into the data need not, then, necessarily be bibliographic or documentary in nature: the data is as broadly accessible to non-specialist users, as it is to more advanced scholars. EMLoT also offers two pedagogical applications to familiarize users with the architecture of the database, and the archival and historical purview of its data. The 'Learning Zone,' embedded in the main site, offers several tutorials, while 'How to Track a Bear in Southwark,' <https://trackabear.library.utoronto.ca> is a stand-alone showcase of records pertaining to early modern London's animal baiting rings. Editorial work on EMLoT is still in progress, and currently includes the eight theatres north of the Thames -- the Red Lion (1567), the Theatre (1576), the Curtain (1577), the Fortune (1600), the Red Bull (1604), the Boar's Head (1602), the Phoenix or Cockpit (1616), and Salisbury Court (1629) – four of the theatres south of the Thames, in the historic county of Surrey -- Newington Butts (1570s), the Rose (1587), the Swan (1595) and the Hope (1614) -- as well as the several animal baiting sites in the same area. The Globe I and II records (1599, 1614) are due to be uploaded in 2018.