Heldenbuch: In 1504 emperor Maximilian I commissioned the Heldenbuch as the largest collection of medieval literary works in German, including the Nibelungenlied, Helmbrecht, and Erec. More than a dozen canonical texts have survived solely in this manuscript.

Scribe: In 1517 the Bolzano scribe Hans Ried completed the lavish velum codex with almost five hundred pages of text and illuminations.

Digital Corpus: In 2019, five hundred years after Maximilian’s death, a computer-readable text of the highest accuracy will set new standards for digital manuscript editions. A transcription that is faithful to individual letters and punctuation marks will interlink with high-resolution scans of the entire Heldenbuch and Ried’s other autographs.

Research: In the future, this state-of-the-art digital corpus will close a major gap in editorial, linguistic, and literary scholarship.