between the interpretamentum and the lemma, types of merographs, substitution ciphers, *hapax legomena* etc. Such categorization could then be analysed statistically with great benefit for the study of OE glossing. At any time, new categories could be introduced and the categorization complemented across the existing corpus by researchers interested in a particular aspect of glossing. I have to admit this is a long haul, but even the most daunting task can be accomplished one step at a time, as long as there is a framework that holds the many individual achievements that are necessary in the right place. Within such a framework, the documentation of OE glosses could thus be atomized into individual, intricately inter-related facts and factoids, for which hypertext seems to be the perfect medium. Hypertext can easily and reliably be distributed via the world wide web. Thus, users can call up the desired information at a mouse-click and follow the individual pieces of information to their sources. Moreover, hypertext is scalable, expandable and updateable. Such a well-documented framework might just provide the “minimal level of obsolescence” that Dumville (1992: 74) envisions.

### 7.3.3 An Update of Ker’s Catalogue

Ker’s (1957) *Catalogue of Manuscripts Containing Anglo-Saxon* is still an outstanding piece of scholarship with tremendous importance for the textual and palaeographical study of OE. As I mentioned above, it was augmented in one major update by Ker himself (Ker 1976) and in two minor updates by Mary Blockley (Blockley 1982; 1994). However, it is clearly in need of further updates for several reasons. First of all, new MSS containing OE have been discovered that are not included in the *Catalogue* or any of its updates. From among the OE dry-point gloss MSS presented here, two MSS (namely [23/K:–] and [33/K:–]) have to be added.\(^\text{18}\) Surely, a number of other MSS should be added, too, such as Paris, Bibliothèque nationale lat. 6401A, which features OE ink glosses that had already been noticed by Bolton (1977: 49, n. 103; cf. Page 2001: 219)\(^\text{19}\) or a number of MSS mentioned in Bulitta (2009).\(^\text{20}\) Secondly, fifty years’ worth of

---

\(^\text{18}\) Incidentally, the OE dry-point gloss in St. Paul im Lavanttal, Stiftsbibliothek 2/1 [33/K:–] had already been published in Bischoff & Löfstedt (1992), but it was too well hidden there to reach the Anglo-Saxonist community before the copy deadline of Blockley (1994).

\(^\text{19}\) The OE ink gloss <su>ferne pûnd</su> > suferne wind ‘southern wind, south wind’, interlinearly glossing L. *auster* in the phrase L. *Illud p[ro]teruus auster/ Totis uiribus urget* ‘The vehement south wind drives at it [mountain top] with all forces’ (*Boethius, De consolatione philosophiae*, Bk. 2: 4) is visible on f. 22\(^v\), l. 21 (centre column) of the digital facsimile (digitized microfilm) provided by “Gallica: Bibliothèque numérique”. URL: <http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b9078393d>.

\(^\text{20}\) Cf. above n. 72 on p. 53.
new editions, translations as well as codicological and palaeographical works published since the Catalogue came out, are not incorporated, and it would be highly desirable that this information were to be complemented. Thirdly and finally, the internal coverage of Ker’s Catalogue is very uneven. While some items are described at great length and in admirable detail, other MSS are barely mentioned. This holds especially true for the majority of the Continental MSS, because Ker (being an expert palaeographer) relegates them to the Appendix on palaeographical grounds. This, in turn, is especially deplorable for the study of OE glossography, because OE gloss MSS are represented over-proportionally in this inadvertently ostracized group of MSS.

An open-access relational database served via the world-wide-web would provide the perfect medium for such an endeavour by providing (i) accessibility, (ii) flexibility, (iii) scalability, (iv) fluidity, (v) hypertextuality, (vi) interactivity and (vii) interoperability:

i. Users can easily access the open-access resource via their web browser, all they need is access to the world wide web. Anyone who is interested, both experts and students can thoroughly acquaint themselves with these MSS.

ii. The database can be augmented and updated from the point of view of information structure and database design at any given moment if new research questions and hence data fields are required.

iii. New finds can easily be accommodated at all times and the database can be expanded in all imaginable directions with the possibility of adding open-access text data, image data, audio-visual data and even structured data (ranging from simple lists to 3D vector data).

iv. Outdated information, such as claims that have been put into questions, can be marked as such (while keeping the presumably outdated information for future reappraisal) and hence, the users are provided with up-to-date reliable descriptions, reflecting the state of the art.

v. By furnishing the text of the descriptions with suitable hyperlinks, the users can access diverse layers of information by following up on issues that they are interested in within the database. Moreover, all items can be linked to suitable open-access sources throughout the world wide web, such as open-access facsimiles of MSS, digitized library catalogues, teaching resources, online encyclopaedias and dictionaries.

vi. Both expert and lay users can be encouraged to add their thoughts, ideas, suggestions, subjective or objective observations, reviews, bibliographical addenda etc. about the items. It may well be that such additions are not always insightful, yet they surely cannot be harmful, either, as long as they are strictly separated from the editorial sections.