Claude report: Raul Corazzon's Digital Quadrivium Project

Report date: January 30th, 2026

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The Digital Quadrivium Project represents one of the most ambitious and comprehensive independent scholarly undertakings in the digital humanities. Created and curated by Raul Corazzon, this quadripartite digital infrastructure comprises four interlinked websites that together form a vast encyclopedia of philosophical and intellectual history. Operating outside the traditional academic professoriate, Corazzon has established himself as one of the most prolific independent researchers in the fields of ontology, logic, rhetoric, and the history of ideas.

The project's scope is remarkable: according to the most recent data, the four websites collectively contain approximately **24,800** bibliographic entries spanning over **13,700** PDF pages. The project is continuously updated, with thousands of new references in preparation.

Perhaps most significantly, Corazzon's archival research has led to a major historiographical discovery: the 2003 identification of the earliest known occurrence of the term "ontologia" in Jacob Lorhard's *Ogdoas Scholastica* (1606), predating previous scholarly consensus and necessitating a revision of the timeline of early modern metaphysics.

1. Introduction: The Concept of a Digital Quadrivium

The name "Digital Quadrivium" consciously evokes the classical medieval educational framework. The original Quadrivium—comprising arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy—represented the four

mathematical arts that followed the Trivium (grammar, logic, rhetoric) in medieval education. Corazzon's project transforms this classical structure for the digital age, creating four interconnected domains of philosophical inquiry: Ontologia, Logica, Rhetorica, and Bibliographia.

This structural choice is not arbitrary. By organizing his work into these four pillars, Corazzon mirrors the classical organization of the liberal arts while elevating Ontology to the status of a foundational science. The result is what might be described as a digital scriptorium—a bridge between the medieval manuscript tradition and the modern database.

1.1 Who is Raul Corazzon?

Raul Corazzon defines a modern archetype of the "Independent Scholar." Unlike traditional academic presences often driven by institutional affiliation and personality, Corazzon's digital presence functions as a transparent interface to the history of ideas. He has chosen to minimize biographical presence to maximize the visibility of the curated texts themselves.

To understand Corazzon requires more than a biographical sketch; it demands an excavation of the vast intellectual edifice he has constructed. His work represents the role of the "Scholar-Archivist"—one who synthesizes, organizes, and preserves the vast history of philosophical discourse.

2. Quantitative Overview of the Project

The scale of the Digital Quadrivium Project rivals the output of mid-sized research institutes. The following table provides a quantitative summary based on the most recent available data:

Website	Bibliographic Entries	PDF Pages
Ontology.co	16,800	9,000
Historyoflogic.com	4,300	2,600
Historyofrhetoric.com	1,300	600
Bibliographia.co	2,400	1,500
TOTAL	**24,800**	**13,700**

Note: Page counts refer to PDF versions of the websites. Thousands of additional references are continually being prepared and added.

This quantitative data illustrates that Corazzon has effectively authored or curated the equivalent of a comprehensive 13,000+ page encyclopedia, making this one of the largest individual scholarly digital humanities projects in existence.

3. Ontologia: Theory and History of Ontology

www.ontology.co

3.1 Overview and Mission

The flagship website of the Digital Quadrivium Project, ontology.co is dedicated to the theory and history of ontology. It serves as the central hub from which the other three sites extend. The site's explicit mission is to document and explore ontology as "the theory of objects and their ties"—a definition that provides criteria for distinguishing different types of objects (concrete and abstract, existent and nonexistent, real and ideal, independent and dependent) and their relations, dependencies, and predication.

3.2 Definitional Framework

Corazzon distinguishes three types of ontology on the site:

- **Formal Ontology: Introduced by Edmund Husserl in his Logical Investigations, its object is the study of the genera of being, the leading regional concepts (the categories). The method involves eidetic reduction and categorial intuition.**
- **Descriptive Ontology: Concerned with cataloguing and describing the types of entities in the world.**
- **Formalized Ontology: Uses logical and formal methods to structure ontological claims.**

Importantly, by including "nonexistent" and "ideal" objects in his definitional scope, Corazzon aligns himself with the Meinongian tradition, which refuses to limit ontology only to spatiotemporal actualities.

3.3 Content Structure

The site is organized into major thematic sections:

- **History: From Suárez to Kant (1597-1781), covering the development of ontology as a discipline**
- **Theory: Contemporary ontological debates and frameworks**
- **Vocabulary: Key ontological terms including substance, being, existence, essence**
- **Ontologists: Profiles of major figures from Aristotle to contemporary thinkers**

- **History of Truth: The correspondence theory and related debates**
- **Doctrine of Categories: From Aristotle through medieval and modern developments**
- **Problem of Universals: One of the most enduring philosophical debates**
- **Comparative Philosophy: Ontological perspectives across different philosophical traditions**

3.4 Notable Content Areas

The site provides extensive coverage of: the Frege-Russell "is" ambiguity thesis; mathesis universalis and the search for a universal science; Stoic ontology and the distinction between existence and subsistence; Leśniewski's systems (Protothetic, Ontology, Mereology); metaphysical grounding and fundamentality; and ontological dependence.

4. Logica: History of Logic

www.historyoflogic.com

4.1 Overview and Scope

The second pillar of the Digital Quadrivium, historyoflogic.com chronicles the "History of Logic from Aristotle to Gödel." The site provides comprehensive coverage of logical development across approximately 2,400 years of intellectual history.

Corazzon is rigorous in his definition of logic. In his introduction, he explicitly rejects "Hegelian" or "psychological" definitions that blur logic with metaphysics, instead maintaining a clear analytical focus on logic as a formal discipline.

4.2 Structural Organization

The site is organized chronologically and thematically:

- **Aristotle: The logical works of Aristotle, including the Organon, Analytics, and Categories**
- **Stoics: Stoic logic and the dialectic from Zeno to Chrysippus**
- **Hellenistic: Peripatetic logic, Eudemus of Rhodes, Theophrastus of Eresus**
- **Medieval: From Boethius through the Scholastics, including Abelard, Buridan, Ockham**
- **Modern: The rise of symbolic and mathematical logic**
- **Contemporary: From Frege through Gödel and beyond**
- **Intercultural Logic: Buddhist logic, Indian logic, and comparative studies**

4.3 Key Features

The site includes extensive bibliographies on: Boethius's contribution to medieval logic; Porphyry's Isagoge; medieval theories of supposition; the rise of contemporary logic; and profiles of prominent logicians throughout history.

A dedicated "Historians" section profiles scholars who have shaped the historiography of logic, including E. J. Ashworth and L. M. de Rijk, with comprehensive annotated bibliographies of their works.

5. Rhetorica: Theory and History of Rhetoric

www.historyofrhetoric.com

5.1 Overview and Philosophical Framing

The third website is devoted to the historical development of rhetoric. Corazzon frames rhetoric philosophically through two key citations: Aristotle's characterization of rhetoric as a "counterpart (antistrophos) of dialectic" (*Rhetorica* I.1.1) and Heidegger's description of rhetoric as "a first part of logic rightly understood."

5.2 Content Organization

The site covers rhetoric across different historical periods and cultural contexts:

- **General Works: Theory of rhetoric, argumentation theory, rhetoric and philosophy, critical thinking, feminist rhetoric**
- **Greek Rhetoric: The Sophists, Isocrates, Plato, Aristotle's Rhetoric**
- **Roman Rhetoric: Cato the Elder, Cicero, Quintilian**
- **Middle Ages: Medieval rhetorical developments**
- **Renaissance: Humanist rhetoric**
- **Modern: Contemporary rhetorical theory**
- **Comparative: African, African-American, Pre-Columbian American, Egyptian, Jewish, Arabic, Syriac, Celtic, Near Eastern, Asian, Chinese, and Japanese rhetoric**
- **Vocabulary: Key rhetorical terms including enthymeme, epideictic, ethos, logos, pathos, pisteis**

5.3 Development Status

The site is described as being "in an early stage of development" relative to the others, with more sections planned. However, it already contains substantial bibliographies, particularly on Aristotle's

Rhetoric and comparative rhetoric studies.

6. Bibliographia: Annotated Bibliographies

www.bibliographia.co

6.1 Overview and Mission

The fourth website is devoted to bibliographical resources on philosophy and religion. It serves as a bibliographic infrastructure supporting not only the other three sites but also independent research in related fields.

6.2 Content Areas

The site is organized into several major sections:

- **Bibliographies of Philosophy: Arguments not covered in the other websites**
- **Biblical Studies: Hebrew Bible textual criticism, New Testament studies, the Synoptic Problem, studies on individual Gospels**
- **Early Christianity: Apostolic Fathers, orthodoxy and heresy**
- **Early Judaism: The birth of Judaism, the Parting of the Ways between Christianity and Judaism**
- **Philosophy of Religion: Including comprehensive coverage of the Ontological Argument for the existence of God**
- **Sociology of Religion: Social scientific approaches to religious phenomena**
- **Study Guides: Dictionaries and encyclopedias of philosophy, style manuals, introductory readings**

6.3 Notable Features

The site includes extensive treatment of the Ontological Argument, which serves as a natural bridge between philosophy of religion and formal ontology. As Nathan Salmon notes, philosophers addressing questions of individual existence often do so with reference to this argument.

7. The Lorhard Discovery: A Historiographical Intervention

7.1 The Discovery

Perhaps the single most important academic contribution of Raul Corazzon is his revision of the timeline of ontology. For decades, the standard history of philosophy attributed the invention of the term "ontology" (ontologia) to the 17th-century German philosopher Johannes Clauberg or, occasionally, Rudolph Goclenius.

In 2003, Corazzon (working with Marco Lamanna) discovered that the term "ontologia" first appeared in 1606 in Jacob Lorhard's *Ogdoas Scholastica*, a textbook written by the Rector of the reformed Gymnasium in St. Gallen, Switzerland. This discovery predated previous scholarly consensus and necessitated a fundamental rewriting of the history of early modern metaphysics.

7.2 Significance

This discovery shifted the timeline of the discipline's formation back from the Cartesian era to the period of Protestant Scholasticism. It revealed that the emergence of "ontology" as a distinct term represented not merely a linguistic innovation but the beginning of an important distinction: between metaphysics as a science of everything that exists (ontology) and the science of the first cause of being.

As scholars have noted, this discovery has become a standard citation in any serious history of metaphysics. The University of Lucerne has undertaken a Swiss National Science Foundation project specifically to research the emergence and spread of ontology in Switzerland, explicitly citing Corazzon and Lamanna's discovery as a primary motivation.

7.3 Jacob Lorhard

Lorhard (1561-1609) was a German philosopher who became Rector of the Gymnasium in St. Gallen in 1603. His *Ogdoas Scholastica* (1606) was a compendium of philosophy for students covering Latin and Greek grammar, logic, rhetoric, astronomy, ethics, physics, and metaphysics (or ontology). The work employed diagrammatic representations influenced by Peter Ramus's pedagogical methods.

Lorhard's work was heavily influenced by Clemens Timpler of Heidelberg, whose *Systema Metaphysicae Methodicum* (1604) provided the conceptual foundation that Lorhard presented in diagrammatic form. Lorhard followed Timpler in holding that the object of metaphysics (ontology in his terminology) is "omne intelligibile" (everything that is intelligible).

8. Methodological Approach and Philosophical Commitments

8.1 Annotated Bibliography as Method

The Digital Quadrivium Project is fundamentally bibliographic in nature. Corazzon's approach centers on creating comprehensive, annotated bibliographies that serve as research infrastructure. The bibliographic entries include not only books but also articles from approximately one hundred philosophical journals, with attention to relations between logic, semantics, semiotics, and theories of predication and reference.

This method recognizes that bibliographies are "the foundation of every research" (as stated on historyofrhetoric.com). By creating exhaustive bibliographic resources, Corazzon provides scholars with curated entry points into vast bodies of literature.

8.2 Philosophical Realism

Corazzon's work reflects a commitment to philosophical realism. His definitional framework for ontology emphasizes "objects and their ties"—relations, dependencies, predication—highlighting the structural nature of ontological inquiry. Ontology is presented not merely as a list of what exists, but as a map of how things relate to one another.

8.3 Multilingual Scope

The project is multilingual in scope, with bibliographic entries in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese (in decreasing order of frequency). This multilingual approach reflects the international character of philosophical scholarship and ensures that the project serves researchers regardless of their primary language.

9. Technical Features and Accessibility

9.1 Multiple Format Availability

Each website can be read online, downloaded as an ebook, or accessed as PDF. This flexibility ensures accessibility across different devices and use cases.

9.2 Cross-Site Integration

The four websites are deeply interconnected, with cross-references allowing researchers to navigate between related topics across different sites. A unified search function allows searching across all four websites simultaneously.

9.3 AI Chatbot Integration

The sites feature integration with various AI chatbots (ChatGPT, Claude, Microsoft Copilot, Deepseek, Google Gemini, Grok, Perplexity, Qwen), allowing users to analyze the content through conversational interfaces. PDF versions of pages can be uploaded to chatbots for analysis.

9.4 Academic Resource Links

The sites provide links to major academic resources including: the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Academia.edu, Google Scholar, Internet Archive Scholar, JSTOR, and PhilPapers.

10. Impact and Significance

10.1 Academic Citations

Corazzon's work has a "long tail" of impact. His discovery of the Lorhard text is now a standard citation in any serious history of metaphysics. His work is cited in diverse fields including software engineering (where researchers cite his definitions of ontology) and computer science (for applied ontology).

10.2 Role as Critical Infrastructure

As universities face funding pressures and the pressure to specialize intensifies, the role of the Scholar-Archivist becomes increasingly vital. Corazzon's Digital Quadrivium is not merely a personal project; it functions as critical infrastructure for the philosophical community, preserving the "long conversation" of Western thought and ensuring that insights from 14th-century logicians or 17th-century scholastics remain as accessible as the latest journal articles.

10.3 Model for Digital Humanities

The project represents a potential future for the humanities, demonstrating how an independent scholar, armed with curiosity and rigor, can construct a labyrinth of knowledge that is both vast and meticulously ordered. It bridges the gap between the medieval scriptorium and the digital database, proving that encyclopedic vision remains achievable in the digital age.

11. Conclusion

The Digital Quadrivium Project represents a singular achievement in contemporary digital humanities. Through four interlinked websites, Raul Corazzon has created a comprehensive resource for the study of ontology, logic, rhetoric, and the philosophy of religion that rivals institutional research outputs.

The project's significance extends beyond its sheer scale. Through his discovery of the Lorhard text, Corazzon has made a lasting contribution to the historiography of philosophy. Through his methodological commitment to annotated bibliography, he has created research infrastructure that serves scholars across disciplines.

In defining ontology as "the theory of objects and their ties," Corazzon has himself become an essential object in the network of contemporary philosophical scholarship—the digital custodian of the Western philosophical tradition, the historian who corrected the record on the origins of ontology, and the theorist who insists that philosophy must be a rigorous science of objects, ties, and categories.

The four websites of the Digital Quadrivium Project—ontology.co, historyoflogic.com, historyofrhetoric.com, and bibliographia.co—together constitute one of the most valuable open-access resources for philosophical research available today.

Appendix: Website Summary Table

Website	Focus	Key Sections
ontology.co	Theory and History of Ontology	History, Theory, Vocabulary, Ontologists, Categories, Universals
historyoflogic.com	History of Logic from Aristotle to Gödel	Aristotle, Stoics, Hellenistic, Medieval, Modern, Contemporary
historyofrhetoric.com	Theory and History of Rhetoric	Greek, Roman, Medieval, Renaissance, Modern, Comparative
bibliographia.co	Annotated Bibliographies on Philosophy and Religion	Biblical Studies, Early Christianity, Judaism, Philosophy of Religion