Internet Resources for the Study of Dante’s *Commedia*

The list below describes and provides hyperlinks to a small number of websites that might be found particularly useful for the study of Dante’s *Commedia* and his other writings. The six sites it lists represent the best-known and most comprehensive Dante sites, three of a general kind and three specifically devoted to the *Commedia*. All these sites contain a wide range of resources and links, and all except one offer online Italian texts and English translations of the *Commedia* and of some or all of Dante’s other works.

**GENERAL**

*Princeton Dante Project* ([http://etcweb.princeton.edu/dante/index.html](http://etcweb.princeton.edu/dante/index.html))

Though the original purpose of this website was to offer a (searchable) annotated e-text of the *Comedy*, it actually contains searchable text and English translations of *all* Dante’s works, along with Professor Robert Hollander’s commentary and philological notes on the *Comedy* (the former fully searchable, the latter searchable in respect of *Inferno* 1–6) and Paget Toynbee’s *Dante Dictionary* (also searchable). The site also contains: a brief biography of Dante; a number of brief essays; a comprehensive bibliography; audio files providing readings of the complete *Comedy* in Italian (by Lino Pertile) and of selections from the *Inferno* in English (by Robert and Jean Hollander); a number of very useful maps, charts and diagrams; and reproductions of illustrations to the *Comedy* by Doré and Nattini, keyed to the canto/line(s) they are illustrating. (*Comedy* translation: Hollander & Hollander.)


A collaboration between three divisions of Columbia University in New York, this site was relaunched in 2014 after a complete overhaul, and so books published before that date misdescribe its current contents. Besides texts of all Dante’s works and English translations of some, these include: a brief biography of Dante plus a detailed chronology; a short bibliography; illustrations from early printed editions of the *Comedy*; readings of *sestine* by Arnaut Daniel, Dante and Petrarch coupled with animations and colour-coded subtitles; an e-text of the *Inferno* connecting specific lines with their Ovidian intertext; a commentary on the *Comedy* by the Project editor, Teodolinda Barolini; and selected passages from books by Professor Barolini and Professor Joan Ferrante. (*Comedy* translations: Longfellow; Mandelbaum.)

*Dante Online* ([http://www.danteonline.it/english/home_ita.asp](http://www.danteonline.it/english/home_ita.asp))

This website was constructed by the Società Dantesca Italiana (http://www.dantesca.org/), Italy’s leading Dante society based in Florence. Besides Italian/Latin texts and English translations of all Dante’s works, the site offers: a comprehensive biography; a listing of the eight hundred or so surviving MSS of the *Comedy* along with navigable reproductions of a small number of these; a description of a projected bibliography of secondary works on Dante
published between 1972 and 2000; a presentation of Dante’s socio-political views in the form of a mock ‘interview’ with the poet; and audio files presenting recordings of liturgical chants, hymns and canzoni described in Purgatorio and Paradiso and in De vulgari eloquentia. The site’s online concordance to all Dante’s works (in Italian and English translation) appears not to work. (Comedy translations: Mandelbaum; Hollander & Hollander.)

**COMMEDIA-ORIENTED**

**The World of Dante** (http://www.worldofdante.org/)

Sponsored by the Institute for Advanced Technologies in the Humanities at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, under the general editorship of Deborah Parker, Professor of Italian in the University’s Faculty of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, this site presents a wealth of resources for studying the Comedy. These include: maps, charts and diagrams; a timeline; reproductions of famous illustrations to the Comedy; audio files presenting the hymns and chants mentioned in the Comedy along with texts and translations and a brief descriptive essay; a brief bibliography; and a search tool governing five elements (creatures, deities, people, places, structures) referred to in the Comedy, plus the illustrations reproduced on the site. This search tool is given also on the pages of the site presenting the Italian text of the Comedy with facing English translation. (Comedy translation: Mandelbaum.)

**Danteworlds** (http://danteworlds.laits.utexas.edu/)

This is a multimedia site conceived and developed by Guy P. Raffa, a Classics professor at the University of Texas in Austin, presenting an abridged version of the commentary contained in his books Danteworlds: A Reader’s Guide to the Inferno (2007) and The Complete Danteworlds: A Reader’s Guide to the Divine Comedy (2009). The website contains no actual Dante texts, but instead offers: detailed notes and commentaries on every canto of the poem; audio files containing readings of one or two lines of each canto; and a large collection of images by artists ranging from Botticelli to Suloni Robertson, linked to the page treating the canto they are illustrating and available there both as a gallery and as pop-ups. (Comedy translation: none.)

**Dartmouth Dante Project** (https://dante.dartmouth.edu/)

This site, initially set up by Professor Robert Hollander of Princeton University during his time as a visiting professor at Dartmouth College (a private university in Hanover, New Hampshire) in the 1980s, presents 77 searchable commentaries on the Comedy written between 1321 and 2015. It also contains ‘Dante Lab’, which gives access to the same commentaries (along with Dante’s Italian text and English, French and German translations) in a form which allows sight of up to three commentaries simultaneously. (Comedy translation: Longfellow.)