Database of Latin Dictionaries

Latin dictionary database including:

- E. Forcellini, *Lexicon Totius Latinitatis*
- Ch. T. Lewis, Ch. Short, *Latin Dictionary*
- A. Blaise, *Dictionnaire latin-français des auteurs chrétiens*
- A. Blaise, *Lexicon latinitatis mediæ ævi*
- Du Cange, *Glossarium mediae et infimae latinitatis*
- Firmini Verris *Dictionarius*
- *Anonymi Montepessulanensis Dictionarius*
- Guillaume Le Talleur, *Dictionarius familiaris et compendiosus*
- A. Souter, *A glossary of Later Latin to 600 A.D.*

‘Live links’ to the *Library of Latin Texts* and other Latin full-text databases

Centre
‘Traditio Litterarum Occidentalium’
The Database of Latin Dictionaries...

... is a project that has been in development for many years by the Centre ‘Traditio Litterarum Occidentalium’ (CTLO) under the direction of Paul Tombeur. Its purpose is to produce for scholars and students an online database comprising a large number of Latin dictionaries. The database will continue to grow gradually and will comprise three kinds of dictionaries: dictionaries to assist translation from Latin into modern languages, dictionaries providing semantic and etymological explanations in Latin of Latin words and historical Latin dictionaries.

The Centre ‘Traditio Litterarum Occidentalium’ does not content itself simply with the inputting of dictionaries, but if possible, tries to bring their quality up to the latest scholarly standards.

These lexicographical enterprises of CTLO are the basis on which a new Latin dictionary can be created. Other lexicographical tools (not only dictionaries) will be added in the future.

The aim...

... of the database is not only to integrate different types of Latin dictionaries, whether modern, medieval or early-modern, but also to build in links between these different tools. Where the dictionaries provide Latin terms and vernacular equivalents or explanations (whether in contemporary or historic forms of English, French, Spanish, Italian or German, say), searches are possible on both the Latin lemmata and the English, French, Spanish, Italian or German lemmata. This database will provide an unsurpassed tool since all Latin word-forms that appear concretely in texts will have a link to the relevant dictionary entries and from there the user can go and read the articles in the selected dictionaries.

The Database of Latin Dictionaries is produced by the same Centre ‘Traditio Litterarum Occidentalium’ (CTLO) which is responsible for the Library of Latin Texts. CTLO continues the former activities in the field of Latin studies of the Cetedoc. Cetedoc was founded by the Université Catholique de Louvain at Louvain-la-Neuve and has been developed jointly with the university.

In the Database of Latin Dictionaries, searches are possible on both the Latin words and English, French, German, Italian and Spanish words.
This dictionary, which is the only scholarly tool dedicated to the era of the Latin Church Fathers as a whole, covers the period from the earliest Christian writings (the time of Tertullian and the Passio Perpetuae) to the dawn of the Carolingian Renaissance. It comprises classical words used by the Fathers when the words are used in new senses, and new lexical creations. The electronic version includes a harmonisation of the references to works cited, an indication of the century of composition of these works, and corrections (addenda et delenda). This update is based on comparison with published editions. Each entry in the dictionary has been linked to a common lemma (or ‘hyperlemma’) which links the various forms of one word in different dictionaries, and therefore allows cross-checking across the dictionaries envisaged for DLD. The hyperlemmata also allow to link the DLD with the full-text databases.

This major dictionary produced by the Carthusian, Firmin Le Ver, drew on several sources, including the thirteenth-century Catholicon by Johannes Balbus of Genoa. The Dictionarius of Firmin Le Ver was produced in 1440 and its organisational quality and bilingual character makes it one of the greatest lexical undertakings of the Middle Ages. It is more than just a Latin-French dictionary, since it uses both languages in a complementary fashion to define the Latin lemmata. Moreover, the French that Le Ver uses is impressive and shows him to be a lexical innovator himself and someone willing to create new French terms to give very nuanced meanings in the language. The publication of this dictionary as a database also provides scholars with a Medieval French-Latin dictionary.

The entire inputting of the medieval Glossarium of Du Cange – taken from the late-nineteenth-century edition, and including the addenda – has been completed by CTLO and is now searchable. Users are able to search the entire lexical data gathered by Du Cange and his successors through an index of Latin words.

Following his dictionary for the Latin of the Church Fathers, continuing his work on lexicography, in 1975 Albert Blaise published the Lexicon latinitatis medii aevi. In his wish to be helpful and counter the absence of lexical works for scholastic literature, the author has included attestations from beyond the traditional upper limit of the Middle Ages and did not even recoil from inserting some modern terms, for instance those used in the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965).

The DLD presents a fully-searchable version of the entirety of Forcellini’s Lexicon. The edition used is the latest, which includes the numerous addenda of Mgr. Perin and which were published first in 1940. Besides its immense historical importance, this Lexicon remains essential for everything which has not yet appeared in the Thesaurus Linguae Latinae (the letters N, P [part], and Q to Z). The importance of Forcellini lies also in his bibliographical notes and his numerous multilingual translations (into French, German, English, Spanish or Italian). This means that the Lexicon can be searched via these translations.
While the Lexicon appeared in four heavy volumes, the *Onomasticon*, published under the name of Forcellini, but redacted by Mgr. Joseph Perrin, who himself equipped it with *addenda*, consists of two bulky volumes. The integration of the *Onomasticon* in the DLD is of marked importance, the more so because the *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae* on proper names has only been published for the letters A to D and there are no current plans of continuing the publication of an *Onomasticon*.

The *Vocabularius familiaris et compendiosus* is a Latin-French dictionary from the late Middle Ages. It is one of the final links in the chain of medieval lexicographical transmission which includes the works of Papias, Osbern of Gloucester, Hugutio of Pisa, Brito, Johannes Balbus and their successors. It was first printed in Rouen in 1490 by Guillaume Le Talleur and reprinted in 1500 by Martin Morin, Le Talleur’s successor. The *Vocabularius* shares many terms and definitions, while maintaining its own distinct character, with the *Dictionarius* of Firmin Le Ver and the anonymous *Glossarium gallico-latinum*, both from the fifteenth century. The *Vocabularius familiaris et compendiosus* is certainly the most important pre-Renaissance printed Latin-French dictionary.

A Latin-to-French glossary taken from manuscript H236 of the Faculty of Medicine of Montpellier, which dates from the 14th century. Not only will rare words be found here, such as *acirologia* (also present in Firminus Verris), but this glossary also witnesses forms which are absent from the other dictionaries in the DLD. This is the case with *ambitus*, -i, “funnel”, which is not found elsewhere, not even in Du Cange. This anonymous dictionary of Montpellier has been edited by Anne Grondeux in 1998 in the series *Lexica Latina Medii Aevi*.
One of the most challenging and complex element of the whole enterprise is the building of live links between the full-text databases and the Latin dictionaries, which enhances the search-possibilities and results available to users. These links enable the user who has conducted a search on a word in a dictionary within DLD to export this word automatically to its sister-database and thereby identify actual occurrences of the particular word in the Library of Latin Texts in its actual context.

Likewise, a user can select a word found in a text of LLT (or in one of the other full-text databases, namely the Monumenta Germaniae Historica, Aristoteles Latinus Database and the Archive of Celtic-Latin Literature) and automatically find entries on the word in the constituent dictionaries of the DLD.
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The Database of Latin Dictionaries is also available as part of Brepolis Latin Complete.

The Brepolis Latin Complete platform includes the Library of Latin Texts – Series A, the Library of Latin Texts – Series B, the Monumenta Germaniae Historica, the Archive of Celtic-Latin Literature, the Aristoteles Latinus Database, the Cross Database Searchtool, and the Database of Latin Dictionaries.

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BREPOLS Publishers
Begijnhof 67
B-2300 Turnhout
Belgium
Tel.: +32 (14) 44 80 34
Fax: +32 (14) 42 89 19
brepolis@brepols.net
www.brepols.net