The project was started in 1991 as the Cetedoc Library of Christian Latin Texts, CLCLT, under the direction of Prof. Paul Tombou. From 2009 onwards, the database is known as the Library of Latin Texts; the world’s leading database for Latin texts.

Since 2009 the Library of Latin Texts consists of two parts, each of which can be subscribed to separately. Now, with the byname Series A, the Library of Latin Texts steps forward together with its companion database, the Library of Latin Texts – Series B, LLT-B for short, which serves as a supplement to the LLT-A. This new database often integrates huge corpora of texts and so develops at a faster pace than the LLT-A. Together, the two databases aim to input the largest possible number of Latin texts and to make them available and searchable as one large corpus. This is as a response to the growing needs of scholars to have access to a wide range of first-class text material. The two databases are continually updated with additional material.

Library of Latin Texts - Series A (LLT-A)

The LLT-A is the reference database for Latin texts, offering texts from the beginnings of Latin literature down to the present day.

In total, the present version of the LLT-A contains more than 78 million Latin words, drawn from more than 3,800 works that are attributed to approximately 1,200 authors.

The texts are selected from the best editions available and when possible established according to best contemporary scholarly practice. Great efforts have been undertaken to verify facts relating to the text, such as the veracity of the authorial attribution or the dating. The printed text has often been enhanced by correcting detected typographical errors. In order to isolate, as far as possible, the words proper to each work, a distinction is made between the original text and the “paratextual” elements.

Content LLT-A

Literature from Antiquity

The first chronological part of the database comprises the entire corpus of Latin literature from Classical Antiquity up to the second century AD. (opera omnia of Plautus, Terence, Caesar, Cicero, Virgil, Horace, Ovid, Titus-Livius, the Senecas, the two Plinys, Tacitus, Quintilian and the others). The texts from this section come essentially from the Bibliotheca scriptorum Romanorum Teubneriana / Bibliotheca Teubneriana Latina 1 (© Walter de Gruyter).

Literature from Patristic Authors

The second chronological part of the databases comprises the patristic Latin literature that starts around 200 A.D. with Tertullian and ends with the death of the Venerable Bede in 735.

It offers the complete works of important patristic writers such as Ambrose, Augustine, Ausonius, Cassian, Cyprian, Magnus Felix Ennodius, Gregory the Great, Jerome, Marius Victorinus, Novatian, Paulinus of Nola, Prudentius, Rufinus of Aquileia, Salvian, Tertullian, Victor of Vita, the Latin translations of the Apostolic Fathers, and many rich corpora of authors such as Boethius, Cassiodorus, Eucherius of Lyon, Gennadius of Massilia, Hilary of Poitiers, Ildefonsus of Toledo, Isidore, and Bede. It also contains non-Christian literature of that period, by authors such as Ammianus Marcellinus, Claudian, Macrobius, Martianus Capella, or the Scriptores Historiae Augustae. This second part also contains the complete critical text of the Latin Bible according to the Vulgate, the corpus of Latin Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament, and the Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils of Late Antiquity.
Literature from the Middle Ages (736-1500)

The medieval literature in the database comprises Latin literature after 735 and includes a large number of texts up to 1500. This part of the database includes the complete works of many medieval authors such as Anselm of Canterbury, Beatus of Liebana, Bernard of Clairvaux, Rupert of Deutz, Sedulius Scottus, Thomas Aquinas, Thomas a Kempis, Thomas of Celano or William of St. Thierry. It also includes the Sentences and the Commentaries on the Pauline epistles of Peter Lombard, the Rationale of Guillaume Durand and important works by Abelard, Bonaventure, Hildegard of Bingen, Hugh of Saint Victor, Jan Hus, Ramon Lull, William of Ockham, Walter of Châtillon’s Alexandreis, an important collection of hagiographical texts and of liturgical works, a huge corpus of works related to the beginnings of the Franciscan order, and many others.

Neo-Latin Literature (1501-1965)

This part of the database already contains over 4 million words and continues to develop.

It includes, for instance, the decrees from the modern ecumenical Church councils up to Vatican II, the Latin translations of John of Ruusbroec made by the German Carthusian Laurentius Surius, important Latin works of René Descartes, Lipsius’ De constantia, the Christianae religionis institutio of Calvin (according to the edition of 1559), poetical works by Joachim du Bellay and by the Jesuit Jacob Balde, the epic Colombus poem of Ubertino Carrara SJ, the complete works of Lawrence of Brindisi, and many others...

Related Databases

- The interface is the same as Brepols full-text databases (Monumenta Germaniae Historica, Archive of Celtic-Latin Literature and Aristoteles Latinus Database)
- Links to the Database of Latin Dictionaries (a user can select a word found in a text of LLT-A and automatically find entries on the word in the constituent dictionaries of the Database of Latin Dictionaries)
- By using the Cross Database Search tool, LLT-A can be searched online together with the Library of Latin Texts – Series B, the Monumenta Germaniae Historica, the Archive of Celtic-Latin Literature and the Aristoteles Latinus Database
- The cluster Brepols Latin Complete includes all Latin full-text databases and dictionaries
In 2009, Brepols Publishers launched a new Latin text database, the Library of Latin Texts – Series B (LLT-B). This series serves as a supplement to the Library of Latin Texts. Both databases are produced by the Centre ‘Traditio Litterarum Occidentalium’ (CTLO) under the direction of Prof. Paul Tombeur. The objective of the LLT-B is to put a large number of Latin texts into electronic form, at a rapid pace, in order to meet the needs of students and researchers.

The Library of Latin Texts – Series B offers the same research possibilities and functionalities as the LLTA, which makes it a valuable research instrument. Just as in the LLTA, a distinction is made between the original text and the “paratextual” elements, with the basic approach of the LLTA (“Who said what, when, where, and how many times?”) still in effect. In total, the present version of the LLT-B includes 901 works in addition to 5,804 diplomatic charters: it is now possible to search more than 36.4 million forms, drawn from more than 900 works that are attributed to approximately 450 authors.

Given that the Library of Latin Texts – Series B constitutes a complement to the Library of Latin Texts – Series A, only the texts that do not figure in the LLTA are published in it, and vice versa. Although it is theoretically possible that certain texts initially appearing in the LLT-B might later be transferred into the LLTA, this would be an exception rather than the rule.

Content LLT-B

The Library of Latin Texts – Series B gathers Latin texts of all genres and all periods. The data are therefore very diverse, and include genres as varied as chronicles, medieval saints’ lives and travel narratives, legal texts, and theological, philosophical and scientific treatises from the early-modern period. Above all, the emphasis is on the online availability of large corpora of texts.