



# In Principio (INPR)

## Incipit Index of Latin Texts

An invaluable research tool for the study of the writers, texts and manuscripts of Antiquity, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance

Those who are interested in the writers, texts and manuscripts of Antiquity and the Middle Ages know how difficult it is to identify a particular work encountered by chance in a manuscript, or, when studying or publishing a particular text, to make an inventory of all the manuscripts in which it appears.

The incipit or first words of a work thus remain the surest means of designating it unambiguously. In a sense, the incipit, by virtue of its invariability, is the **identity card of the text**. Standing apart from the diversity of attributions and titles, the incipit guarantees the presence of a particular text.

The incipit serves as a link between the text and the manuscript. The search software of *In Principio* enables to answer two main questions about the *incipit*:

- who is the author and what is the title of the text?
- which manuscripts contain the text?

### Genres included

The database includes all literary genres: the liberal arts and theology, history and poetry, medicine and liturgy, civil law and canon law, the exact and occult sciences, *summas* and sermons, glossaries and correspondence, cooking recipes and cursing formulas, large treatises and small, isolated sentences.



### Key Features

- Over 1.4 million records from three major institutions and libraries, supplemented with a growing number of individual collections
- Partners: the Institut de Recherche et d'Histoire des Textes, the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library and the Bibliothèque Nationale de France
- Integration of orthographic equivalencies, to accommodate variations in medieval spelling
- Approximately 25,000 new entries each year
- A search screen providing guidance by offering ten search fields that enable precise searching
- Multilingual search interface (English, French, German)
- Links with the *Bibliographie Annuelle du Moyen Âge Tardif (BAMAT-Online)*, and with *Clavis Clavium (Clavium)*, the go-to database to access Late Antique and Medieval Christian Literature (available in Open Access)

The screenshot shows the BREPOLIS website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'All products', 'EN', 'FR', and 'DE'. The main header features the 'in principio' logo and a search bar. Below the header, there is a 'Record View' section for a search result. The search details are: 'and Author (Non-authentic): virgilius'. The record is identified as 'Record 2 of 124'. The incipit is: 'Pan evium custos, hui si tibi Menalia cure'. The explicit is: 'Tityre, te patule cecini sub limine fagi'. The author is 'Publius Virgilius Maro' and the work is 'Georgicorum libri IV'. The city is 'KRIVOKLAT', the library is 'Krivoklatska knih.', the shelf mark is 'I a 21', and the folio is '15-51v'. The catalog is 'Pražák, Jiří, Jiří, Rukopisy krivoklatske knihovny / Codices manuscriptorum bibliothecae Castri Krivoklat (Prague 1969)'. The record was submitted by 'HMMML' and has a reference number of '1002924'.