

# Database of Latin Dictionaries: *Thematic Dictionaries*

## Ecclesiastical Latin

For more detailed searches on ecclesiastical Latin vocabulary and about the Church and Church History in general, users can refer to the *Latin-English Dictionary of Ecclesiastical Latin* by L. F. Stelten, and especially to A. Sleumer's *Kirchenlateinisches Wörterbuch*, which is still a major reference work in the field.

Sleumer, A. (2011).  
***Kirchenlateinisches Wörterbuch.***  
Hildesheim: Olms.

Published in 1926 and reprinted five times (most recently in 2011), Albert Sleumer's *Kirchenlateinisches Wörterbuch* remains a key reference work in its field. A Latin-German dictionary with more than 34,000 entries, it covers an extended period, running from Late Antiquity to the beginning of the twentieth century. It is based the Vulgate, on works on liturgy (breviary, Roman missal), hagiography and canon law (such as the *Codex iuris canonici* of 1917), and on administrative texts.

Stelten, L. F. (1995).  
***Dictionary of Ecclesiastical Latin.***  
Peabody, MA: Hendrickson.

The approximately 17,000 entries which make up this work are for the most part devoted to terms from the Scriptures, and from canon law, liturgy, and the texts of the Second Vatican Council. Of particular interest are the numerous expressions, formulae, titles, explanations of abbreviations, and so on, that are provided in this dictionary.

## Philosophical Latin

Furthermore, users can find out about the specifics of philosophical and scientific Latin vocabulary, as well as about the state of philosophy and science in the seventeenth century, thanks to the *Lexicon Philosophicum* by E. Chauvin and the homonymous work by J. Micraelius. These are two of the three most important Latin philosophical dictionaries of the seventeenth century, which can itself be described as 'the 'century of Latin philosophical lexicography'.

Chauvin, S. (1713).  
***Lexicon philosophicum.***  
Leoardiae: Fr. Halma.

Étienne Chauvin's *Lexicon* is generally considered to be the first modern philosophical dictionary, because it is the first 'to make a comparison between the classical philosophical vocabulary and the terminology of the 'new' philosophy' (E. Canone). Like Micraelius' work, it is also notable for the attention it pays to the sciences, above all to physics, chemistry, astronomy and anatomy.

Micraelius, J. (1662).

***Lexicon Philosophicum terminorum philosophis usitatorum.***

Stetini: M. Höpfner.

Johannes Micraelius' *Lexicon* is among the three seminal Latin philosophical dictionaries of the seventeenth century, alongside the *Lexicon Philosophicum* of Étienne Chauvin (1713) and that of Rudolph Goclenius (1613). It is a 'philosophical lexicon' in the broad sense, for a large part devoted to the sciences, notably to natural sciences. One of the most striking features of this work is the presence, within many articles, of a whole series of sub-lemmas, and even sub-subentries, consisting of derivative words, syntagms and others, and articulated in a structured and coherent way. This makes this lexicon 'a first-rate instrument for the study of philosophical language, as well as for the analysis of conceptual distinctions on the basis of the various meanings of terms relating to different disciplines' (E. Canone).

## Grammatical Latin

Schad, S. (2007).

***A Lexicon of Latin Grammatical Terminology.***

Pisa/Rome: F. Serra.

Published in 2007 as the outcome of Samantha Schad's doctoral dissertation, this lexicon is an invaluable source for students of Latin grammatical literature. This book is the first full-fledged dictionary focusing solely on the technical language adopted by Latin grammarians. Schad based her selection of terminology on Heinrich Keil's corpus of Latin grammarians (1822-1894), which ranges from the first to the eighth centuries AD, complemented by Karl Barwick's edition of Charisius and Louis Holtz's of Donatus.

## Medical Latin

Montero Cartelle, E. et al. (2018).

***Dictionarium Latinum Andrologiae, Gynecologiae et Embryologiae.***

***Ab Antiquitate usque ad XVI saeculum.***

Roma-Barcelona: FIDEM.

Developed by the research group *Speculum medicinae* at the University of Valladolid, led by Enrique Montero Cartelle, the *Diccionario Latino de Andrología, Ginecología y Embriología (DILAGE)* is the first full-fledged analysis of Latin terminology in the fields of andrology, gynaecology, and embryology, from Antiquity up to the early seventeenth century. The *DILAGE* covers all areas of medicine touched upon by these three fields, be it anatomy, pathology, physiology, and even therapeutics. It offers citations from all authors using this technical language across the period covered by the dictionary.

## Linguistic dictionaries

The *DLD* also contains a thematic dictionary of a different kind: L. Ramshorn's *Lateinische Synonymik*, a dictionary of synonyms. This work can be considered 'thematic' in that each article constitutes a theme in itself, bringing up an impressive series of words or phrases close to each other in meaning.

Ramshorn, L. (1831-1833).

***Lateinische Synonymik.***

*Nach Gardin-Dumesnil's Synonymes latins neu bearbeitet und vermehrt.*

Leipzig: Baumgärtner.

As stated in its subtitle, the book is a reworked and considerably expanded version of Jean-Baptiste Gardin Dumesnil's *Synonymes latins* (following the fourth edition of 1827). Each of the 1,366 entries in the *Synonymik* brings up an often impressive series of words or phrases close to each other in meaning, and thus providing an invaluable aid to any thematic research in Latin texts. The richness and value of this lexicon are all the greater because this is not a synonym dictionary *stricto sensu*, but also brings together terms that lie within the same semantic field without being actual synonyms, thus opening up a wider perspective.

Meyer-Lübke, W. (1935).

***Romanisches Etymologisches Wörterbuch.***

Heidelberg: Carl Winter.

The *Romanisches Etymologisches Wörterbuch (REW)* is an essential tool for scholars who want to discover the way in which Latin words have survived up to the present day in the Romance languages. Despite its age, the *REW* remains a fundamental reference work for Romance linguists, as well as for scholars of Late Antique and Medieval Latin. The electronic version is based on the third and last edition, published a year before Meyer-Lübke's death, and includes the *addenda* and *corrigenda* which can be found in the appendix.

## Legal Latin

Berger, A. (1953).

***Encyclopedic Dictionary of Roman Law***

Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society.

Published in 1953, the *Encyclopedic Dictionary of Roman Law*, as it is aptly named, remains a useful resource for students of Roman law up to this day. As it is directed towards a broader audience than just those students or researchers who are already proficient in Latin, Berger's work cannot be classified among traditional dictionaries. Rather, it presents encyclopedic information on the concepts and language of Roman law, while respecting the formal subdivision into dictionary entries.