

Using the Database

Search Directions

The database is searchable in two directions: on the opening screen, near the top, users can set the buttons to either 'Target' as their starting point, or to 'Source', or 'Any':



If the starting point is set to 'target text' (that is, the Anglo-Saxon text in Old English or Anglo-Latin), users ask the database to find the sources associated with this target text.

Examples:

Which sources were used for the composition of target text Aldhelm, *Carmen ecclesiasticum* 3?

Which sources were used for the composition of target text Blickling Homily 14?

If the starting point is set to 'source text', users ask the database to find the target texts that used this source.

Examples:

Which target texts (Anglo-Saxon authors, whether writing in Old English or Latin) used the biblical book of Job as a source?

Which target texts (Anglo-Saxon authors, whether writing in Old English or Latin) used Gregory the Great's *Moralia in Iob* as a source?

Entering Authors and Texts

Enter the details of a chosen text, by either typing the author, the title, the edition or the text reference into one or more of the search windows:

A dark blue search interface. It features four white input fields: 'Author', 'Title', 'Edition', and 'Reference'. Below the 'Reference' field is a row of search direction buttons: 'As', 'Target', 'Source', and 'Any', each with a small white circle. The 'Target' circle is filled. At the bottom is a wide white search button with the text 'Search'.

Example:

Type Blickling homily 14 under 'Title'

or

Type Anon (OE) under 'Author'

or

Type Morris 1874-80 under 'Edition'

or

Type C.B.3.3.12 under 'Reference'

Tip: using the 'Title' window is often the quickest way forward, as it is able to use any word or even part of a word, for the search.

The Reference numbers used in the database are the so-called Cameron-Frank numbers, for Old English texts given in R. Frank and A. Cameron, ed., *A Plan for the Dictionary of Old English* (Toronto, 1973). Searching by Cameron-Frank number may be the best idea if the text is relatively obscure and without a clearly established title. For Latin texts it is the number given in the list of Anglo-Latin texts prepared by Michael Lapidge and Rosalind Love, preceded by L (e.g. L.N.100 for the *Liber monstrorum*).

Search Results

Once users have entered the details of a given text (for example 'blickling homily') and clicked on 'Search', a list of texts matching the criteria will appear. Readers can then choose the required text (e.g. Blickling homily 14) from the list by clicking on the text title, in blue.

Author	Title	Edition
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="blickling homily"/>	<input type="text"/>
Reference	As <input checked="" type="radio"/> Target <input type="radio"/> Source <input type="radio"/> Any	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Search"/>	






author ▼	title	edition	reference
Anon (OE)	Blickling homily 1	Morris 1874-80	C.B.3.4.18
Anon (OE)	Blickling homily 2	Morris 1874-80	C.B.3.2.8
Anon (OE)	Blickling homily 4	Morris 1874-80	C.B.3.2.14
Anon (OE)	Blickling homily 13	Morris 1874-80	C.B.3.3.20
Anon (OE)	Blickling homily 13 (supplementary)	Willard 1936	C.B.3.3.20.1
Anon (OE)	Blickling homily 14	Morris 1874-80	C.B.3.3.12
Anon (OE)	Blickling homily 19 (St Andrew)	Morris 1874-80	C.B.3.3.1

The next screen will consist of two parts. The top part gives basic information about the text searched for (here Blickling homily 14), including links (in blue) to the bibliographical details of the edition cited and the bibliographical details of items of secondary literature that may be relevant to the text:

Author: Anon (OE)	Reference: C.B.3.3.12
Title: Blickling homily 14	Created: 1996-08-07
Edition: Morris 1874-80	
Bibliography: Morris 1874-80 ; Ker 1957 ; Gatch 1965	

The lower part of the screen will present the sources that have been located for the text. These will appear in the order in which the text uses them, going through the text from the beginning to the end. Example: Blickling homily 14, Morris's edition, page 161, lines 1-2 has a source cited; then page 161, lines 21-22 has a source cited; and so forth.

location	quote		source
SX 161.1-2	men ða leofestan manað us and myngaþ men þa leofestan her us manaþ and mynegað	158.1 Old English homilies (Vercelli)	Anonymous Scragg 1992
S1 161.21-22	þæt næfre betuh wifa gebyrdum ... ne sylra geboren nære	7.28 Lucam	Biblia Sacra Weber 1975
S1 161.24-25	fuit inquit in diebus herodis ... quidam nomine zacharias on herodes dagum þæs cyninges ... þæs noma wæs zacharias	2117 Sermones	Anonymous (Ps.Augustine) PL, 39-40.

The displayed results will cite the relevant quotations on the left of the screen (the source quotation (men ða leofestan manað...) in a shaded grey background, the text quotation (men þa leofestan her us...) just below that.

On the right of the screen, users will find the location of the source quotation (here p. 158 line 1) and links (in blue) to the edition of the source text (here Old English homilies (Vercelli)), and the source edition (here Scragg 1992).

Sigla

On the very left the screen shows, in red, the sigla which indicate the precise source relationship between the two passages. In the examples given above, SX indicates an analogue, S1 indicates a single direct source. Further sigla can be interpreted with this key:


- S** single source
- M** one of multiple sources
- SA** antecedent source (that is, the source of a source, in an indirect relationship)
- SX** analogue (that is, a text with striking similarities with the target text, whose precise relationship and direction of indebtedness cannot however be established precisely)
- 1, 2, 3,** certain, probable, possible
- a** and
- o** or


Sigla Examples:

- S2** probable single source
- M1a** one of multiple sources, both of which were certainly used
- M2o** one of multiple sources, one of which was probably used

Further Search Results

Further search results become visible when the little blue triangles are clicked on:

location	quote		source
SX	men ða leofestan manað us and myngap	158.1	Anonymous
161.1-2	men þa leofestan her us manaþ and mynegap		Old English homilies (Vercelli) Scragg 1992

Contributor: M. Atherton Created: 1996-08-07 [Cite](#) 

This then displays as the name of the contributor who produced the entry (here M. Atherton) and the date on which it was published.

Citation

When the blue button 'Cite' is clicked, a further window of information becomes visible, with information that users can insert into their own publication:

How to cite ×

For referencing this record, please use the following: Copy

M. Atherton, Anon (OE): Blickling homily 14, Morris 1874-80, 1996-08-07, Fontes Anglo-Saxonici: World Wide Web Register, <https://arts.st-andrews.ac.uk/fontes/>, accessed 2022-07-15

Alternatively, please use the following information:

Contributor: M. Atherton
Text: Anon (OE): Blickling homily 14
Edition: Morris 1874-80
Reference: C.B.3.12
Created: 1996-08-07
Project Name: Fontes Anglo-Saxonici: World Wide Web Register
Website: <https://arts.st-andrews.ac.uk/fontes/>
Date Accessed: 2022-07-15

Some search results will present BHL numbers. These relate to hagiographic sources, referring to the number given for that text in *Bibliotheca Hagiographica Latina* (2 vols., Brussels 1898-1901; *Subsidia hagiographica* 6); with supplements in 1911 (*Subsidia hagiographica* 12) and 1986 (*Subsidia hagiographica* 70).

Author Names and Text Titles

Author names appear in the form most conventional in English, except for Beda (target texts authored by the Venerable Bede) and Biblia Sacra (the Bible), both of them to be inserted in the 'Author' window.

Many texts are anonymous; these are designated as follows:

Anon (OE): anonymous authors of texts written in Old English

Anon (Lat.): anonymous authors of texts written in Latin

The designation Anon (OE Martyrology) is used to isolate the nearly 300 text sections of the *Old English Martyrology* and which are very diverse in their source background.

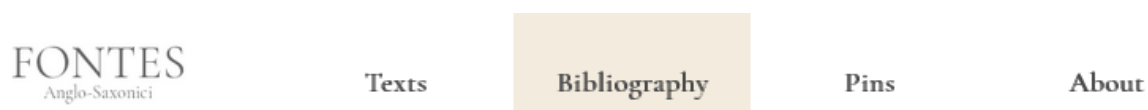
Some texts will appear in both the target text and source text lists; thus Abbo of Fleury's *Passio Eadmundi* appears as a target text because it was written in Anglo-Saxon England, but it also appears as a source text because it was used as a source by Anglo-Saxon authors, such as Ælfric, for his Life of St Edmund.

Re-attributions and New Identifications of Sources

In identifying authors we have tried to keep abreast of modern re-attributions and identification, but, since these are constantly changing, users should be prepared to look for other possibilities (e.g. by consulting *Clavis Patrum Latinorum* for patristic texts). Texts formerly ascribed to a known author but now of unknown authorship will appear, e.g., as Anonymous (Ps.Bede) or Anonymous (Ps.Gregory). Texts formerly attributed to one author, but now ascribed to another, might appear, e.g., as Quodvultdeus (Ps.Augustine).

Bibliography


On the first screen of the database, a button near the top of the screen leads directly to the bibliography used in the database, for browsing.



Pinned Entries

Pinning entries is a way of storing the entries a user is interested in, as if on a clipboard. These entries can be from multiple searches and visits to the database.

Each source entry will have a pin icon in the bottom right-hand corner of the entry.

location	quote		source
S2 8-9	ealra cyninga cyning and ealra hlaforda hlaford	6.15 1 Timotheum	Biblia Sacra Weber 1975
Comment: Or Apc 19.16 Contributor: M.R. Godden			Created: 1999-07-15
			Cite
			

If users click on the pin icon, the icon will fill become dark and the entry will be pinned, that is, copied to the 'clipboard'.

Once entries have been pinned, users can find them in the pinned entries page via the main navigation bar:





On opening the area for pinned entries, users will then find all entries which they had designated as pinned during their searches.

The 'Pins' area also has a 'Clear' button which removes pins from the clipboard after use.

Downloading and Printing of Entries

Each list of entries presents little spreadsheet and printer icons near the top of the list. When clicked, these will open new windows which allow exportation of the search results:

Author: Anon (Lat.)	Reference: L.S.130
Title: Charter S130	Location example: 18-19
Edition: Campbell 1973, no. 14	Location meaning: line
	Created: 1997-03-10

▼  

location	quote	source
S1	16.22	Biblia Sacra
18	anathema maranatha 1 Corinthios	Weber 1975
S1	95.13	Biblia Sacra
18-19	dominus ... aequitate Psalmi (unspecified)	Weber 1975

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Contact

In case of questions or problems arising from use of the database, feel free to contact:

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Further Reading

Biggs, F. M., T. D. Hill and P. E. Szarmach, *Sources of Anglo-Saxon Literary Culture: A Trial Version*, Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies 74 (Binghamton, 1990) [an early publication of the SASLC project]

A. S. Cook, *Biblical Quotations in Old English Prose Writers*, 2nd edn (New York, 1903) [an early example of source study, focusing on biblical material]

Frantzen, A. J., *Desire for Origins: New Language, Old English and Teaching the Tradition* (New Brunswick, 1990) [important critique of source study]

Lapidge, M., *The Anglo-Saxon Library* (Oxford, 2006) [partly based on Fontes data]

O'Brien O'Keefe, K., 'Source, Method, Theory, Practice: On Reading Two Old English Verse Texts', *Textual and Material Culture in Anglo-Saxon England*, ed. D. Scragg (Cambridge, 2003), pp. 161-81 [discussion of intertextual relationships; provided the term 'target text' to the Fontes project]

Ogilvy, J. D. A., *Books known to the English, 597-1066* (Cambridge, MA, 1967) [a forerunner of the *Fontes Anglo-Saxonici* project]

Rauer, C., *Beowulf and the Dragon: Parallels and Analogues* (Cambridge, 2000), pp. 9-11 [definitions of key terms, including source and analogue]

SASLC / SOEALLC: <https://hcommons.org/groups/sources-of-old-english-and-anglo-latin-literary-culture/> [a US-based sister project to *Fontes Anglo-Saxonici*]

Wright, C. D., 'Sourcing Old English Anonymous Homilies: The Pioneers (Max Förster, Rudolph Willard, and J. E. Cross)', *The Anonymous Old English Homily: Sources, Composition, and Variation*, ed. W. Rudolf and S. Irvine, Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Authors 25 (Leiden, 2020), pp. 36-84 [a recent example of source study, with homiletic focus]

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