

CONCORDANCE OF MEDIEVAL OCCITAN

Search options

The *Concordance of Médiéval Occitan* on CD ROM offers the advantage of searching what will be a huge database of some 7 million words once complete. For the moment, there is access to some 2,500 poems of the troubadours. The options available, which will serve the whole of the database, are in place and permit consultation of the total vocabulary by whole word, by prefix or by suffix or words which appear at the rhyme, whether final in the line or internal. It is possible to look for a word in collocation with another either immediately adjacent or up to a separation of nine intervening words and in either order.

The decision was taken, at the outset, not to lemmatize, and so Boolean operators are present to optimise searches for variant forms of the same word. Given the sometimes hermetic nature of the poetry, it is difficult to decide both the meaning of a word and the part of speech it represents, so that, when a lexical form is entered, the researcher is sure of finding all the examples.

Bibliography

The *Bibliography* identifies the editions used in the concordance. On the basis of recent research, it was decided to exclude the Occitan poems of Richard Cœur-de- Lion (see Lucilla Spetia, "Riccardo Cuor di Leone tra oc e oil (BdT 420,2)", *Cultura neolatina* 56 (1996), 101-55). Cerveri's poem "en javanais" (434a, 66) has also been excluded, since the underlying text is that of 434a, 68, and Sordel's *cobla*, 437, 22, which is in French, is also omitted. In certain cases, the texts, as presented, are those of a new edition which, at the time when the *COM* is appearing, have not yet been published, some being a complete edition of the troubadour and others that of individual poems.

The reference to the poet and poem follows the bibliographical index established by István Frank in his *Répertoire métrique de la poésie des troubadours* (2 vol., Paris: Champion, 1966) following the *Bibliographie der Troubadours* of A. Pillet and H. Carstens (New York: Burt Franklin, 1968 repr. [Halle, 1933]). In a few cases where Frank did not include a particular poem, the reference is to Pillet-Carstens, and, in the rare cases where the poem is not in either, a new reference is used following the system (e.g. PC 440, 1). In cases where the troubadour is not listed and poems can be attributed, a new reference is also given (e.g. PC 333a for Peyre Cathala). The order of the poems in the editions and the page reference is listed alongside that of Pillet-Carstens, so that the PC number of the poet and poem is followed by the number in the edition (if there is one) in Roman numerals and the page reference for the poem in Arabic numerals.

The poems shared between two or more troubadours (*tenson*, *partimen*) are listed with the first to speak; however, the exchanged *cobla* is found with the troubadour who composed it.

The enormous advantages which the electronic form offers to scholars working in the field or in allied disciplines are now within the reach of individual scholars given the continuing developments in technology.

Specification:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One CD-ROM conforming to ISO 9660 standard in a storage box • Installation software on CD-ROM • Retrieval software on CD-ROM • User's manual in English and French
Hardware Requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum configuration: a PC 486 DX, 50 Mhz, 16 MB central memory • CD-ROM drive, minimum 2x speed; a multi CD-ROM drive recommended • Windows 95 or higher
Prices:	Stand-alone version for institutional use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regular price: € 1.200,- Additional copies: € 600,- <i>(All prices are exclusive of VAT)</i>
Network prices:	based on the number of simultaneous users; please contact Brepols Publishers

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The Concordance of Medieval Occitan (COM) brings together the corpus of texts in the language (from the first attestation to those of the end of the fifteenth century), whose prestige is universally recognised in the area of Romance studies.

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Concordance of Medieval Occitan

Preface

The *Concordance of Medieval Occitan (COM)* brings together the corpus of texts extant in the language from the first attestation to those belonging to the end of the fifteenth century. It was neither possible nor desirable to evaluate the standing of such texts, whether, in this late period, they belong to Medieval or to Middle Occitan, and it may well be the case that there are some later texts which are extant only in a later version and are thus excluded because of the form of the language in which they are now preserved. It is also the case that some will present forms which owe more to French than to Occitan, inevitably, given the fortunes of the language.

But the normal situation is overwhelmingly that of a language whose prestige over three centuries is universally recognised in the area of Romance studies. It thus became a priority, some thirty years ago, to consider the feasibility of inputting all texts into a computer so that it would be possible to search for any form, which would then be listed in its context. The enormous advantages which the electronic form offers to scholars working in the field or in allied disciplines are now within the reach of individual scholars given the continuing developments in technology.

It was not possible to envisage a publication which would immediately give access to the total corpus. The approach has been to divide the database into three tranches, so that this first version contains the poetry of the troubadours, taken from critical editions. Tranche 2 will give non-lyric texts in verse and tranche 3 texts in prose. Planning for a further tranche is under consideration: given the rich manuscript tradition in troubadour poetry, many readings are consigned to a critical apparatus accompanying the critical edition of a poem. Not only is the critical apparatus difficult to interpret but also it is practically impossible to reconstruct the string in which the form occurs. For this reason, there was always the expectation that this fourth tranche would be added in the form of a database containing the totality of each of the troubadour *chansoniers*, whereby it will be possible to search for forms in their context in the same way as for the other tranches. The difference here is that there will be, alongside the edited interpretative version of the poems, a semi-diplomatic rendering which respects the word breaks as found in the manuscripts and marks ends of line in the columns, as well as indicating, for example, deletions and superscript lexical items. While the forms of the interpretative version will be included in the main concordance, a separate concordance will be constituted to deal with the forms belonging to the semi-diplomatic version.

The database is present on the disk in addition to the pre-prepared concordance so that there is the facility to move from the listed occurrences to the particular text which is being targeted. Whereas it is possible to print out or download the lists of examples in their context, limited to a maximum of three lines on either side of the example, printing from the total text on screen is not permitted. This is to protect the interests of the holders of the copyright for these texts, whether or not the particular text is under copyright.

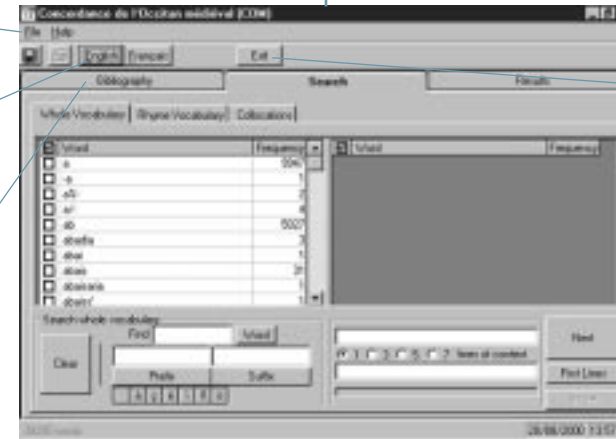
This CD ROM contains tranche 1 and, for subscribers to successive tranches, it will be replaced by a second version which will integrate tranche 2 and so on, with an updated manual in each case.

Concordance of Medieval Occitan

At the top of the screen are the file and help buttons

The language button permits choice of either French or English for the words on the command buttons

Immediately below the tool bar is a three entry tab box, which permits consultation of the *Bibliography* or *Search*, which is the default. Under *Search*, the *Whole Vocabulary* presents all items in the database in the left-hand window, listed alphabetically and showing their frequencies



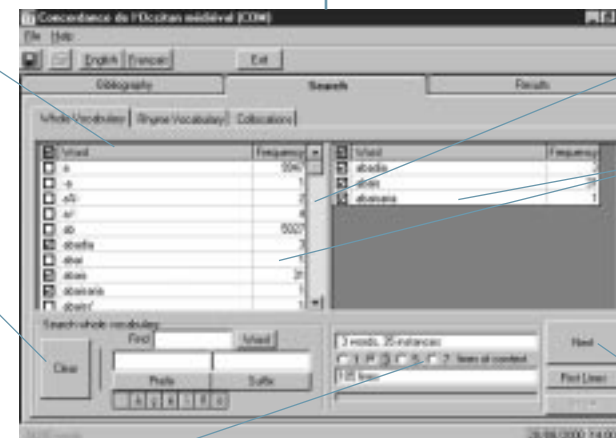
To close the system, press the *Exit* button on the tool bar, or go to and open the file *Menu Item* and select the exit option

The complete lexicon is presented in alphabetical order for common words.

At the end is the list of proper names, preceded by @ for easy identification

To find specific items as full words, it is also possible to use the first of the three boxes to the right of *Clear*. Click on the box marked *Find* and enter a form, which will then appear at the top of the lexicon

The default is the line in which the word appears, but, one may opt for a different number of lines by choosing 3, 5 or 7 lines, thus giving a maximum of 3 lines on either side of the line containing the word



A scrolling bar permits browsing

By clicking on an item in the left-hand box, which contains the complete lexicon, it is possible to choose a single word or a series, which then appear in the right-hand window

By clicking on *Next* (bottom right of the main screen), all examples of the word or words (in boldface) appear in context on a separate screen, *Results*

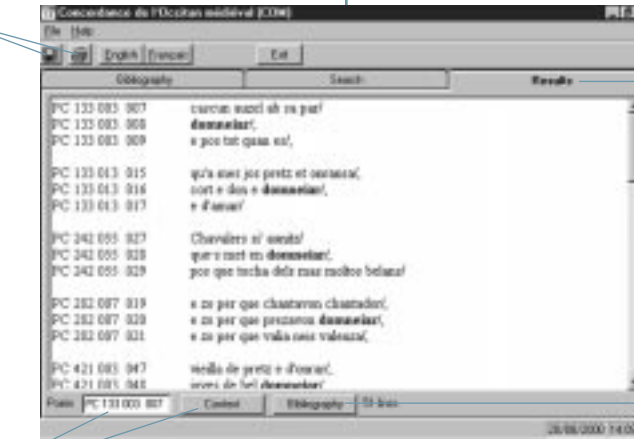
Concordance of Medieval Occitan

It is possible to send the results of the search to a file or diskette by clicking on the *Diskette* symbol or to print it out (using the *Print* symbol)

If you wish to see the quotation in the context of the whole poem, click on the line or the general area of the quotation and then click the *Context* button at the bottom of the screen. A further window displays the complete poem

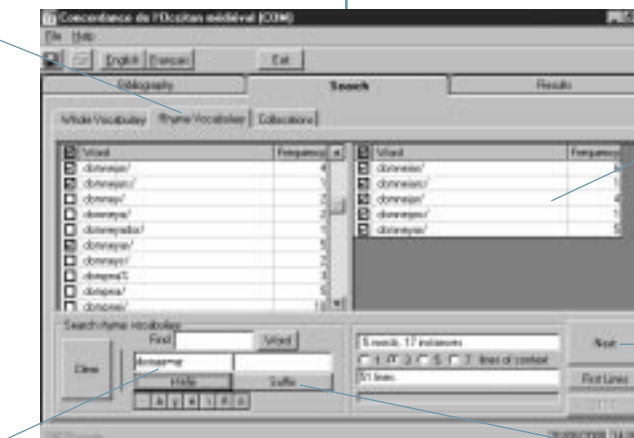
By clicking on *Rhyme Vocabulary*, there appears, in the left-hand window, a list of words followed by either / or %. These indicate, respectively, a word at the end of a line and a word which occurs as an internal rhyme. It is a rhyme search which is likely to be most useful, and the forms should be entered in the *Suffix* entry box.

Given the variations in spelling of the same word and the need to search for the inflected forms of a root form and so on, the Boolean operators can be introduced once the user is familiar with the system. They may be used in any part of the system.



The *Results* tab has a scrolling facility which aids consultation, and it is also possible to send the results of the search to a file or a diskette

Similarly, it is possible to access bibliographical details of the poem by clicking on the example and then on the *Bibliography* box (to the right of the *Context* box), after which the screen displays the *Bibliography* at the point of the PC reference concerned



The words which correspond to this form then appear in the right-hand window

Then click on *Next* to go to *Results*

Similarly, the same search can be undertaken for words ending in a particular combination of letters. Click on the entry box for *Suffix* and enter the last letters of the forms required. Click on *Suffix*