

## For whom is the TLL Archive useful?

The Thesaurus Archive was conceived as a resource for the production of the *Thesaurus linguae Latinae* and it contains roughly 10 million slips (*Zettel*) distributed in about 6,500 boxes (*Kästen*). All slips were produced for this purpose alone. The Archive offers all passages for each lemma in chronological order. They are not arranged semantically, which only occurs during the production of a dictionary entry; afterwards the slips are returned to chronological order.

The Archive is not a complete database of ancient Latin. Texts produced up to and including the time of Apuleius (middle of the second century AD) have been lemmatized in their entirety; that is to say, every word in every transmitted passage has received its own individual slip. By contrast, for the later period until about AD 600, only a selection of material was produced, which is nevertheless very extensive; and new slips for all periods continue to be added (see <https://www.thesaurus.badw.de/en/about-the-tll/thesaurus-material.html>).

What are the advantages of the Archive? Or more precisely, when is it better to use an electronic database and when is it better to consult the Archive, assuming one has the ability to travel to Munich in person?

The Archive is especially useful:

- when the relevant lemma is a homonym homograph to another lemma. Most electronic databases are not lemmatized, in contrast to the Archive (for example, there are four different lemmata *pila*, sorted separately; *Troia* the place name vs. *troia* ‘sow’);
- when one is interested in an author or genre that is poorly represented in databases, such as Oribasius or other medical texts from late antiquity;
- when one wants to investigate a very rare word. Electronic databases are not complete for late antiquity, in contrast to the Archive at least in the case of rare words. In addition, the Archive also partly takes into account *variae lectiones* and conjectures;
- when one would like to find secondary literature for a particular lemma. Many slips have been produced with references to books and journal articles, though not everything can be covered;
- when one is interested in a word that was edited and published in the *Thesaurus* a long time ago. The Archive contains Addenda slips that continue to be added even after a lemma’s publication.

Electronic databases are especially useful:

- when one is interested in the occurrences of the word before Apuleius. For this period the databases are effectively complete (the databases do not always include pre-Apuleian fragments found in late sources, and certainly not *variae lectiones* and proposed conjectures; these can be found selectively in the Archive).
- when the lemma is unambiguous and all the relevant forms can easily be found. For example, with the abbreviated search string *reptil*\* one can find all

the declined forms of *reptilis*. Alternatively, especially with substantives one can search manually for all inflected forms (e.g. *puella*, *puellae*, *puellam*, *puellarum*, *puellis*, *puellas*). This avoids also results containing a derived form, such *puellula*. With verbs it is often more difficult to reach the desired search results;

- when one wants late antique occurrences of a relatively common word. For relatively common words, the Archive contains a selection from late antiquity based partly on manual excerption and concordances.

For conducting research on ancient and especially late antique Latin, the Thesaurus Library, alongside the Archive, is an extraordinary resource. It contains editions of all surviving Latin texts and, insofar as they are available, commentaries, translations, and secondary literature. Many editions contain marginalia with references to secondary literature, especially where the meaning or reading of a particular passage is discussed. The proximity of the Library to the Archive and the accessibility of all kinds of editions simplify and speed up research that involves intensive textual investigation and comparison.