

A Brief Guide to the Database Fields

NB: Fields that are underlined will be found in all records; other fields may be blank

RecordID: a unique identifier for each text, starting at 0001

Date: dates are expressed numerically; where a date is uncertain, an arbitrary intermediate year is given and the Year Code is followed by a “c”

Year

Month

Day

Circa [=ca.]: field is marked ‘Yes’ if the issuing year is uncertain; it is not checked if the uncertainty concerns only the month/day

Dating Notes: discursive field giving date ranges (for texts of uncertain dating) or other remarks concerning the dates of the text

Place: the place where the council or synod associated with the text’s issuing occurred (which is usually, though not always, the diocesan or metropolitan see)

Place

Diocese (often omitted in the case of provincial or legatine councils)

Province (often omitted where a diocese is directly subject to the Holy See)

NB: Most records include entries for both diocese and province; some lack one or the other; no records lack both.

Country Modern (the country in which the place of issue is currently located)

Latitude (for the place of issue; usually taken from GeoHack)

Longitude (for the place of issue usually taken from GeoHack)

WikiData (The Wikidata record ID corresponding to the place; at present this field is blank)

PlaceNotes: discursive field giving further information concerning place, diocese, or province

Classification: The nature and jurisdictional scope of the text

Classification (options include):

- 1) Diocesan: legislation issued at or in association with a diocesan synod)
- 2) Provincial: legislation issued at or in association with a provincial council (or a council bringing together several neighboring provinces)
- 3) Legatine: legislation issued at or in association with a legatine or national council
- 4) Liber Synodalis: normally, a systematic collection of diocesan legislation, often similar to (or even indistinguishable from) a diocesan compilation
- 5) Compilation (Diocesan): a gathering of earlier diocesan legislation, sometimes with emendations or additions
- 6) Compilation (Provincial): a gathering of earlier provincial legislation, sometimes with emendations or additions
- 7) Abstract/Abbreviation: a summary or abbreviated version of an existing text
- 8) Other: these include texts such as episcopal mandates or synodal ordines that do not fit neatly into the above categories but have nevertheless been included in the corpus for some reason
- 9) Unclear

Issuing Authority: the name of the issuing bishop/archbishop/prelate in whose name the legislation is principally promulgated; in the case of provincial councils, the name of the metropolitan is given

Issuing Authority Alt: common alternative spellings of the name of the issuing authority

Regnal Start/End: the years in which the issuing authority served as bishop/archbishop of the jurisdiction concerned

Delegated: checked 'Yes' if the competent ecclesiastical authority delegated the task of promulgating the statutes to an official (usually a vicar general, though in cases of sede vacante this might be a neighbouring bishop or apostolic administrator)

Classification Notes: discursive field giving information on the classification decision; in cases where the issuing of the text was delegated to someone other than the bishop/archbishop, their name and office is usually given here

Text: Information concerning the language, condition, availability, and transcription of the text

Text Needed: marked yes if I have not yet managed to consult a manuscript/edition of the text or acquire a copy thereof

No Known Text: marked yes if no known copies of the text are known to survive (or remain unidentified)

Fragment: marked yes if a text is significantly incomplete (i.e. not just marred by occasional lacunae)

Language: the principal language in which the text is written; options include:

- 1) Latin
- 2) Italian
- 3) Middle Dutch
- 4) Middle English
- 5) Middle High German
- 6) Occitan
- 7) Old Catalan
- 8) Old French
- 9) Old Norse
- 10) Old Polish
- 11) Old Portuguese
- 12) Old Spanish

Language Notes: these indicate if other languages are substantially present in the text

Source: a manuscript witness for a given text. This is usually left blank, where a printed edition is available; in those instances where it is listed, it is not necessarily the best manuscript witness – rather it is the best manuscript witness that has so far been consulted.

Source_Other: one or more additional manuscript witnesses (or occasionally early modern transcriptions of the manuscript listed under "Source"); the list is rarely comprehensive

Edition: the printed edition (where such exists) from which the transcription was derived

Edition_Other: one or more additional printed editions; the list is rarely comprehensive

Source Notes: discursive field giving information on manuscript sources or printed editions, including URL for digital copies or library shelfmarks for hard-to-find editions

Transcription Notes: discursive field giving information concerning transcription difficulties or outstanding issues

Base Text: The source from which the transcription was created, or against which transcription can be checked (note that multiple boxes can be checked yes)

- 1) Hard Copy Scan: either a library hard copy or a personal copy was scanned to create a PDF
- 2) WebDownload: an online PDF/image was downloaded (e.g. from Google Books)
- 3) Data Capture: the text was manually inputted by a member of the project team or a transcription service (usually based on a hard copy scan or a web download)
- 4) Digital MS: I possess a digital scan of the manuscript source, or of a microfilm image thereof
- 5) Microfilm: I possess a microfilm of the manuscript source
- 6) Other: the transcription was derived from some other text format, or (in the case of manuscripts/rare printed editions) was copied directly onsite without a digital copy being made

OCR: marked yes if OCR technology was used to produce an initial transcription (note this field was added late, and many transcriptions that were initially generated from OCR technology are therefore not marked accordingly); in general, ABBYY FineReader was the preferred OCR tool

Transcription: indicates current status of transcription (only one can be checked yes)

- 1) Not Started: Transcription has not yet begun
- 2) In Process: Text is in queue for transcription
- 3) Completed: Transcription has been created and corrected, but not reviewed by RWD
- 4) Reviewed: Transcription has been reviewed by RWD (though that certainly does not mean that it is error-free!)

General Notes: discursive field for miscellaneous information about the text

Biblio Refs: Important Bibliographical References (note that this field is usually empty, but will hopefully be expanded over time as a digital bibliography is created)