Ancient Texts Workshop
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Great Plains-Rocky Mountain Region
Society of Biblical Literature

Harold B. Lee Library

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Dead Sea Scrolls: Resources for Scholars and Researchers
Donald Parry

I. Online and digital resources:
1) The Leon Levy Dead Sea Scrolls Digital Library. The IAA is collaborating with Google to upload all of the digitized Scrolls images online, enabling users to explore the manuscripts and their contents in a number of languages and formats. Ultimately, the images will be accompanied by meta-data including transcriptions, translations and detailed bibliography. https://www.deadseascrolls.org.il/about-the-project/the-iaa?locale=en_US

2) The Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Associated Literature. Aims to foster research on the Scrolls, particularly the great task of integrating the new information gained from the Scrolls into the body of knowledge about Jewish history and religion in the Second Temple period. Website provides resources regarding activities, bibliographic resources, forthcoming symposia, and more. http://orion.mscc.huji.ac.il/


5) Accordance Bible Software. Offers resources for the study of the Qumran and other Dead Sea Scrolls. Includes the Hebrew Bible (with morphological tags), the Dead Sea Scrolls Hebrew Bible and non-Biblical scrolls, advanced search engine, plus much more. https://www.accordancebible.com/store/Hebrew-Studies

II. Hardcopy resources:

7) The Biblical Qumran Scrolls: Transcriptions and Textual Variants. Edited by Eugene Ulrich. (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2010). Presents the Hebrew biblical manuscripts recovered from the eleven caves at Qumran and provides a transcription of each identifiable fragment in consecutive biblical order together with the textual variants it contains. The purpose is to collect in a single volume all the biblical editions originally published in a wide variety of books and articles.
8) *Dead Sea Scrolls Handbook*. Edited by Devorah Dimant and Donald W. Parry (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2015). Presents Hebrew and Aramaic transcriptions of approximately 450 non-biblical texts from Qumran, arranged according to the sequential number of the composition and the Qumran Cave. Thus, the texts are arranged as follows: 1Q14, 1QpHab, 1Q15, 1Q16, 1Q17, and so forth. This arrangement provides straightforward access to the texts in a single volume and facilitates usage of the *Handbook*.


11) *Scribal Practices and Approaches Reflected in the Texts Found in the Judean Desert*. Emanuel Tov (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2004). Deals in detail with the material, shape, and preparation of the scrolls; scribes and scribal activity; scripts, writing conventions, errors and their correction, scribal signs; scribal traditions; differences between different types of scrolls (e.g., biblical and non-biblical scrolls), the possible existence of scribal schools, such as that at Qumran. The findings have major implications for the study of the scrolls and the understanding of their relationship to scribal traditions in Israel and elsewhere.


13) *The Dead Sea Scrolls Reader, Second Edition, Revised and Expanded, Volume 2. Calendrical Texts and Sapiential Texts, Poetic and Liturgical Texts, Additional Genres and Unclassified Texts*. Edited by Donald W. Parry and Emanuel Tov (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2014). The purpose is to enhance the research facilities of the individual texts within their respective genres. The nature of the Dead Sea Scrolls publication project was such that texts belonging to the same literary genre were published in different volumes in the *Discoveries in the Judaean Desert (DJD)* series, although those from cave 4 were often published by subject. The dispersion of these texts in several different volumes complicates their analysis, a problem that is now overcome in *DSSR*. 
Latin Papyri: Resources for Scholars and Researchers
Roger Macfarlane

A bibliography for engaging the study of Latin Papyri


The special case of C. Cornelius Gallus


The special case of Herculaneum

Benario, H.W. “The ‘Carmen de bello Actiaco’ and Early Imperial Epic,”


Scott, W. 1885. “Fragmenta Herculanensia.”

The BYU military diploma

Greek Papyri: Resources for Scholars and Researchers
Lincoln H. Blumell

Introductions and Primers to Greek Papyrology
Editing Sigla Appearing in Papyri

In transcriptions of Greek papyri the following sigla from the so-called Leiden system are most common; see *ChrEg* 7 (1932): 262–69.

\(\alpha\beta\gamma\) uncertain letters either because of damage or because they are otherwise difficult to read

\ldots\) illegible letters; dots correspond to approximate number of letters

\([\alpha\beta\gamma]\) text in lacuna reconstructed by conjecture or from a parallel

( ) resolution of a symbol or abbreviation

\[\alpha\beta\gamma\] letters within the brackets are deleted in the original

\`\alpha\beta\gamma` letters enclosed by these two dashes are added above the normal line of writing

\(\langle\alpha\beta\gamma\rangle\) the letters are added by the editor

\(\{\alpha\beta\gamma\}\) the letters noted within the brackets are regarded as mistaken or rejected by the editor

\(\text{vac.}\) *vacat*: empty space on the papyrus

Additional Sigla

| signals a line break in the text |
| fiber orientation of papyrus runs horizontal (recto) |
| fiber orientation of papyrus runs vertical (verso) |

**Documentary Papyri**: texts of principally “non-literary” character: e.g. letters, receipts, contracts, petitions, leases, declarations, wills, registers, lists, orders, invitations, etc.

**Literary Papyri**: texts of literature: e.g. Homer, Euripides, LXX, New Testament, etc.

**Useful Websites**


“The volume represents the first attempt to deal monographically with the electronic resources for the papyrological research, tracing an epistemology, a historical sketch and an overview of the main trends in the developing network of the digital tools for the study of Graeco-Roman papyri.”

**http://papyri.info** (Documentary Texts)

Contains editions of Greek (and a few Coptic) documentary texts. Contains the “Checklist of Editions.”

**http://aquila.zaw.uni-heidelberg.de** (Documentary Texts)

Searchable database of scholarly metadata pertaining to published Greek and Latin documents.

**https://www.trismegistos.org/Idab/** (Literary Texts)

Searchable database with information pertaining to published literary texts.
https://www.trismegistos.org
An interdisciplinary portal of papyrological and epigraphical resources associated with Egypt and the Nile valley between ca 800 BC and AD 800.

Essential Resources (Documentary Texts)
Berichtigungsliste der griechischen Papyrusurkunden aus Ägypten.
Index that registers all the updates, corrections, supplements, emendations—whether readings or interpretations—brought to papyrus editions subsequent to their publication.

Wörterlisten.
Index of Index (PDF) of Greek and Latin terms from documents published since 1996.
http://www.zaw.uni-heidelberg.de/hps/pap/WL/WL.pdf

Paleography Tools

Documentary
http://www.pappal.info
Contains images of objectively dated papyri, very useful for dating documentary papyri.

Literary


Schubart, W. Griechische Palaeographie. Munich, 1925.


New Testament Papyri

Grammars


Abbreviations
McNamee, K. *Abbreviations in Greek Literary Papyri and Ostraca*. Atlanta, 1981.
Onomastica

Trismegistos People Name Database
To date, vol. 1 in 16 fascicles, covering the entire alphabet.

Chronology

Civil Administration of Ptolemaic, Roman, and Byzantine Egypt
General

Ptolemaic Egypt
Bagnall, R.S. *The Administration of the Ptolemaic Possessions outside of Egypt.* Leiden, 1976.
Collomp, P. *Recherche sur la chancellerie et la diplomatie de Lagides.* Strasburg, 1926.

Roman Egypt
**Byzantine Egypt**


**Prefects**


**Epistrategoi**


*——. The Epistrategoi in Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt. II. The Roman Epistrategoi*. Opladen, 1982.

**Strategoi and Royal Scribes**


Whitehorne, J. *Strategi and Royal Scribes of Roman Egypt: (Str.R.Scr.2)* Rev. ed. Firenze, 2006.

**Nomarchs**


**Komarchs**


**Village Scribes**


Gymnasiarch

Exegetes

Dioiketes

Idios Logos

Pagarchs

Liturgies

Nomes, Toparchies, Pagi

Metropoleis

Geography
https://www.trismegistos.org/geo/index.php

Trismegistos Places
Early Christianity and the Papyri

http://www.csntm.org

The Center for the Study of New Testament Manuscripts
http://ntvmr.uni-muenster.de/home

New Testament Virtual Manuscript Room, Institut für Neutestamentliche Textforschung
https://www.mq.edu.au/pubstatic/public/download/?id=45105

Papyri from the Rise of Christianity in Egypt, Macquarie University


Syriac Texts: Resources for Scholars and Researchers
Kristian Heal

Introductory Resources
http://syri.ac/ (Essential gateway to Syriac studies).

https://cpart.mi.byu.edu/home/ssrl/ (Guide to essential out-of-copyright books available online).

Comprehensive Bibliography

Prosopography/Hagiography/Gazetteer/Encyclopedia/Clavis
http://www.syriaca.org/ (Growing resource that conforms to the highest standards of DH).

Online Corpora
http://cal.huc.edu/ (Broad, searchable corpus of texts with lexical annotations).

http://wwwb.library.vanderbilt.edu/exist/apps/syriac-corpus/index.html (Raw texts being added to this temporary site, which will eventually will be migrated to www.syriaccorpus.org).

http://wordcruncher.com/ (Text search and analysis tool with Syriac texts in Library).

Manuscripts
http://syri.ac/manuscripts (Guide to manuscript collections and catalogues).

http://syri.ac/digimss (Guide to what manuscripts are available online).

http://www.mss-syriaques.org/ (Growing online catalogue of Syriac manuscripts).

https://digi.vatlib.it/mss/ (Vatican Library, organized by fond).

https://www.vhmml.org/ (Largest collection of Syriac manuscripts online).

Lexica
http://dukhrana.com/lexicon/ (Access all of the main lexica in a single search).

https://sedra.bethmardutho.org/ (Growing online dictionary).

**Coptic Texts: Resources for Scholars and Researchers**
John Gee and Lincoln H. Blumell

**Dictionaries**

Although over eighty years old, this is still the standard Coptic Dictionary. It is organized by roots rather than strictly alphabetically. It is the only dictionary to deal with dialectical forms, but some of the dialects and their sigla have been changed in the intervening years (e.g. A² is now L for Lycopolitan and the term Sub-Akhmimic is no longer used). It is filled with examples of usage, although many are cited in unpublished manuscripts that have since been published. It came out before the discovery of the Nag Hammadi Library and is missing some of that vocabulary. It is massive and not portable. It only rarely gives etymologies. Its biggest disadvantage is that it does not have any of the numerous Greek loan words in Coptic.

This dictionary gives known etymologies for Coptic words in Crum that do not originate in Greek or Latin. It also gives definitions for those words.

This small glossary is compact and is largely based on vocabulary from Nag Hammadi. Like Crum, it is organized by roots and lacks Greek loan words. The only dialects it deals with are Sahidic and Lycopolitan.

This portable dictionary only covers the Sahidic dialect. It is strictly alphabetical with numerous cross-references to main entries. One advantage is that it does have many Greek loan words. Unfortunately, in many cases there is no definition or gloss given but merely tells the reader what Greek word to look under in a separate Greek dictionary.

This is a dictionary of Manichaean texts, all of which are in the Lycopolitan dialect. Words of Greek and Egyptian origin are listed in separate dictionaries. Definitions are skewed towards Manichaean terms. Entries are organized by roots but all spelling variants are given.

This dictionary only covers Greek loan-words in Coptic and only those in documentary texts. Theological texts are not covered. The glosses are into German.


This dictionary covers the Bohairic dialect. It is arranged strictly alphabetically and includes Greek loan words.

**Grammars**


This grammar covers all of the basics of Coptic and incorporates most of the insights of Polotsky. Though older and lacking both vocabulary and chrestomathy, it is my preferred teaching grammar.


Though cursory and often inadequate, this is still the only real grammar of Coptic dialects. It covers neither Lykopolitan nor Mesokemic, as most of the works in those dialects had not been published when Till wrote the grammar.


This is the standard Coptic reference grammar and covers the basics of Coptic. It does not fully incorporate the insights of Polotsky.


This is a teaching grammar based on Sahidic. It is harder to find.


This is the older standard teaching grammar. It is limited to Sahidic and most of the examples and exercises were simply invented by Lambdin and thus many not accurately reflect actual Sahidic.


This grammar was intended to be the standard reference grammar incorporating all of the grammatical work of Polosky. The grammar is largely based on Coptic works that are translations from Greek rather than Coptic written by native speakers. Many phenomena are more fully explored than previous treatments but many basic phenomena are poorly described or missing. Layton’s incorporation of linguistic jargon impedes understanding particularly when he reuses older vocabulary to describe different phenomena.


Layton’s teaching grammar is much more accessible to students than his reference grammar.
This concise teaching grammar follows on Layton’s new jargon.

**Paleography**


For all its faults and serious need of updating, this remains the standard Coptic paleography.


**Biblical Texts**
Vol 1.1–4: sa 1–120 (sa = manuscript number)
Vol 2.1–2: sa 121–260
Vol 3.1–4: sa 500–585
Vol 4.1–4: sa 586–780
The series *Biblia Coptica* presents a systematic compilation of all biblical texts of the Old and New Testament for the first time from the area of the ancient Coptic Church of Egypt in Sahidic Coptic. Karlheinz Schüssler succeeded in largely reconstructing the original structure and amount of different codices, being able to collate numerous manuscript sheets to the original manuscript, which were torn from the codices in former times and are now kept in widely scattered museums and libraries. Each text contains detailed information, including its depository. Each single part of the compilation contains a register
of bible passages, a section of plates, and the fourth part of each volume includes a comprehensive register. The complete collection of the Sahidic Old and New Testament is of fundamental importance for both Biblical theology/exegesis/textual criticism and church and canonical history.

Other Aids

This eight volume work provides basic information on Coptic and is still a standard reference work. In particular the eighth volume has an excellent overview of the various Coptic dialects.


This is an extremely useful little book that arranges Coptic words that occur in the Sahidic New Testament by order of frequency. The student can concentrate on learning the words that he or she is most likely to encounter. Unfortunately Greek loan words are not included.


This book provides lists of various paradigms in Coptic grammar.


This set of volumes helps one find one’s way around the various geographic names in Coptic.

Websites
Coptic websites are noted for the ephemerality. Many wonderful Coptic resources have been put on the web only to vanish without a trace a few years later. Until recently most electronic resources in Coptic were not Unicode compliant and the correct font was necessary to read the Coptic.


This database of Coptic documentary texts is run by Alain Delattre of the Université Libre de Bruxelles, Centre de Papyrologie et d'Épigraphie grecque. The database is not intuitive and seems to work better in the French version of the site (http://dev.ulb.ac.be/philo/bad/copte/base.php?page=accueil.php). The results of queries give the essentials of the metadata (including bibliography) but not the texts themselves. It was last updated in 2014.
The Coptic Network:  http://www.coptic.net/CopticWeb/
This is a site associated with the Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt. It contains information about the Coptic Church, mostly in English. It also provides links to other Coptic organizations. It was last updated in 2008 and many of the links are broken.

Coptic Scriptorium:  http://copticscriptorium.org/
This site has a small corpus of orthodox Coptic text in Unicode (apothegmata patrum, some Besa and Shenoute), and also asmall electronic dictionary. It is run by Caroline T. Schroeder and is associated with the North American Patristics Society. It was last updated in 2018.

Coptica:  http://www.coptica.ch/
This French site, run by Pierre Cherix of the Université de Genève, contains links to a wide variety of Coptic texts. Last updated 2018.

Koptische Abteilung Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn:
http://digitale-sammlungen.ulb.uni-bonn.de/topic/view/17261
This is a collection of digitized books in Coptic maintained by the library at the University of Bonn. There are seventy-eight books from the seventeenth through early twentieth centuries in pdf format.