



# Text Type Classification

Systematisation of Keywords for  
Computational Historical Semantics

*by Roland Scheel and Tim Geelhaar Goethe-Universität  
Frankfurt am Main 17<sup>th</sup> April 2014*

This classification of historical Latin texts operates on a functional and on a typological level, it classifies a text according to its function(s) – “Text Type Class” – and secondly to its actual form – “Text Type”. Currently, there are 20 classes identified. A future extension regarding missing classes or types is possible and even mandatory since certain types of fictional texts have not been integrated yet. By implementing such a two (or even three)-layered system the classification avoids shortcomings of older typologies that try to identify types of texts although texts are often rather fluid concerning the text type boundaries. A third level to be elaborated is the level of “Communication Context” allowing to attribute a text a specific situation of communication (first ideas are put into italics). Although this classification was developed in a digital humanist project, this concept and the attribution of all texts have been created without computational modeling of ontologies.

A text can be attributed to one or more classes and types if necessary. Thus, specific characteristics of a text transcending genre types can be maintained. Different values need to be separated by semikolon (“;”), so that they can be searched for separately. Since the attribution of a text to certain functions or text types depends on research to these texts, it is possible and even requested that attributions can and will be revised.

The classification is newly developed and applicated by Roland Scheel and Tim Geelhaar, but it is based on:

Typologie des sources, 84 vols., ed. Léopold Genicot et. al., Turnhout 1972ff.  
Repertorium Fontium Medii Aevi, available on: [geschichtsquellen.de](http://geschichtsquellen.de)

In addition, it considers other typologies, source studies and thematic studies such as

Walter Berschin, *Biographie und Epochenstil im lateinischen Mittelalter*, 4 vols. Stuttgart 1986-2001.

Raoul C. van Caenegem, *Manuel des études médiévales. Typologie des sources - Historique - Grandes civilisations*. Turnhout 1997.

Corpus Christianorum Series Latina, Turnhout 1954ff.

Corpus Christianorum Continuatio Mediaevalis, Turnhout 1971ff.

Winfried Dotzauer, *Quellenkunde zur deutschen Geschichte im Spätmittelalter (1350-1500)*, Darmstadt 1996.

Hans-Werner Goetz, *Geschichtsschreibung und Geschichtsbewußtsein im hohen Mittelalter*, Berlin 1999.

Max Manitius, *Geschichte der lateinischen Literatur des Mittelalters*, 3 vols. (Handbuch der Altertumswissenschaften, Abt. 9. T. 2.) München 1911-1931, reprint 1965.

Franz-Josef Schmale, *Form und Funktion mittelalterlicher Geschichtsschreibung. Eine Einführung*, Darmstadt 1985.

## 1. “Text Type Class” /Function: Biblical

*“Text Type”:*

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numeri
- Deuteronomium
- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth
- Samuel
- Kings
- Chronicles
- Ezra
- Nehemiah
- Tobit
- Judith
- Esther
- Maccabees
- Psalms
- Job
- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Song of Solomon
- Wisdom
- Sirach
- Psalms of Solomon
- Minor Prophets
- Isaiah

- Jeremiah
- Baruch
- Lamentations
- Letter of Jeremiah
- Ezekiel
- Daniel
- Gospel According to Matthew
- Gospel According to Mark
- Gospel According to Luke
- Gospel According to John
- Acts of the Apostles
- Pauline Epistles: To the Romans
- Pauline Epistles: To the Corinthians I
- Pauline Epistles: To the Corinthians II
- Pauline Epistles: To the Galatians
- Pauline Epistles: To the Ephesians
- Pauline Epistles: To the Philippians
- Pauline Epistles: To the Colossians
- Pauline Epistles: To the Thessalonians I
- Pauline Epistles: To the Thessalonians II
- Pastoral Epistles: To Timothy I
- Pastoral Epistles: To Timothy II
- Pastoral Epistles: To Titus
- Pastoral Epistles: To Philemon
- Pastoral Epistles: To the Hebrews
- General Epistles: Epistle of James
- General Epistles: Epistle of Peter I
- General Epistles: Epistle of Peter II
- General Epistles: Epistle of John I

- General Epistles: Epistle of John II
- General Epistles: Epistle of John III
- General Epistles: Epistle of Jude
- Revelation
- New Testament Apocrypha
- Paratexts

## 2. “Text Type Class” /Function: Theological

*“Text Type”:*

- Bible Exegesis: Old Testament
  - [subcategories mirroring Bible structure]*
  
- Bible Exegesis: New Testament
  - [subcategories mirroring Bible structure]*
  
- Dogmatic Treatise
  - Antichrist*
  - Christology*
  - Catechism*
  - Creation*
  - Doctrine of the Faith*
  - Doctrine of Grace*
  - Doctrine of God*
  - Ecclesiology*
  - Eschatology*
  - Free will*
  - Justice*
  - Mariology*
  - Monasticism*
  - Mysticism*
  
  - Peace Pneumatology Predestination*
  - Purgatory Resurrection Sacraments Trinity*
  
- Polemics

- Vision

### 3. “Text Type Class” /Function: Liturgical

*“Text Type”:*

- Missale
- Antiphonary
- Blessing
- Ceremony
- Diptychon
- Exorcism
- Gradual
- Hymn
- Lectionary
- Text related to *memoria*
- Ordines
- Paternoster
- Prayer
- Procession
- Psalter
- Sacrament
- Symbolon
- Poem
- Treatise

#### 4. **“Text Type Class” /Function: Paraenetic**

*“Text Type”:*

- Exempla
- Paraenetic Letter
- Mirror
- Sermon
- Treatise (thematic)
- Penitential
- Sentences

#### 5. **“Text Type Class” /Function: Religious practical**

*“Text Type Object”*

- Carmen
- Prayer
- Book of Hours
- Memoria
- Religious Theatre
- Report

#### 6. **Text Type Class” /Function: Legal**

*“Text Type”:*

- Canon Law
- Capitulary
- Royal Episcopal
- Charter
- Contract/Treaty
- Council
- Customary Law
- Decree

- Feudal Law
- Jurisdiction (church)
- Jurisdiction (secular)
- Law of the Land
- Lex Barbarorum
- Monastic Rule
- Procedural Law
- Roman Law
- Rule of a Corporations other than Monastery
- Synodal Statute
- Testament
- Town Law
- Visitation
- Glossary on [categories above]
- Treatise on [categories above]

## 7. “Text Type Class” /Function: Administrative

*“Text Type”:*

- Account of Properties (Rent-roll/Polyptychon etc.)
- Tax List
- Toll Tariff
- Library Catalogue
- Repertorie of Fiefs
- List of Persons (Matricle, List of burghers, of communities etc.)
- Rental
- Administrative Communications



## 8. “Text Type Class” /Function: Scholarly

*“Text Type Object”*

- Encyclopedia
- Summa
- Compilation/Florilegium
- Commentary
- Treatise (artes liberales)

*Rhetoric*

*Grammar*

*Logics*

*Arithmetic*

*Geometry*

*Music*

*Astronomy*

- Treatise (virtues)
- Treatise (politics)
- Treatise (specific other subjects)
- Itinerary/Geography

*Extensive travel reports are to be found in „Historiography“.*

## 9. “Text Type Class” /Function: Educational

*“Text Type“:*

- artes notariae
- ars dictaminis/ars dictandi
- artes praedicandi
- artes orandi
- Manual on Teaching and Learning
- University: disputation

*Theology*

*Law*

*Medicine*

- Exercise
- Dictionary and Grammar

## 10. “Text Type Class” /Function: Medical

*“Text Type”:*

- Treatise

## 11. “Text Type Class” /Function: Polemic

*“Text Type”:*

- Apologia
- Complaint

## 12. “Text Type Class” /Function: Oratory

*“Text Type”:*

- Funeral/Eulogy
- Panegyric
- Collection

## 13. “Text Type Class” /Function: Historiography

*“Text Type”:*

- Annals
- Chronicle
  - Concise narrations following a clear chronological structure.*
- Thematic Historiography
  - Church history*
- Gesta

*Meaning series of gesta, e.g. Gesta episcoporum, Gesta abbatum etc.*

- World Chronicle
- Genealogy
- Poem
- Travel Report

*Narrative travel reports as opposed to short itineraries (see “Scholarly”).*

## 14. “Text Type Class” /Function: Biographical

*“Text Type”:*

- Hagiography
  - Legendaria*
  - Martyrologia Translationes*
- Biography (non-hagiographical)
- Autobiography
- Poem
- Epitaph

## 15. “Text Type Class” /Function: Letters

*“Text Type”:*

- Dedication
- Collection
- Official Letter
- Personal Letter
- Mimetic Letter

## 16. “Text Type Class” /Function: Inscriptions

*“Text Type”:*

- Epitaph
- Monument
- Building
- Graffito

## 17. “Text Type Class” /Function: Songs (non-liturgical)

*“Text Type”:*

## 18. “Text Type Class” /Function: Non-referential: Prose

*“Text Type”:*

## 19. “Text Type Class” /Function: Non-referential: Poetry

*“Text Type”:*

- Collection

## 20. “Text Type Class” /Function: Diverse

*“Text Type”:*