

Perseus 4.0

The Perseus website (www.perseus.tufts.edu) offers Greek and Latin texts together with a powerful search engine. Under the top menu on the home page click “here” in “Click here for a short tutorial” for instructions about using the website. What is the difference between Perseus and TLG? TLG (Thesaurus Lingua Graecae) contains all extant Greek texts from Homer to A.D. 600 and most literary Greek texts written between A.D. 600-1453. Perseus offers much less text, but it, too, is growing. Advantages are that it is free to the user and has an English translation for the Greek texts.

Reading or Searching a Particular Text

To bring up a text: If you know the Perseus name for an author or title, enter it into the search box at the top of a page. Alternatively, click Collections on the top menu. Then choose the collection you want. Use the search box or scroll down to find an author. Click the blue arrow beside an author’s name to display that author’s works. Click the title of the work you want to view. Bibliographic information for a text is at the end of each page of the text.

To move within a text, click on the book, chapter, section, etc., line above a page or on the left. Use the arrows at the top or bottom of any page of a work to go forward or backward page by page.

If there are **multiple versions** of a work, the sidebar on the right will list them. Click “focus” next to one to use that as your main text. Click “load” next to it to view that version on the right while keeping the original version as your main text.

To analyze a Greek or Latin word in the text, click on it. A Word Study Tool window will open and parse the word, give links to the dictionaries, and list the frequency of the word in the work you chose. Click “Word Frequency Statistics (more statistics)” for the word frequency in the Perseus corpus.

To search a particular text after bringing it up or to broaden the search to all Perseus collections, use the search box on the right and choose whether or not to limit the search to that text. Enter a single word and choose to search for the exact form or for all inflected forms. Click “More search options” to go to a screen that allows you to search for a phrase or multiple words, to omit words, and to search for all forms of the words you enter. This is the screen for the Search the Collections tool described under General Search Tools below. See the table on the right showing how to enter text to search in Greek. Include diacritical marks.

Greek stop words: Searching for the following words will not return any results.

a)/llos, a)/n, a)/ra, a)ll', a)lla/, a)po/, au)to/s, d', dai/, dai/s, de/, dh/, dia/, e(autou=, e)/ti, e)a/n, e)gw/, e)k, e)mo/s, e)n, e)pi/, ei), ei)/mi, ei)mi/, ei)s, ga/r, ga^, ge, h(, h)/, kai/, kata/, me/n, meta/, mh/, o(, o(/de, o(/s, o(/stis, o(/ti, oi(, ou(/tws, ou(=tos, ou), ou)/te, ou)=n, ou)de/, ou)dei/s, ou)k, para/, peri/, pro/s, so/s, su/, su/n, ta/, te, th/n, th=s, th=l, ti, ti/, ti/s, tis, to/, to/n, toi/, toiou=tos, tou/s, tou=, tw=n, tw=l, u(mo/s, u(pe/r, u(po/, w(/ste, w(s, w)=

General Search Tools

Click “All Search Options” under the search box at the top of a page to go to the page of general search tools. The most important Perseus tools for Greek studies are described below.

Search the Collections

This tool allows you to search for multiple words, to omit words, and to search for all forms of the words you enter. First choose the language to search in, and then in the appropriate box enter the words (with the diacritics) transliterated according to the chart. Check the box to search for all possible forms if you wish. Perseus will search the entire collection in that language. To search a single text, first bring up that text (as above) and click “More search options” under the search box on the right.

At times Perseus will not find a word that is in its database. Sometimes the problem is in the way the words are stored in the parsing tables. If you run into a problem, try changing the accent. For example, the Search the Collections tool was unable to find a)pallagh\n (6/2021) although it is in the database. However, a search for a)pallagh/n brought up the examples of a)pallagh\n as well.

Word Study Tool

Use the Word Study Tool to translate a word and analyze its form. Choose the appropriate language from the drop-down menu and type the word into the box according to the transliteration chart above it. Include diacritical marks. Perform the search. If multiple lemmas are associated with a term, choose the appropriate one and find a full definition in a lexicon at the bottom of the window. The lexicon will also provide word frequency statistics.

Vocabulary Tool

The Vocabulary Tool allows you to select a set of documents or a section of a document in order to view a list of the words that appear in it.

To view the vocabulary of a **section of a document**, bring up that section and click “load” on the **Vocabulary Tool** bar. This tool will display the top 50% of words in that section. Click the link provided to further refine the list.

To view the vocabulary for **multiple documents**, first click “All Search Options” under the search box at the top of any page. Then link to the Vocabulary Tool. Choose the language: Greek, Latin, etc., and select the texts you want from the list that comes up. Click Show Vocabulary. In the resulting list, click the name of a lexicon beside a word to go to the entry for that word. Options to refine the list further are on the right.

Perseus Help lists some useful ways to use the Vocabulary Tool. For example, you can create a concordance for a text by choosing “all words” under Show and sorting in alphabetical order. You can familiarize yourself with the important vocabulary in an author (or any set of texts) by choosing the top 40-60% of the vocabulary in that author and sorting by weighted frequency. Learning those words will make reading the texts easier.

English-to-[Language] lookup

Enter an English word in the English-to-Greek lookup to retrieve all Greek lexical forms that contain the English word in their definitions. This is useful for finding Greek words with a similar meaning or for remembering a particular Greek word.

Dictionary Entry Lookup

Use this tool to find a specific word or a word starting with, ending with, or containing a given string of letters.