Background

When trying to transcribe a Latin word, it is often possible to identify most of the letters. Unfortunately, knowledge of letters other than those at the beginning of the word do not help when searching through a dictionary. William Whitaker produced a list containing every Latin word in every inflected form that William Whitaker's Words can recognize. This website allows you to provide the partial information you know about a word and then produces a filtered version of William Whitaker's list.

Basics

The search page is located at https://danielostrowski.net/latin To search the list of inflected forms, type a search pattern into the search bar on the page and then click the "Search" button. To enter another search pattern, either use the back button on your browser or click the "< Search" button at the start of the results list to return to the search page.

The search page has a button labeled "Advanced Options" that can be clicked to reveal a set of additional options. The one, two, and three minim letter text boxes specify which letters are considered to be comprised of minims and how many minims those letters are made of. For example, when transcribing a document where the letter "r" looks like a minim, the letter "r" can be added to the one-minim letter set so that using a digit in a search pattern can match the letter "r". There are options to check common spelling substitutions automatically in order to handle cases where William Whitaker's Words uses a different spelling than the scribe. There is also an option to automatically check for words with the enclitic ending "ne" or "que". For example, "genitoque" will not match any words with that option disabled but will match the word "genito" + "que" with the option enabled. By default, "I" is the only one minim letter, "N", "U", and "V" are two minim letters, and "M" is the only three minim letter. The other options are all enabled by default.

Each Latin word on the results page is a clickable link to the William Whitaker's Words entry for that word on Notre Dame's website.

The results can be sorted alphabetically or by length by clicking the corresponding button on the results page. They are sorted alphabetically by default. Clicking the same sorting option twice will sort by that option in reverse order.

Example search patterns

Pattern	Explanation
amo	An exact word matches the word itself; the only result will be "amo"
AmO	The case of letters does not matter; the only result will be "amo"
amav*	An asterisk takes the place of zero or more of any letter. The results include "amavi" and every word that starts with "amav"
*amavi	Asterisks can appear at the start of a pattern...
am*avi	...and in the middle of a pattern
a*m*a	This matches all words that start with an "a", end with an "a", and have at least one "m" somewhere in between.
*a*b*c*	This matches all words that contain an "a" which is later followed by a "b" which is later followed by a "c"
am?m	A question mark takes the place of exactly one letter
???	This matches all three-letter words
5ltum	A digit takes the place of that number of consecutive minims. This pattern matches words that end with "ltum" and start with any group of letters that together make up 5 minims. This example matches only "inultum" and "multum"
p*3a	This matches all words that start with "p" and end with 3 consecutive minims followed by an "a". Note that sorting the results by increasing length can be helpful
mult32	When specifying clusters of minims, letter boundaries are respected. So this pattern does not match "multum"
pr(ae|e)*	If part of a word can only be a few different things, you can put the list of options in parentheses separated by pipes "|". This is helpful to allow for spelling variations. You cannot put "*", "?", or digits for minims in the list.

More information

Please contact me if the website is down, if results don't seem correct, or if you have any questions. Also please send me any sort of feedback and suggestions for improvements. My email is ostrowsd@purdue.edu