Readme File for eTK

The bases of this electronic research tool are A Catalogue
of Incipits of Mediaeval Scientific Writings in Latin,
rev. ed., by Lynn Thorndike and Pearl Kibre (Cambridge,
MA: Mediaeval Academy of America, 1963), and the two
supplements printed in Speculum, vols. 40, 43 (1965, 1968).
"TK" refers to the book, whereas "eTK" refers to the
expanded electronic data.

Although TK consolidates all manuscript information for a
text in a single entry, eTK divides entries from the book
into separate records for each manuscript witness and
incorporates additional information. The data has been
treated in this way to allow searching by manuscript, to
make a manuscript index possible, and to make information
on companion texts in any given manuscript accessible. The
goal of this undertaking was to produce an electronic
version of the book, not to produce a thorough-going
revision of it. We have, however, supplied new subject
fields, created a full-name thesaurus, digitized the TK
bibliographies, and provided for orthographic variants.
In creating these electronic files we have attempted to
correct obvious errors in the book and supplements, where
possible.

In each record, the fields are identified by ."code"
as below. Only the incipit (.i), TK designation (.k),
and coded record number (.n) are required
fields. A discussion of the contents of each field
follows the listing of the fields in typical record
format. Field order is variable.

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.i       incipit (with MS date, if available)
                 REQUIRED FIELD
.ix1             cross reference
.sp              incipit for prologue
.st              incipit for text
.a               author
.aa              attributed author
.ra              translator
.tl              title
.te              alternate title
.m               city where manuscript is held
.ml              library, collection, and shelfmark
.mf              folios or pages (with date of MS, if available)
.jl              subject descriptor
.bl              bibliographical information
.k               Thorndike Kibre column number and entry letter
                 REQUIRED FIELD
.n               database record number
                 REQUIRED FIELD and UNIQUE IDENTIFIER
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Explanation of Fields

.i   incipit (with date of MS, if available)
This field provides the opening words of the Latin text,
followed by MS date, if known, in parentheses. No
punctuation and only minimal capitalization have been
retained from TK. The incipit is not a unique identifier,
because it will be repeated in subsequent records for
additional information. Orthographic variants are
addressed in a separate file (eTK-orthographic-variants).
In some records this field will contain only cross-reference
information. Every record will contain this required field.

.ix1   cross reference
There can be up to ten numbered .ix fields in any record
(.ix1, .ix2, etc.). Each .ix field sends the user to a similar
or a related incipit. A cross reference can also send the
user to a record where a different incipit begins the
text. In addition, when extra .sp and .st references are
needed, they may be incorporated in numbered .ix
fields.

.sp   incipit for prologue
If a text has a separate prologue record, this field
provides the incipit for that prologue, which will be
found in an independent record with a different .k
number. Prologues and texts at times circulated
independently.

.st   incipit for text
If a prologue has a separate text record, this field
provides the incipit for that text, which will be found
in an independent record. Prologues and texts at times
circulated independently.

.a   author
A single form of the author name is cited in this field.
In most cases, many variants of a given author name
exist, and we provide a range of variants for searching
purposes in the namelist file (tkvk-namelist). This field
is not required as many texts are anonymous or the
author has not been identified. Note that tkvk-namelist
is a file that can be accessed under "Database to
Search."

.aa   attributed author
This field is used where the validity of an author
designation is in question or disputed.

.ra   translator
The translator of a work not originally written in Latin
is identified in this field.

.tl   title
This field supplies titles which Thorndike and Kibre
derived from manuscripts and printed editions. In some
cases they also supplied text descriptors (e.g. "Alchemy")
as titles in this field. Thorndike and Kibre often
omitted common opening words in titles such as "Liber"
or "Liber de."

Medial word searches are recommended when searching
for titles.

If a prologue record sends the user to a text incipit
(.st), containing title information, the title field in
the prologue record simply reads "Prol." If, however, no
text record exists, the title in the prologue record reads
"Prol." followed by the title given in TK.

Variant titles may also be supplied in an alternate title
field (.te) in a subsequent record or in a bibliographic
field (.b). Texts with multiple titles will have repeated
entries for additional titles.

.te   alternate title
This field allows for another title for the text in an
additional record. Other titles may be recorded
in bibliographic fields (.b).

.m   city where manuscript is held
English spelling is used for city names, as in TK. Where
city names have changed since the publication of TK,
we have used the city names cited in Latin Manuscript Books
Before 1600, 4th rev. ed., by Paul Oskar Kristeller and Sigrid
Krämer (Munich: Monumenta Germaniae Historica, 1993).

.ml   library, collection, and shelfmark
This field provides library name, collection information
(where known), and shelfmark or call number of the
manuscript. Where library or collection names have
changed since the publication of TK, we have supplied the
new designations from Kristeller and Krämer. It has not
always proved possible to identify a library when TK gives
only a place-name.

In some instances information from printed catalogues is
also provided in this field.

.mf   folios or pages (with date of MS, if available)
This field provides inclusive foliation or pagination,
where that information is available.

Where the TK record provides a date for the manuscript,
it is supplied in parentheses at the end of this field.

This field can also contain information designating flyleaf
texts, marginal texts, and excerpts.

.j1   subject descriptor
There can be up to five numbered subject fields (.j1, .j2,
etc.) in a record. In the case of more than five subjects, the
record is repeated, varying only in the subject fields.
Subject descriptors, while not found in TK records,
have been supplied in eTK from a controlled vocabulary,
which we provide in a separate file (tkvk-subjectlist).
These subject attributions are based for the most part on
incipit, title, and bibliographic information, and should
be taken only as suggestions. This field is also used to
supply such descriptors as "Verse" or "Illustration," which
are not, strictly speaking, subjects. Those texts for which
no subjects could be identified have been designated
"Undetermined."

.b1   bibliographical information
There can be as many as five bibliographic fields (.b1, .b2,
etc.) in one record. In the case where information additional
to five fields is provided, the record is repeated, varying only
in bibliographic fields. Most bibliographical citations in
this field are abbreviated; expanded citations can be found
in a separate file (eTK-bibliography). When a record has
been created from a printed book, that information is found
in a .b field.

The .b field is also used as a "notes" field for information
that has come to light since the publication of TK or has
been supplied by eTK advisors. It should be emphasized
that providing such additional information does not imply a
complete revision of TK. We have, however, attempted to
incorporate new information when we have become aware
of it.

.k   Thorndike Kibre column number and entry letter
This field contains the column number found in TK followed
by a letter. In order to specify an entry in a column, we have
added to the column number a letter of the alphabet for each
entry, starting at the top of each column. We do not use the
letter "o" in entry designations so as to avoid confusion
with zero. All records, even those which provide only
cross-references, have been assigned a letter. Every record
will contain this required field.

.n   database record number
This number is the only unique identifier for a record in
eTK. It does not occur in TK. Every record will contain
this required field.

OTHER ASPECTS OF eTK MAY AFFECT SEARCHING.

**For extensive searching, users may find it helpful to
print the readme files for eTK and eVK2 and for tkvksubjectlist.

**Do not supply punctuation when searching. When words
or names are truncated, a period is not needed.

**Searches that employ medial words and word groups will
produce the most reliable results.

**When a record contains five fields of subject descriptors
or five fields of bibliographical information, it is important to

look at all records with identical initial fields for additional
information..

**Personal names present particular challenges in
searching. Personal names in the namelist file
(tkvk-namelist) include authors and translators but not
persons to whom texts are dedicated. The headwords in
this list should not be taken as authoritative. Headwords
and variants are taken from TK, Library of Congress Author
Authority list, and Personnennamendatei (PND). It is
important to check the namelist file for variant forms.
Searching should employ both last name-first name order
and first name-last name order.