

Resources in Classics: Guide to Zenon DAI

Scope and Coverage

Zenon DAI is part union catalog and part index; it contains the holdings of the nine libraries of the German Archaeological Institute (head office in Berlin; Eurasia Department, Orient Department, Commission for Archaeology of Non-European Cultures (KAAK) in Bonn; with departments in Rome, Madrid, Athens, Istanbul, and Cairo) and it also contains records for journal articles, conference proceedings, book chapters, and Festschriften. The bibliography covers Greek and Roman culture and its peripheral culture, as well as the literature on Etruscan, Minoan, and Mycenaean culture; the Anatolian cultures; and prehistory and ancient history including epigraphy and numismatics.

Coverage varies depending on the type of material, but generally the database covers 1956 to the present.

Zenon DAI allows access to the shared online catalog as well as three bibliographies:

- **Bibliography for the Archaeology of the Iberian Peninsula** (1989 to the present): all literature on the archaeology of the Iberian Peninsula, covering the Paleolithic era up to Islam and including Mozarabic art. The Christian High and Late Middle Ages are omitted.
- **Bibliography for the Archaeology of Eurasia** (1956-2001): articles from periodicals, composite works, conference papers, and monographs up to 2001 year of publication. Available under the Thesaurus menu.
- **Archaeological Bibliography of the Rome, Berlin, Athens, and Istanbul Departments** (1956 to the present).

The key to using this extremely complicated database is understanding 1) how to use just two or three of the many options for keyword, index, and thesaurus searching and 2) how to combine searches.

Searches fall into two categories:

- A. Keyword and Browse searching
- B. Systematic Access/Thesaurus searching

The database screen is divided into two panes. Use the upper pane to choose the type of search to do. The first line includes the two options for Keyword searching (“Search”) and Browse searching (“Index Search”).

The second line, which you may have to scroll to see, includes the option for Thesaurus searching.

When first logging into the database, be sure to click on the Union Jack icon if the text you see is in German. The English interface runs out pretty quickly, but it’s helpful to start with it, and if you search the Thesaurus you will be searching the English terms.

A. Keyword and Browse Searching

Basic keyword searching

In the top pane, click "Search."

Choose "Basic" or "Advanced" (in the first case you have one search box and in the second you have three search boxes that can be combined with AND).

From the dropdown menu(s), choose:

- **Title (keyword)** to search for keywords in titles.
- **Author/Person** to search for an author.
- **All Fields** to search for keywords in titles, contents notes, and thesaurus terms.

If you enter more than one term, they will automatically be combined with AND. You can choose to search them as a phrase by clicking YES next to "Words adjacent?"

You can use any search box to do an OR search, e.g. **rome or roma or roman**.

Truncation

Use either an asterisk (*) or a question mark (?) for truncation: e.g. **statu*** or **statu?** will find statue, statuette, statues, etc. Use a question mark to replace one letter: e.g. **wom?n**.

Searching across languages

Searching **All Fields** is one way of searching across languages because it searches thesaurus terms, each of which has a German, French, English, and Italian translation.

Common Command Language searching

Click "Search."

Click "CCL."

When you become better acquainted with Zenon DAI, searching by "Command Language" can be a good shortcut. You can enter more complex searches, combining field searches and using nesting and Boolean searching to combine terms with AND and OR. An example might be:

WRD=(cult or kult) AND WRD=statu* AND WYR=2000

Browse searching

Click "Index Search."

Enter the term you want to search (enter one word or phrase).

Select "Index to browse" and from the dropdown menu, choose:

- **Title** to get an alphabetical list of titles beginning with the search word or phrase.
- **Title Keywords** to get an alphabetical list of keywords/phrases in all titles, with the number of records that contain each of the words/phrases.
- **Word Index** to get an alphabetical list of keywords in all titles, contents notes, and thesaurus terms, with the number of records that contain each of the words/phrases.

Searching across languages

The "Word Index" search allows you to find materials in multiple languages, as it searches thesaurus terms as well as titles. Thesaurus terms each have a German, French, English, and Italian translation.

Combining index searches

One very effective way to use an index search is to click on index keywords with large numbers of hits to enter them as building-block searches, and then combine them using the “Previous Searches” screen (see below for details). Unfortunately, a major limitation of the database is that once you have clicked on a keyword and gotten a results list, you cannot then get back to the index-search list—you have to start over and enter a new search each time.

Using the Filter key

The “Filter” button offers a way to take a broad search and narrow it down by title keywords.

- Do either a Keyword search or a Browse search for a broad topic.
- From the “Search Results” screen, click “Filter.” (After this the English interface runs out!)
- Click “Stichwort” (keyword).
- Leave the dropdown menu choice as “Title” and enter title keyword(s). Note that truncation searching using * will not work in this search, but truncation is applied automatically (e.g. if you search for **temp** you will also find titles containing tempio, tempel, temple, etc.)

Example: do a “Word Index” search for **apollo** and choose the first entry.
use the “Filter” key and enter **temp**.

B. Systematic Access/Thesaurus Searching

In the top pane, click “Systematic Access to the DAI Bibliographies, Thesaurus...”

Index Search Descriptors

This allows you to search an alphabetical list of Thesaurus terms that begin with the word you enter. If you are using the English interface, the list you get will be the English descriptor terms.

Clicking on a term will give you the classification code for that term. From this screen you can also click on the number of the term to get a [very sketchy] definition and scope for the term and the number of records indexed with that term (which in turn you can click to get a display of the records themselves).

If you click the “Top Down” button, you can get a list of all records associated with that index term plus any narrower terms.

If you click “Add to Tree” you can see where the index term fits in the hierarchical arrangement of subject terms called the “Thesaurus Tree.” If you wish you can then search the Thesaurus Tree for further areas of interest.

Search Descriptors

This search allows you to search descriptor terms by keyword. If you are using the English interface, you will get English descriptor terms.

Clicking on a term will take you to the screen with a scope note and number of records indexed with that term. Click on the number for that results list.

Click “Top Down” to get a list of records associated with that index term plus any narrower ones.

Click “Add to Tree” to see where the term fits in the hierarchical arrangement of subject terms called the “Thesaurus Tree.” If you wish you can then search the Thesaurus Tree for further areas of interest.

C. Combining searches

A critically important strategy in using Zenon DAI is to use Keyword or Index searches to do broad searches as building blocks that you can then combine with AND and OR.

To combine searches, click “Previous Searches.” All the searches previously done will be listed on the screen.

Check the boxes of the searches you want to combine and click “Cross.” In the search box, choose UND (and) or ODER (or) and click “Cross.”

The results of the combined search will be given on the screen. To see the records, check the box for that search and click “View.”

D. Printing, emailing, and downloading records

To print individual full records or lists of brief records:

- From any results screen, use the check boxes to mark the articles you want to save.
- Click “Add to Basket.”
- In the top pane of the DAI screen, click “Basket.”
- Click “Print Page” to print the list of short records, or click “Full view” and then “Print” to print a full individual record.

There does not appear to be a way to print a list of full records—this method will only allow you to print either individual full records or the list of brief records, which may not include enough information to find the material.

To download or email records:

- From any results screen, use the check boxes to mark the articles you want to save.
- Click “Save/Mail.” (There goes the English interface again!)
- To download the file, simply leave the boxes in the pop-up box empty and click “Send.” Fill in the prompts for where to save the file.
- To email the file, fill in the “E-Mail” box with your email address and if desired add any text to the optional “Text” box. Click “Send.”