

Expanded Drama 1700 Corpus

This corpus aims to include one copy of all dramatic texts in print up to 1700: it contains professional and other plays intended for performance, translations, closet drama, masques, and entertainments.

There are 1244 plays in this corpus, of which 1008 are EEBO-TCP Phase 1 texts and 1 is an ECCO-TCP text.

Only EEBO-TCP Phase 1 and ECCO-TCP texts are available for download.

However, metadata and statistical analysis is available for all plays in the corpus from the Metadata Builder.

Copyright and acknowledgements

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The Expanded Drama 1700 Corpus was selected, and associated metadata prepared, by Beth Ralston and Jonathan Hope as part of the Mellon-funded Visualising English Print project at Strathclyde University.

Corpus Selection and Metadata Preparation

In preparing our list of plays and the associated metadata we have made extensive use of Martin Wiggins and Catherine Richardson, *British Drama 1533-1642: A Catalogue (Oxford)*, Alfred Harbage, *Annals of English Drama 975-1700*, the [ESTC](#), and, most of all, Zach Lesser and Alan Farmer's [DEEP](#) (Database of Early English Playbooks).

Texts were identified for inclusion using DEEP (for texts up to 1660), and Harbage (for texts from 1660-1700).

Metadata was drawn from DEEP, Harbage, and Wiggins, with cross-checking between the three, and further reference to ESTC and JISC Historic Texts, where necessary.

Users should bear in mind that our reliance on EEBO-TCP means that **only texts in print by the cut-off date** are included – plays known only in manuscript are excluded.

Also missing are some plays in print before 1700 but not transcribed by EEBO-TCP. For a full list of all the printed plays we know about, including those not included here, see the All Known Texts metadata. This contains 1554 entries, including 1292 EEBO-TCP texts, of which 1047 are EEBO-TCP Phase 1.

Guide to Metadata (available from the Metadata Builder)

Although we have taken great care to check this data, there will inevitably be errors – and future research is likely to correct many dates and ascriptions.

- **tcp** (tcp number) – this refers to the TCP file in which the text occurs. Users should note that TCP numbers align to physical volumes, not texts. In most cases in our corpus, plays were published in single-text volumes, so the TCP number is unique to the play text. However, in the case of collected volumes (Shakespeare's First Folio, for example) all of the plays in the volume have the same TCP number. For disambiguation of play-texts in collected volumes, see **text_name**.
- **estc** (estc number) – this gives the ESTC number for the volume in which the text appears. Users can find authoritative bibliographical information about the relevant volume by searching on estc.bl.uk (go to <Search the ESTC> then select <Search by... ESTC nos> from the drop-down menu).
- **Wiggins number** – when these were available at the time of corpus construction we have added identification numbers from Martin Wiggins and Catherine Richardson, *British Drama 1533-1642: A Catalogue (Oxford)* – note that these are incomplete.
- **text_name** – this column gives a unique filename for each play-text. These refer to the .txt files supplied in the VEP Drama Corpus download. The first part of the filename is the TCP number, with an additional disambiguating number supplied for texts drawn from collected volumes.
- **author** - first listed author (note: in cases where the play is a translation, the original author is listed here and the translator's name is in the translator column).
- **author 2** - second listed author.
- **author 3** - third listed author.
- **author 4** - fourth listed author.
- **author 5** - fifth listed author.
- **translator** - translator + name of original play, where available.
- **adaptation** - texts with entries in this column are adaptations of earlier texts. The adapter of the text is listed in the 'author' column; the title, date, and author of the original text are listed in the 'adaptation' column, where available.
- **title** - the title by which the play is commonly known– often the contemporary title.
- **alternative title** – if we know of an alternative title, we list it here. The plays within the Wiggins volumes have the most information here, including titles for printed versions, performances, contemporary titles and alternative modernisations.
- **type** - type of text. This is 'drama' for all texts. This column was added so that non-drama corpora can be merged with this metadata in the future.
- **genre** - these are the genres originally assigned earlier in the project by Jonathan Hope – either Tragedy [TR], Tragicomedy [TC], Comedy [CO], History [HI], Masque [MA], Interlude [IN], Entertainment [EN], Dialogue [DI], or Non-Dramatic [ND].
- **Wiggins genre** - Wiggins' proposed genre.
- **DEEP genre** - DEEP proposed genre.
- **Harbage genre** - Harbage proposed genre (only recorded for post-1660 plays).
- **Wiggins contemporary genre** - what Wiggins gives as the contemporary genre.

- **missing or excluded from TCP** – in the course of data curating the drama corpora we identified about 300 texts listed in our source material (DEEP, Wiggins) but not present in the TCP files. In some cases we presume this is because the texts are not in English, or are fragmentary, and in others the texts simply were not included in the TCP transcription (despite being in EEBO). Texts not in TCP are identified with ‘yes’ in this column.
- **date of writing** - all texts have been given a date of writing. DEEP doesn’t have a date of writing column but sometimes offers a date range under ‘date of first production’, so in these instances the earliest date was taken for date of writing – if Wiggins offers a fixed date for date of writing then this was taken.
- **decade** – groups the plays by decade based on date of writing.
- **date of 1st performance** - year of 1st performance, if known.
- **Harbage limits of first performance** - for plays extracted from Harbage, extra information about performance date is listed here (e.g. date, month, when the play was licensed for production, etc.).
- **date of 1st publication** - year of first publication, if known.
- **date of text used** - in cases where texts exist in multiple editions in EEBO-TCP, this identifies the edition used in this corpus. Our policy for deciding which of multiple editions to use was as follows: if a text appeared in a collected volume and as a stand-alone volume, we chose the collected version (based on the assumption that plays in collected volumes are likely to be edited/printed in a more consistent process). Where a play appeared in two stand-alone volumes (i.e. no appearances in collections), we chose the earlier volume (on the basis that some second quartos are very much later than first ones, so would give misleading dates for the plays if they were used).
- **play company 1** - first play company, if known – texts are also marked in this column as being unacted or closet dramas, if known.
- **play company 2** - additional known play companies are listed here – DEEP offers ‘company of first production’ as well as ‘company attribution’, so the former is listed under play company 1 and the latter under play company 2, where available.
- **theatre** - theatre and/or location of production, where available.
- **metre** - only if recorded in Wiggins, as DEEP doesn’t have this category: ‘yes’ means the play is not prose.
- **rhyme** - only if recorded in Wiggins, as DEEP doesn’t have this category: ‘yes’ means the play has rhyme.

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