

README for 'super science' (created 19/01/16)

This file accompanies the csv file 'super science' which aims to list information about every 'scientific' text from EEBO TCP. The corpus comprises 1978 texts, which cover the period 1482-1710, and treats the term 'science' broadly to encompass a range of categories (or genres) detailed below. 1130 of the texts were released as EEBO-TCP Phase 1 texts, ECCO-TCP texts, and Evans-TCP texts, and are, therefore, unrestricted.

This metadata was prepared by Alan Hogarth as part of the Mellon-funded Visualising English Print project at Strathclyde University, with supervision by Jonathan Hope. As part of the terms of our grant, we are happy to make this data freely available, though we ask that all use carry the above credit.

Although we have taken great care to check this data, there will inevitably be errors and information that is corrected by future research.

General

- Visualising English Print's datasets are built using the text files provided to the public by the Text Creation Partnership (TCP). The TCP's goal is to provide standardized, XML-encoded electronic text editions of early printed books. Files from the TCP were hand-keyed from digitised facsimiles.
- There were three stages in the selection process of texts for the corpus. VEP's 'Big Names of Science' corpus formed the starting point, with 329 scientific texts. Once these were selected, the existing 'terms' metadata (see below) of the TCP csv file was searched and found to be largely accurate, grouping texts according to categories (e.g. 'Astrology', 'Medicine', 'Mathematics') and specific details (e.g. 'Botany', 'Mercury'). The next step was to conduct a series of searches that revolved around 'key terms' in the metadata of the TCP file, beginning with the general (e.g. 'Alchemy', 'Physics') and proceeding to the particular (e.g. 'Paracelsus', 'Gout', 'Experiment').
- The corpus broadly classifies a variety of disciplines as 'science'. In general, the corpus includes texts that detail experimental or exploratory activities (e.g. physics, astronomy, geography, navigation); that are concerned with nature (in an abstract or concrete way); that propose methodologies (concerning science, or human nature); that are esoteric (or occult) in their approaches to questions of the natural (and spiritual) world; that are interested in mechanics and industry; that deal with the many strands of medicine. Further details are included in the 'genres' section below.
- It is likely, given the size of the TCP file and the criteria of selection, that there will be some missing texts, or texts that future scholars will argue should have been included/excluded.

Metadata

This metadata enables navigation and organisation of the corpus according to different categories (e.g. Author, Genre, Date, Network). The generation of metadata is an ongoing process and we would encourage users to edit/modify/add to the data in the course of their research.

- **tcp** (TCPid number – this refers to the unique identifier that links the transcription to a specific text from either EEBO, ECCO, or Evans)

- **estc** (estc number – a unique identifier that links the text in EEBO, ECCO, and Evans to the corresponding printed book)
- **Author** (as attributed in the TCP file)
- **Author 2**
- **Author 3**
- **Author 4**
- **Translator**
- **Date** (of publication as provided in the TCP file)
- **Title** (the full title as originally printed)
- **Terms** (a list of key words in the TCP file which identify the subject matter of the texts – but which should be checked against the texts for accuracy)
- **Pages**
- **Genre**
- **Subgenre**
- **Network** (see below)
- **Form** (e.g. Dialogue, Treatise, Letter, Almanac)

Genre/Subgenre

Many branches of Early Modern science intersect. The categories assigned to each text attempt to overcome this difficulty by using both Genres (general) and Subgenres (specific). Certain groups are easier to identify as belonging to a single genre, for example, Astrology. Others, such as Medicine, have many variations. In allocating subgenres to medical texts, the categories used by the Early Modern English Medical Text corpus (EMEMT), compiled by scholars at the University of Helsinki, provided a useful model (<http://www.helsinki.fi/varieng/CoRD/corpora/CEEM/EMEMTindex.html>).

- **Alchemy**
- **Astrology**
- **Astronomy**
 - Instruments
- **Anatomical/Surgical**
- **Geography**
 - Instruments
- **Mathematics**
 - Instruments
 - Arithmetic
 - Geometry
 - Practical (i.e. used in Industry or Artisanal context)
- **Med-General Treatise**
- **Med-Specific Treatise**
 - Plague
 - Treatments
 - Substances (i.e. Antimony, Tobacco)
 - Chemistry
 - Disease
 - Hydrotherapy

- Physiology
- Psychology
- Women/Children
- Animals
- Polemic
- **Med-Health Guides**
- **Med-Materia Medica/Recipes**
- **Natural History**
 - Biology (i.e. animals, insects)
 - Chemistry
 - Earth Sciences (i.e. Botany, Metallurgy, Geological phenomena)
 - Instruments
- **Navigation**
- **Philosophy of Science**
- **Physics**
 - Instruments
- **Science-Religion**
- **Techne** (grouping industry/military/invention/technology)
 - Instruments

Network

This category refers to the intellectual affiliations of a particular set of authors and/or the Networks with which they engaged in correspondence/debate/polemic. At the moment, not all texts in the corpus have been assigned a category, and new categories may be needed. Work on this metadata is ongoing and is open to suggestions/critique.

- **Royal Society** – This large group comprises members of the Royal Society and those at the fringes of the society (e.g. correspondents with members, individuals who were sympathetic to the aims and methods of the society).
- **Royal College of Physicians** – Members of the officially sanctioned College of Physicians. Post-1600, some members are also members of the Royal Society. In such instances the subject matter of the text dictates affiliation.
- **Society of Apothecaries** – Members of the Society, or practitioners who come into conflict with the Royal College.
- **Occultism** – A large group including Alchemical, Astrological and Paracelsian texts, as well as occult medical texts and treatises on the supernatural.
- **Mechanical Philosophy** – A group including the work of Descartes, Hobbes and those who engage in dialogue (positive and negative) with these authors, or expound the principles of their work. Also, texts on Atomism (Lucretius, Gassendi) are included.
- **Baconian** – mostly comprising Bacon's own works, but also including self-confessed Baconians, i.e. those who adhere to his ideas of induction and methods of classification.
- **Aristotelian Tradition** – includes authors of logic and rhetorical texts, but also scientific writing that either rejects 'new' learning in favour of traditional Aristotelian systems of knowledge, or that incorporates certain new notions, whilst professing the superiority of the Aristotelian framework. Note: most scientific (and other forms of) knowledge in this period grew out of the Aristotelian Tradition.

- **Platonism** – includes texts by Plato, neo-platonic writing (Ancient/Medieval/Renaissance) and writings of the Cambridge Platonists. Also contains mathematical works, ultimately derived from Platonic geometry.
- **Empiricism** – the writings of John Locke (human and political nature) and those who refer to his work in print.

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