Acta Sanctorum

What is Acta Sanctorum?

The Acta Sanctorum database is an electronic version of the complete printed text of Acta Sanctorum. It brings together materials on the lives of the saints from the beginning of the Christian era to the end of the sixteenth century, in critical editions with commentaries on the source documents. The material is organised according to each saint's feast day. The texts are extremely useful for the study of ecclesiastical history and provide an insight into the cultural history of the period.

It is possible to search **Patrologia Latina** at the same time as Acta Sanctorum. Patrologia Latina contains the works of the Church Fathers from Tertullian in 200 AD to the death of Pope Innocent III in 1216. Its coverage includes major and minor Latin authors and contains the most influential works of late ancient and early medieval theology, philosophy, history, and literature.
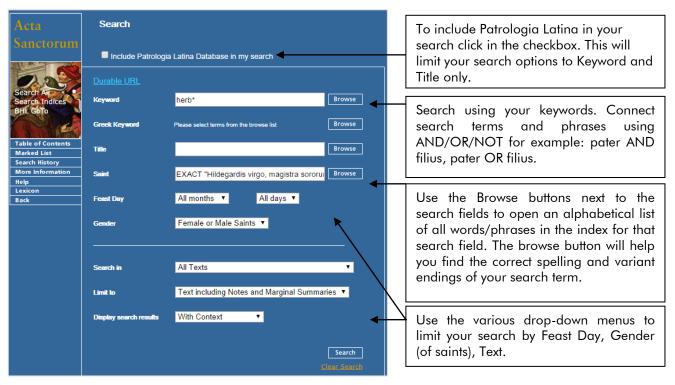
Accessing Acta Sanctorum

Acta Sanctorum is accessed via the **E-resources Guide**.

1. To open the E-resources Guide, go to: http://subjectguides.york.ac.uk/e-resources
2. When the E-resources guide has opened select the **A** tab from the A-Z list at the top of the screen. An alphabetical list of resources is then displayed.
3. Click on **Acta Sanctorum**. You may be asked to log in with your IT Services username and password. The resource will now open in a new window.
4. Click on **Search** on the homepage. A new window will open, displaying the Acta Sanctorum search screen.

Searching Acta Sanctorum

The default search screen displays the **Search All** option. This allows you to combine different fields to make your search more specific.

To include Patrologia Latina in your search click in the checkbox. This will limit your search options to Keyword and Title only.

Search using your keywords. Connect search terms and phrases using AND/OR/NOT for example: pater AND filius, pater OR filius.

Use the Browse buttons next to the search fields to open an alphabetical list of all words/phrases in the index for that search field. The browse button will help you find the correct spelling and variant endings of your search term.

Use the various drop-down menus to limit your search by Feast Day, Gender (of saints), Text.

Viewing your search results

Your results will display as an abbreviated list.

Search Results with Context

Your search on Saint: EXACT "Hildegardis virgo, magistra sororum Ord. S. Benedicti in Monte S. Ruperti juxta Bingium in diœcesi Moguntina (S.)", Keyword: herb* found 10 hits (2 entries).

New Search | Refine Search

☐ 1.Sep. V, Dies 17, S. Hildegardis virgo, magistra sororum Ord. S. Benedicti in Monte S. Ruperti juxta Bingium in dioecesi Moguntina,

Commentarius Praevius *402Kb*
Found 8 hit:

§ V. Ad Sanctam scribunt Anastasius IV & Adrianus IV, Romani Pontifices, Fredericus imperator, episcopi, abbates, aliique multi, quibus respondet. *25Kb*

...quare non abscindis radicem mali, quæ suffocat bonas & utiles herbas, dulcem gustum & suavem odorem habentes? Filiam Regis, scilicet justitiam,...

§ VI. Sancta a multis personis consulta de occultis & arcanis, quæ sine revelatione divina scire non poterat. *44Kb*

> Keyword searches will display the point in the text where your word or phrase appears allowing you to navigate directly to that point.

> Click on the hyperlink to open the full text.

If you include Patrologia Latina in your search, the results found in the database will be displayed in a separate tab. You can switch between viewing the results in both databases. When you open the full text of a record in Patrologia Latina you will be transferred to the Patrologia Latina database.

Printing and e-mailing your results

1. From the list of search results, click in the checkbox next to each reference you want to keep.
2. To display your selected references, click on **Marked List** in the menu to the left of the screen.
3. To print the list of references or the full text, use the print option in your web browser.
4. To e-mail the list of references, click on **E-mail records**. You have the option to add notes about each reference before sending the list. This can be a useful way of recording details about your search as the subject of your search might not be clear from the title information given.

Search tips

AND combines search terms so that each search result contains all of the terms. For example, pater and filius finds results that contain **both** terms.

OR combines search terms so that each search result contains at least one of the terms. For example pater or filius finds results that contain **either** term.

Wildcard (?) use a question mark to replace zero or one letter anywhere in a word, for example loc?s finds results that contain **either** locus or locvs.

Truncation (*) use an asterisk to truncate (shorten) a word and find all the words made by adding letters to the end of it. For example, serpen* finds results that contain the terms serpens **or** serpentis **or** serpentaneus etc.

Further help

The online help sections in Acta Sanctorum provide detailed search tips and further information about the databases.