Welcome to SEAL, the "Sources of Early Akkadian Literature" database.

➢ Overview

After clicking on The Corpus button of the homepage the user enters the main working screen of SEAL.

This screen is divided into three main sections (see Fig. 1):

On the left-hand side the texts are arranged in different categories (see below).

At the top different search options can be performed (see below).

In the central section lists of texts are displayed.

Fig. 1: the main working screen of SEAL.
**Texts Hierarchy**

**Text Hierarchy** on the left-hand side of the database classifies the main genres of Akkadian literature. Clicking on any genre will lead the user - through a hierarchical order - to the texts in this genre (see Fig. 2). The hierarchical tree is searchable.

![Fig. 2: the Text Hierarchy screen.](image)

**Bibliography**

In **Bibliography**, on the left-hand side of the main page, the user will find all the complete list of bibliographical references pertaining to SEAL.

Short references (e.g. Moran 1987) can be found there *in extenso* (W. L. Moran 1987: Some Considerations of Form and Interpretation in Atra-Ḫasīs, in: Fs. E. Reiner, 245–255).

The list is searchable and can be printed. It is updated regularly.
Indicates

In **Indices**, on the left-hand side of the main page, the user will find the indices of lemmas gathered from the texts in the corpus: a general index for the entire corpus, and separate indices for each genre.

Upon entering a specific index the user will find three columns: **Word** (Akkadian), **Translation** (English - based mainly on the definitions of the Concise Dictionary of Akkadian), and **Items**. By clicking on the references gathered in the column Items the user is linked directly to the specific text in which the lemma is found.

The indices can be sorted according to any of the three columns by clicking on the header of a column (see Fig. 4).

The indices are searchable, and the user can also go directly to a certain page by inserting a specific page number in the small box at the bottom of the page.

The indices are not complete but are constantly being updated.
Texts in Corpus

In Texts in Corpus, on the left-hand side of the main page, the user will reach the list of existing texts in SEAL (see Fig. 5). By default, the texts are seen in the list view, arranged alphabetically by their file name. By changing the View as option at the bottom of the page, the texts can be seen as "Brief" as "Thumbnails", thus presenting smaller or larger images of the tablet's copy or photo.
Texts acc. to Provenances

In Texts acc. to Provenance, on the left-hand side of the main page, the user will find a list of the main sites in which literary texts are known to be found (see Fig. 6). Clicking on a specific site will yield a list of texts whose provenance is this particular location.

![SEAL](image)

Fig. 6: the Texts acc. to Provenance screen.
**Texts acc. to Collection**

In **Texts acc. to Collection**, on the left-hand side of the main page, the user will find a list of the main museums which house a collection of cuneiform tablets (see Fig. 7). Clicking on a specific museum will yield a list of texts which are housed in that museum.

![Museums and Collections](image)

**My Collection:**

By clicking on the small folder icon (:hidden) next to a file name, a text or number of texts can be added to - or removed from - a group of texts called **My Collection**. In this way the user can create a private group of texts which are of special interest for his or her work (see Fig. 8).

This private group of texts can be reached by clicking on the **My Collection** button (marked with the shopping cart icon :shopping_cart:), found in the upper right corner of every working page in SEAL.

(NB: The **My Collection** group of texts is kept as long as the user is logged into SEAL. Leaving the database will automatically empty the user's **My Collection** group of texts.)
Text Record

Record Fields

Every text is defined according to the following fields:

- *File Name*
- *Text Hierarchy*
- *Copy / Photo*
- *Tablet Siglum*
- *Collection*
- *Edition*
- *Studies*
- *Genre / Classification*
- *Provenance*
- *External Links*
- *Text*
- *Translation*
- *Commentary*
- *Indexed Nouns*
- *Revision History*

Each of these fields is searchable (see Search Options below).

In a field which contains bibliographical data (like *Studies*, or *Edition*) the short bibliographical reference can be expanded to show the full reference by clicking on it (see Fig. 9):

Fig. 9: Full bibliographical reference from the shortened one.
Images

Texts in SEAL are often accompanied by a copy or photograph, subject to legal restrictions. By clicking on an image the user can enlarge or zoom into it.

Every record (or a group of records) can be printed in its entirety, or only by selected fields. Images can also be printed (see Fig. 10).

Fig. 10: Printing a record or an image.

➢ Search Options

One of the main benefits of SEAL is its search engine. Searches can be applied to any of the fields in each file:

Two ways of searching exist: Search and Advanced Search, both are found at the top of any screen in SEAL (see Fig. 11).
**Search:**

For a simple search the user should click on the red **Search** button at the top of the page and choose between searching only in file names (e.g. "YOS 11, 87"), or performing a general search in the entire database (e.g. "water", "dog", "Lambert", or "British Museum").

(NB: In general searches it is recommended to use the "contain" option rather than the "exact" option).

The results of the search are presented as a list of files which contain the requested search criterion.

**Advanced Search:**

The Advanced Search option, under the red button at the top of the page, allows the user to perform complicated Boolean searches. By clicking on **Advanced Search**, the user accesses a group of fields where he or she can enter any available search criteria (see Fig. 12).
Once the user selects a field (say, Provenance) he or she should choose the requested value from a scroll-down menu which opens by clicking on the small magnifying glass icon (🔍). Some fields, like File Name, do not lead to a fixed list, and the search request can be written freely by the user.

A number of factors can be combined in a single search. So, e.g. the search File Name contains "YOS 11" and Provenance from list is "Larsa" would yield the result "YOS 11, 24".

(NB: It is possible to choose between different search functions: "exact", "contains", "start with", "end with", or "is null". In most cases it is recommended to use the function "contains").

When looking for a specific lemma, another option can be used: Advanced Search "By Words" (see Fig. 13).
Fig. 13: Advanced search By Words.

In this search option the user should specify the field in which he or she wants the search criterion to be found and then freely enter the requested lemma. So, e.g. a search for Studies which contain(s) "1998", or "Mayer" will yield a list of files with contain studies published in the year 1998, or whose author is Mayer. Further, one can also search for Translation contains "rain" and get all the files that contain the word "rain" in their translation.

(NB: Searches for Akkadian strings, e.g. "ma-ru-um" are also possible, but for the time being are less accurate. Akkadian words should therefore be searched according to their transliteration via the field Indexed Nouns (e.g. Indexed Nouns contain(s) "mārum", or "marum").
Citation

We suggest citing the texts in SEAL by referring to their unique number in the database Text Hierarchy, e.g. 4.1.2.1 = MIO 12 (see Fig. 14).

Fig. 14: Text Hierarchy number for citation.