

Readme File for eVK2

This electronic research tool (eVK2) is an revised and expanded version of Scientific and Medical Writings in Old and Middle English:An Electronic Reference, a CD published by the University of Michigan Press, 2000 (eVK).

eVK2 is a companion database to eTK (electronic Thorndike Kibre) and shares most field codes and record format with that database. Two support files for names and subjects are also shared with eTK. In eVK2 each record in the main database represents the appearance of a text or prologue in a specific medieval manuscript. The records are in manuscript order by collection. The order of eVK2 records differs from that in eTK which derives from a book; the records in eTK are in alphabetical incipit order rather than manuscript order.

In each record, the fields are identified by ."code" as below. The incipit (.i); language field (.e); city (.m); library, collection and shelfmark (.ml); foliation or pagination (.mf); VK designation (.vk); and record number (.n) are required fields. The record number (.n) is also a unique record identifier. A discussion of the contents of each field follows the listing of the fields in typical record format. Field order is variable.

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.i      incipit (with MS date, if not fifteenth century)
        REQUIRED FIELD
.ix1    cross reference
.e      language
        REQUIRED FIELD
.sp     incipit for prologue
.st     incipit for text
.a      author
.aa     attributed author
.ra     translator
.te     title
.tl     alternate title
.m      city where manuscript is held
        REQUIRED FIELD
.ml     library, collection, and shelfmark
        REQUIRED FIELD
.mf     folios or pages (with date of MS, if not fifteenth century)
        REQUIRED FIELD
.j1     subject descriptor
.b1     bibliographical information
.k      Thorndike Kibre column number and entry letter
.vk     Voigts Kurtz number
        REQUIRED FIELD
.n      database record number
        REQUIRED FIELD and UNIQUE IDENTIFIER
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Explanation of Fields

.i incipit (with date of MS, if not fifteenth century)
This field provides the opening words of the text, followed by MS date, if not fifteenth century, in parentheses. No punctuation and only minimal capitalization are used. The incipit is not a unique identifier, because it will be repeated in subsequent records for additional information. Medial word searches are recommended when searching for incipits. Every record will contain this required field.

.ix1 cross reference
There can be up to five numbered .ix fields in any record (.ix1, .ix2, etc.). Each .ix field sends the user to a similar or related incipit. A cross reference can also send the user to a record where a different incipit begins the text. In addition, when extra .sp and .st references are needed, they may be incorporated in numbered .ix fields.

.e language
OE designates Old English and ME Middle English.

Every record will contain this required field.

.sp incipit for prologue
If a text has a separate prologue record, this field provides initial words for that prologue, which will be found in an independent record with a different .vk number. Prologues and texts at times circulated independently.

.st incipit for text
If a prologue has a separate text record, this field provides the incipit for that text, which will be found in an independent record. Prologues and texts at times circulated independently.

.a author
A single form of the author name is cited in this field. In most cases, many variants of a given author name exist, and we provide a range of variants for searching purposes in the namelist file (tkvk-namelist). This field is not required, as many texts are anonymous, or the author has not been identified. Note that tkvk-namelist is a file that can be accessed under "Database to Search."

.aa attributed author
This field is used where the validity of an author designation is in question or disputed.

.ra translator
The translator of a work not originally written in English is identified in this field. Many OE and ME texts are translations from Latin or French.

.te title
This field supplies titles which are found in manuscripts or which have otherwise been associated with the text.

Medial word searches are recommended when searching for titles.

If a prologue record sends the user to a text incipit (.st) containing title information, the title field in the prologue record simply reads "Prol."

Variant titles may also be supplied in an alternate title field (.tl) in a subsequent record or in a bibliographic field (.b).

.tl alternate title
This field allows for another title for the text in an additional record. Other titles may be recorded in bibliographic fields (.b).

.m city where manuscript is held
English spelling is used for city names. Every record will contain this required field.

.ml library, collection, and shelfmark
This field provides library name, collection information (where known) and shelfmark or call number of the manuscript. Every record will contain this required field.

.mf folios or pages (with date of MS, if not fifteenth century)
This field provides inclusive foliation or pagination, where that information is available. Square brackets indicate that the folio numbers are not found in the manuscript. Every record will contain this required field.

This field can also contain information designating number of recipes, flyleaf texts, marginal texts, excerpts, and indication that the text is incomplete.

.j1 subject descriptor
There can be up to five numbered subject fields (.j1, .j2, etc.) in a record. In the case of more than five subjects, the

record is repeated, varying only in the subject fields. We have supplied subject descriptors from a controlled vocabulary, which we provide in a separate file (tkvk-subjectlist). This controlled vocabulary also includes such descriptors as "Verse" or "Illustration," which are not, strictly speaking, subjects.

.b1 bibliographical information
There can be as many as five bibliographic fields (.b1, .b2, etc.) in one record. In the case where information additional to five fields is provided, the record is repeated, varying only in bibliographic fields. Most bibliographical citations in this field are abbreviated; expanded citations can be found in a separate file (eVK2-bibliography).

The .b field is also used as a "notes" field to supply additional information.

.k Thorndike Kibre column number and entry letter
This field contains the column number and letter designation used in eTK.

.vk Voigts Kurtz number
This field contains an essential number that has been used to identify texts in publications since the appearance of the VK CD in 2000. It **MUST** appear in the results of every search. Original VK numbers end in .00. Records subsequent to the 2000 CD end in such extensions as .30, .40, etc. Every record will contain this required field.

.n database record number
This number is the only unique identifier for a record in eVK2. Every record will contain this required field.

OTHER ASPECTS OF eVK2 MAY AFFECT SEARCHING.

****For extensive searching, users may find it helpful to print the readme files for eTK and eVK2 and tkvk-subjectlist.**

**** Do not supply punctuation when searching. When words or names are truncated, a period is not needed.**

****Searches that employ medial words and word groups will produce the most reliable results.**

****When a record contains five fields of subject descriptors or five fields of bibliographical information, it is important to look at all records with identical initial fields for additional information.**

****Personal names present particular challenges in searching. Personal names in the namelist file (tkvk-namelist) include authors and translators but not persons to whom texts are dedicated. The headwords in this list should not be taken as authoritative. Headwords and variants are taken from manuscripts, TK, Library of Congress Author Authority list, and Personennamendatei (PND). It is important to check the namelist file for variant forms. Searching should employ both last name-first name and first name-last name order.**