## The Potential of the Historical Thesaurus of English

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## Historical Thesaurus of English

- Oxford English Dictionary (OED, second edition)
- Dictionaries of Old English
- 650,000 meanings in 26 major semantic fields.

http://www.arts.gla.ac.uk/sesll/englang/thesaur/homepage.htm

## **State of Play**

- MS Access database
- Apache HTTP
- MySQL
- PHP (Hypertext Preprocessor)
- Thesaurus of Old English: TOE-online
- http://libra.englang.arts.gla.ac.uk/oethesaurus/
- http://www.oenewsletter.org/OEN/reports.php

#### **Basic searches**

http://leo.englang.arts.gla.ac.uk/historicalthesaurus/

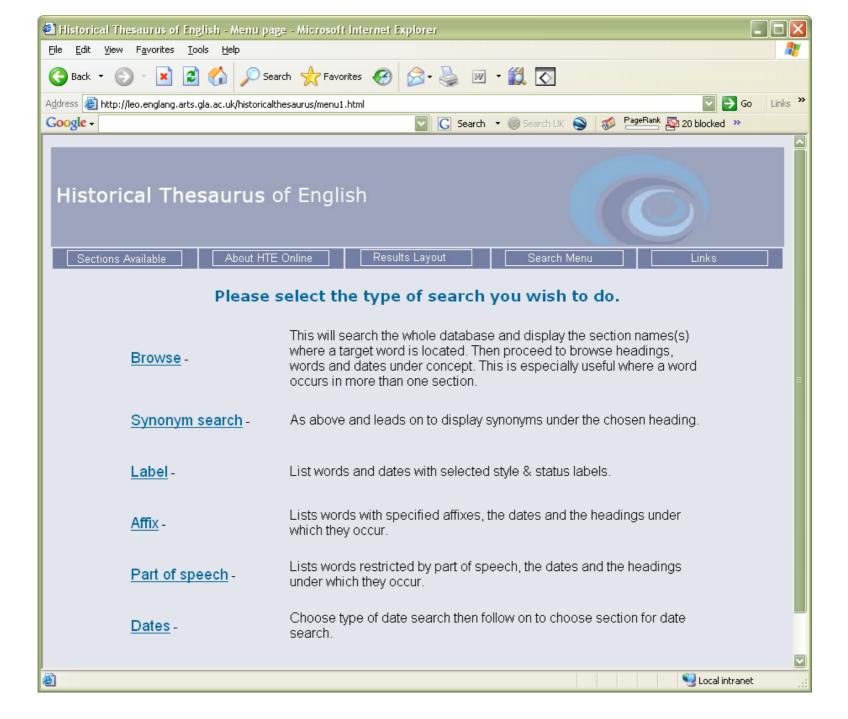
Synonyms in category 03.01.01.03.03. ./ 02. . . . - n - (.grandfather)

Main heading	Word					
Grandparent	ealda fæder	n	OE			
Grandparent	ieldra fæder	n	OE			
Grandparent	eldfather < ealdefæder	n	OE -	1460		
Grandparent	grandsire	n	С	1290	-	1876 ai&dl
Grandparent	aiel	n		1377	-	1502
Grandparent	belsire	n		1377	- a	1631
Grandparent	grandfather	n		1424		-

# Lexical Searches for the Arts and Humanities

(AHRC-ICT Resource Development Project AR112456)

- to demonstrate how a project developed largely to meet the needs of one field (English Historical Linguistics) can have applications in other disciplines.
- to demonstrate how electronic resources can enhance, and indeed promote, research in the Arts and Humanities.



### **Currently available searches**

- Browse
- Search the whole database and display the section names(s) where a target word is located. Then proceed to browse headings, words and dates under concept.
- Synonym search
  As above and leads on to display synonyms under the chosen heading.
- List words and dates with selected style & status labels.
- Lists words with specified affixes, the dates and the headings under which they occur.
- Part of speech Lists words restricted by part of speech, the dates and the headings under which they occur.
- Choose type of date search then follow on to choose section for date search.

### Computational potential

- Detailed and logical taxonomy
  - Clothing ⇔ A hat with a bobble
  - Clothing: 8751 lexical entries; 2212 headings
- Text mining using contemporary words
- Probability-based methods disambiguating polysemous word forms
  - Was gout discussed in this 16th century medical text? Are there other books on the subject?

#### Synonyms in category 01.02.01.01.04.17.06/ 05. . . . - n - (.gout)

#### Main heading Word

Disorders of joints	fotadl	n	OE	
Disorders of joints	fotcoþu	n	OE	
Disorders of joints	fotwærc	n	OE	
Disorders of joints	liþa	n	OE	
Disorders of joints	drop < dropa	n	OE +	1559 (2)
Disorders of joints	podagre	n	С	1290 - 1578
Disorders of joints	gout	n	С	1290
Disorders of joints	podagra	n		1398
Disorders of joints	arthritic n		1486	
Disorders of joints	arthritis n		1544	
Disorders of joints	joint-sickness	n	1545	+ 1684
Disorders of joints	leaping gout	n	1562	
Disorders of joints	goutiness	n	1632	+ 1820
Disorders of joints	wind-gout	n	1662	

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