TUTORIAL: ZENON & DYABOLA DATABASES

ZENON and DYABOLA Bibliographies are based on a SYSTEMATIK of subjects and keywords in a hierarchical tree structure. They allow the researcher to locate published material using a number of search modes (see below). Among these, the most important is the SYSTEMATIK search. This allows the user to perform directed and focused, selective, specified and non-random bibliographic searches, discerning between categories and their sub-categories and the sub-categories of the latter,

(e.g.: Vessels
terracotta vessels
black figure
Attic)

Content

The ZENON and the DYABOLA bibliographic databases contain monographs – including dissertations –, articles in periodicals and contributions in collected works, such as Festschriften, conference proceedings, museum and exhibition catalogues, and collected works of single authors. It also contains review articles, which are linked to the reviewed book title.

ZENON and DYABOLA both cover the archaeology and history of the ancient cultures of the Mediterranean from prehistory through the early Byzantine period (i.e., 800 CE) and are supplemented by the archaeology and history of the Etruscan, Italic and Sicilian cultures as well as the Minoan-Mycenaean culture. Peripheral cultures, such as the Celtic, the Macedonian, the Punic and the Sassanian civilizations, etc., are also covered.

Some of the main categories covered are topography, history of art, architecture, sculpture, painting, mosaics, utensils, iconographic themes, antiquaria; also numismatics, epigraphy, law and administration, ancient religions, and ancient history. Each of these categories are in turn divided into sub-categories.

Other categories include conferences, institutions, museums and exhibitions, personalia (such as biographies, obituaries, etc.), and bibliographic indexes.

Attached to each bibliographic entry, you will find the multiple-unit classification descriptors.

Search modes

(1) index search (e.g. author, title, journal title, series title, publisher, etc.). After searching for a periodical or a (miscellaneous) book, you can browse its table of contents.
> if you are looking for a certain article, and do not remember the date and place of publication, enter this title in "index search, title".
> if you are interested in the complete bibliography of one particular scholar, enter, e.g., "Wallace Hadrill" in "index search, author" and you will get his bibliography, monographs, conference papers, articles, and review articles.

(2) SYSTEMATIK: although there are many search possibilities in this modus, it is very efficient. As a first step, it's recommended to browse the SYSTEMATIK tree to become familiar with its categories

and sub-categories.
Some examples:

Example 1: you need a certain conference paper, presented on the occasion of a conference held in Madrid in 1998, but don't remember either the scholar's name or the exact title of the paper itself or of the conference proceeding:

Select:
Practice and Institutions > conferences and meetings > M > Madrid 1998.

Example 2: you remember that there was an exhibition on Roman wall paintings in London in 2002, and you need the catalogue:

Select:
Museums and Collections > Exhibitions > L > London 2002.

Example 3: you are writing an article on the corinthian capitals found on the Forum of Augustus in Rome:

Select:
Architecture > Architectural members and components capitals > Topography > Rome, Athens, Istanbul > Rome > Fora > Imperial Fora > and combine the two results.

Example 4: you are writing a book on the deity Artemis in all her aspects.

Select:
Religion > Gods & Myths > Named Gods & Myths > Artemis > Iconographic Themes > Gods and Mythology > Named Gods & Myths > Artemis > Plastic Art & Sculpture > Freestanding sculpture > Statues & Statuettes > Gods & Mythological Figures > Artemis > Religion > Myths and Cults of Single Countries and Places > A-G > Ephesos – or any other place where you know that Artemis was revered in a particular way.

Example 5: you are writing a book on circuses in Rome, and want to compare them with Roman circuses in general.

Select:
Topography > Rome, Athens, Istanbul > Rome > circus-buildings > Architecture > History of Art > Types of Monuments > Circuses > Architecture > Buildings > Circus buildings > Antiquaria > Shows and Performances

(3) keyword search
you can also perform a keyword search, using Boolean operators (and, or, not).

(4) you may refine your results:
a. by combining them: e.g., searching for all publications of Coarelli, and combining them with
Topography à Rome, Athens, Istanbul à Rome
result: you will obtain all the publications of Coarelli dealing with Rome.

b. by combining them by exclusion: you can combine your results of Coarelli and Rome as to obtain everything this scholar has written EXCEPT for Rome as subject.
c. by limiting them, e.g., within a time frame: and search for all the publications of Coarelli and limit them to the years 2000-2009

It is possible to export results from both ZENON and DYABOLA. See

- www.dainst.org
- www.dyabola.de

If you want to know more about these bibliographic databases, or are not familiar with them, ask for help.