Using the Chicago Homer to Perform Detailed Searches

One of the tools available online to help in carrying out word studies is the Chicago Homer. This document provides worked examples of how to carry out detailed searches. It is possible to conduct very specific searches with different combinations of search criteria. These examples provide simple illustrations of how searches could be refined, but are by no means comprehensive.

What is the Chicago Homer?

The site describes itself as "a multilingual database that uses the search and display capabilities of electronic texts to make the distinctive features of Early Greek epic accessible to readers with and without Greek."

Texts available are:

- *Iliad*
- *Odyssey*
- *Theogony*
- *Works & Days*
- *Shield of Herakles*
- *Homeric Hymns*

If you do not know any Greek, or very little, you might find the line-by-line translations useful. Please note, however, that these translations are under copyright so these notes will cite only very short passages.

Types of Investigation

Amongst other things, you can use Chicago Homer to:

- Browse for particular passages in a given text: (see pt 1)
- Compare and investigate Greek terms (see pt 2)
- Search for phrases: (see pt 3)
- Carry out searches for related words (see pt 4):
- Perform detailed searches (this guide)

Please see the other guides in this series for more details. There is also a video demonstration on Hour 25: http://hour25.heroesx.chs.harvard.edu/?p=9128

Detailed Searches: Summary of Steps

In the Chicago Homer:

1. Select **Search**
2. Select the combination of options
3. Click **Search**
4. Refine your search
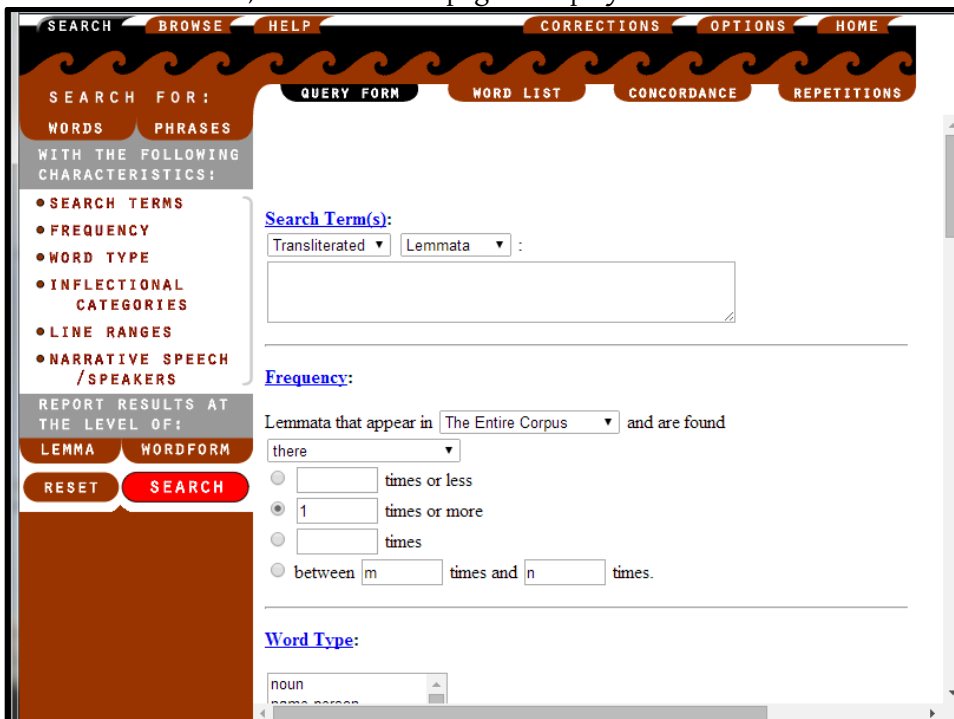5. Reset the search options

Detailed Searches: Worked Example 1–Heroes and Gods

In this example, we will search for names of heroes and gods, starting with male names, followed by female names.

If you do not already have the Chicago Homer open, follow this link, then click ENTER:

http://digital.library.northwestern.edu/homer/

1. Select the **Search** menu tab at the top if it is not already selected. The background of **Search** is black when selected, and the Search page is displayed:

2. Scroll down a little until you can see the **Word Type** menu list, then select **name-person**.

3. Scroll down further until you can see the **Inflectional Categories** menu options, and for **Case** select **nom** (nominative), and for **Gender** select **masc**.

4. At the left-hand side of the window, click the **Search** button:

The results of your search are displayed, with the male names shown in their nominative form.

5. Notice that the list is ranked in order of frequency.

6. Click on the sixth name in the list, Ἀχιλλεύς (Achilles).

    The Concordance view displays a list of lines where the name appears.

    Notice that it shows different forms of the name, not just the nominative.

7. Select the **Query Form** tab at the top to return to your search pattern.

    When the Query form is redisplayed, notice that your previous search options are still selected.

    This is useful if you want to refine your search.

8. Now we want to narrow down the search to find only the nominative form of the name, where the hero or god is the subject of the sentence. At the left-hand side, select the **Word Form** option, then click **Search**.

9. This time, the list of results is displayed in the Unicode transliterated form, and it has split out the nominative form(s) of the names:

10. Look at the fifth name down, which is shown as

    *(/ektwr name (450)
        1) ***(/ektwr** (202)

    This form represents a capital letter, a rough breathing ("h"), and an acute accent associated with the first letter of his name, "E", and the "w" represents the omega character, to form a transliteration of the Greek name Ἕκτωρ). It tells us that the name occurs 450 times altogether, of which 202 are in the nominative case.

11. To see where these occurrences appear in the text, click on the link ***(/ektwr** next to the (202). The Concordance view displays a list of lines where the name appears in the nominative.

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QUERY FORM · WORD LIST · CONCORDANCE · REPETITIONS · PREVIOUS · NEXT

Search Constraints
Search Term: Ἕκτωρ

Displaying 1 to 25 of 202 matches.

IL.2.807 ὡς ἔφαθ', Ἕκτωρ δ' οὔ τι θεᾶς ἔπος ἠγνοίησεν,
IL.2.807 She spoke, nor did Hektor fail to mark the word of the goddess.

IL.2.816 Τρωσὶ μὲν ἡγεμόνευε μέγας κορυθαίολος Ἕκτωρ
IL.2.816 Tall Hektor of the shining helm was leader of the Trojans,

IL.3.38 τὸν δ' Ἕκτωρ νείκεσσεν ἰδὼν αἰσχροῖς ἐπέεσσιν:
IL.3.38 But Hektor saw him and in words of shame rebuked him:

IL.3.76 ὡς ἔφαθ', Ἕκτωρ δ' αὖτ' ἐχάρη μέγα μῦθον ἀκούσας,
IL.3.76 So he spoke, and Hektor hearing his word was happy

IL.3.83 στεῦται γάρ τι ἔπος ἐρέειν κορυθαίολος Ἕκτωρ.
IL.3.83 Hektor of the shining helm is trying to tell us something.'

IL.3.85 ἐσσυμένως: Ἕκτωρ δὲ μετ' ἀμφοτέροισιν ἔειπε:
IL.3.85 silent; but Hektor between them spoke now to both sides:

12. To view any of these in context, click the link on the work/line number. In this example we will look at the first of these (*Iliad* II 807).

SEARCH · BROWSE · HELP · CORRECTIONS · OPTIONS · HOME

THE ILIAD · THE ODYSSEY · THEOGONY · WORKS AND DAYS · SHIELD OF HERAKLES · HOMERIC HYMNS

THE ILIAD   BOOK: 2   LINE: 807   RETRIEVE   PREVIOUS · NEXT

IL.2.804 [1]ἄλλη δ' ἄλλων γλῶσσα1] [2]πολυσπερέων ἀνθρώπων:2]
IL.2.804 but multitudinous is the speech of the scattered nations:

IL.2.805 τοῖσιν [3]ἕκαστος ἀνὴρ3] σημαινέτω οἷσί περ ἄρχει,
IL.2.805 let each man who is their leader give orders to these men,

IL.2.806 τῶν δ' ἐξηγείσθω κοσμησάμενος πολιήτας.
IL.2.806 and let each set his citizens in order, and lead them.'

IL.2.807 [4[5ὡς [6ἔφαθ', [7Ἕκτωρ6] δ'5] οὔ τι4]7] [8θεᾶς ἔπος8] ἠγνοίησεν,
IL.2.807 She spoke, nor did Hektor fail to mark the word of the goddess.

IL.2.808 αἶψα δ' ἔλυσ' ἀγορήν: ἐπὶ τεύχεα δ' ἐσσεύοντο:
IL.2.808 Instantly he broke up the assembly; they ran to their weapons.

IL.2.809 [9πᾶσαι [10δ' ὠίγνυντο πύλαι,10] ἐκ δ' ἔσσυτο λαὸς
IL.2.809 All the gates were opened and the people swept through them

IL.2.810 [11πεζοί θ' ἱππῆές τε: [12[13πολὺς δ' [14ὀρυμαγδὸς13] ὀρώρει.9]11]12]14]
IL.2.810 on foot, and with horses, and a clamour of shouting rose up.

13. To return to the results of that name search in the Concordance, select the **Search** tab at the top. From here, you can investigate another occurrence of Hector, if you wish.

14. To return to the list of your word search results, i.e. the list of names, select the **Word List** tab at the top. From here, you can investigate another name, if you wish.
15. To return to your search options, select the **Query Form** tab at the top.
16. Since your original search options are still displayed, it is easy to find female names in the nominative. Find the **Inflectional Categories**, and instead of **masc**, select **fem:**

17. Everything else is already set, so you simply click **Search**, and the list of female names is displayed, with the occurrences in the nominative form split out:

18. Click **Query Form** to return to your search options.
19. If you have finished with the name search, select **Reset**

Detailed Searches: Worked Example 2–Verb Forms

In this example, we will investigate where verbs are used in speech, where people are talking about their own actions in the present tense.

1. Click the **Query Form** tab if the search options are not already displayed.
2. Select **Reset** to ensure there are no previous search options selected, otherwise they will be included in the search pattern.
3. In the **Search Terms** section, select **Word forms**

4. Under **Word Type**, select **verb**
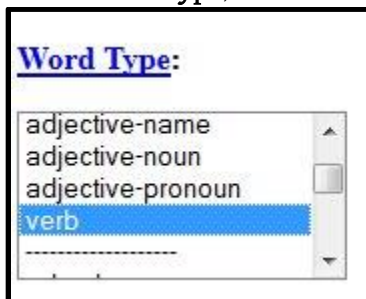
5. Under **Inflectional Categories**, for **Tense** select **pres**, for **Voice** select **act**, for **Person** select **1st** and for **Number** select **sing**.
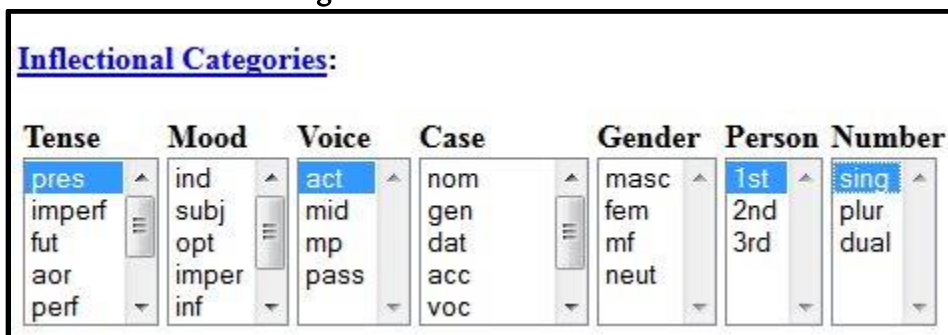
6. Scroll down to the **Search criteria relating to speech and narrative** options. For **Within Speech or Narrative** select **Speech**, for **Mortality** select **Mortal**, and for **Gender** select **Female**.

7. Make sure **Wordform** is selected at the left-hand side, then click **Search**.

The Word List screen displays a transliterated list of verbs with the present, active, first person singular form, split out from the lemma form (which represents all occurrences of these verbs).

	Number of Word Forms	Lemma (Count) Word Form (Count)
1	2	ei)mi/ verb (2445) 1) ei)mi/ (54) 2) ei)m' (7)
2	2	e)/xw verb (1013) 1) e)/xw (9) 2) e)/xoimi (2)
3	1	fhmi/ verb (876) 1) fhmi/ (55)
4	1	ei)=mi verb (586) 1) ei)=mi (22)

8. Notice that the transliteration distinguishes the smooth breathing as a closing parenthesis after the initial vowel, an acute accent as a forward slash following the vowel, and a circumflex accent as an 'equals' sign. So the first verb in the list is shown as **ei)mi/** to represent εἰμί, 'I am', the second is shown as **e)/xw** to represent ἔχω, 'I have', the third is shown as **fhmi/** to represent φημί, and the fourth is shown as **ei)=mi** to represent εἶμι 'I go'. Notice also that there are 26 different verbs represented that meet your search criteria. To view more, you would click on the **Next** and **Previous** tab options at the top of the screen.

9. To see a Concordance view of where the verbs occur, click on the verb form. In this example we will look at the first verb on the list, so click on the full form of the verb next to the number (54).

10. Notice that there is only one example spoken by a female mortal character.

11. Select the **Query Form** tab at the top of the screen. Your previous search options are still all selected.

12. In the **Search criteria relating to speech and narrative** section, change the **Gender** to **Male**, and click **Search.**

13. In the resulting Word List, notice that there are 110 different verbs in the search results, because there are many more male speakers represented. Notice also that the number of variations of the word forms has changed, and there are now four different forms of **ei)mi/** listed. In this example, we will investigate form 3), **ei)m'**

Search Constraints	
Search Term:	εἰμ'
Speech/Narrative:	speech only

Displaying **1** to **4** of **4** matches.

IL.21.75 ἀντί τοί **εἰμ'** ἱκέταο διοτρεφὲς αἰδοίοιο:
IL.21.75 **I am** in the place, illustrious, of a suppliant who must be honoured,

IL.21.109 πατρὸς δ' **εἴμ'** ἀγαθοῖο, θεὰ δέ με γείνατο μήτηρ:
IL.21.109 and born of a great father, and the mother who bore me immortal?

IL.21.154 **εἴμ'** ἐκ Παιονίης ἐριβώλου τηλόθ' ἐούσης
IL.21.154 **I am** from Paionia far away, where the soil is generous,

OD.9.19 **εἴμ'** Ὀδυσεὺς Λαερτιάδης, ὃς πᾶσι δόλοισιν
OD.9.19 **I** am Odysseus Laertiades, who am of interest to all men

14. In this instance, we can see there are four occurrences, where the vowel at the end has been dropped because the next word starts with a vowel.

15. Return to the Word List to investigate the other variants of this form, or other verbs, if you wish.