BUDÉ:
How to search the database

1. General principles

❖ How to register with BUDÉ

The BUDÉ database was created at the Institut de Recherche et d'Histoire des Textes in Paris by a research team working on Renaissance humanism ("Section de l'humanisme"). It is designed to gather information about the transmission of texts from Antiquity to the Renaissance. This entails recording a vast amount of data concerning the humanists as well as the other historical characters they were in relation with.

You need to register in order to access the database. First click on the "Accéder à la base BUDÉ" link at the foot of the home page; the system will then suggest you should create an account ("Créez un compte maintenant") and you will be asked to choose a login and password; a visitor account will be created for you automatically and free of charge but the information given on registration may be checked by an administrator afterwards.

❖ Fields working in association with scrolling menus or pop-up windows

The names of some items – items that are considered very important and/or have several names: persons, towns, professions, *etc.* – cannot be typed directly into the search fields but must be selected from a scrolling menu or from a list; in the last case, it is necessary to click on the "Liste" link, then type three or more letters of the name in a specific pop-up window, in order to have the list appear.

❖ Multi-criteria search

The BUDÉ database makes it possible to find and sort data matching several criteria simultaneously: it is thus possible to search the base for Parisian physicians that knew Greek only, or for the Latin works of a particular author.

Obviously, if few criteria are set, the number of hits will be higher but many of them may prove irrelevant; on the contrary, if many criteria are set, there may be no hits at all.

2. How to search for a character

❖ What kind of data can you expect to find about characters?

One of the aims of the BUDÉ database is to record information about ancient characters, mainly humanists. The file corresponding to a given character will then provide biographical data concerning his/her life, career, connections, travels, as well as bibliography. It must nevertheless be kept in mind that information is currently being fed into the base and, thus, that the data that have already been registered are in no way exhaustive.

❖ How to find a character using his/her name

In order to access the file of a given character, it is necessary to fill into the "Nom du personnage" field, at the foot of the "Recherche d'un personnage" search screen, using the "Liste" link and the pop-up window. The required series of three or more letters may appear in the name or surname of the character indiscriminately.

One of the distinctive features of the BUDÉ database is the fact that it makes it possible to record any number of variant names for one and the same character, connecting all those names to a single file. A character may thus be searched for using any of his/her names without fear of missing information that might have been registered under another of his/her names. The various names are classified as vernacular or Latin names, nicknames, aliases, *etc.*

The BUDÉ database being a work in progress, it is possible that you should find a few empty or almost empty files: this means the character has been identified by the contributors to the project but not treated yet.

❖ How to find the humanists that share a common characteristic

It is also possible to search the base for all the characters that match a certain criterion, be this criterion a birthplace, an occupation, a language known, and so on. The user can then select from the list the characters he wants to know more about.

❖ Towns and place names

The BUDÉ database is a European project, involving teams based in several countries and recording data concerning all parts of Europe. The names of the various towns are thus treated exactly as those of the characters, *i.e.* it is possible to record and connect variant names: Florence = Firenze = Florentia, *etc*. When searching the base, it is thus necessary to use a "Liste" link and a three-letter based pop-up window.

❖ Activities and occupations

The current version of the database establishes a distinction between the "occupations" – activities the character earned his living from – and the other "activities". This distinction is probably bound to disappear in the near future, though.

In both cases, anyway, it is necessary to select the name of the activity from the scrolling menu; if the required name is missing, it means no character known to have practised this activity has been entered into the base yet (and there is no point searching, then).

❖ Denominations

Denominations are not taken into account if they appeared after the Renaissance period.

A word must be said about the use of "Protestant", "Lutheran" and "Calvinist". The two latter terms are used when the denomination of the character can be strictly specified, while "Protestant" is used in general, when no more information is available. If one wants to search the base for all Protestant characters, it is then necessary to launch three requests, one

for the Calvinists, one for the Lutherans, and one for those Protestants whose exact denomination is not known.

3. How to search for a work

❖ Information about texts, manuscripts and printed books

The second main objective of the BUDÉ database is to gather information about textual transmissions, manuscript or printed. A very broad request, concerning both manuscripts and printed books, and specifying an author's name only, will result in a list of all manuscripts and books registered in the base for each work of the specified author. The aim is to help reconstructing the whole of the textual transmission of any given text.

❖ The three-level description

Each file concerning a particular work has a three-level structure:
o Level 1 identifies the author and the text, in a standard and unambiguous form. It appears in green on the result screen.
o Level 3 consists of the descriptions of individual copies containing the text; these copies can be manuscript or printed books; their classmark is given, as well as codicological details. Level 3 appears in pink on the result screen.
o Level 2, while capital, is more subtle, its function being double. It appears in white on the result screen.
- As far as Early Modern printed books are concerned, level 2 consists of the description of the ideal copy of a given edition of the text.
- As far as manuscripts are concerned, level 2 can assume two functions. First, it may be used to describe the initial state of a dismembered or damaged manuscript, the extant fragments being registered and described under level 3. Second, it may be used to describe variant states of the text (epitomes, addition of a prologue, presence of interlinear glosses, *etc*.), thus allowing to identify smaller groups of manuscripts.

❖ Search criteria

The level to be searched need not – as a matter of fact, cannot – be specified when using the "Recherche d'une œuvre" screen. Of course, if the request is about a codicological feature, all hits will be found under level three.

4. How to search for images

❖ What kind of images can you expect to find?

Three types of images, bearing a relation to characters or works, may be entered into the base: portraits of humanists, samples of handwriting and plates taken from manuscripts or printed books.

It must be kept in mind that this part of the base still calls for further development. What's more, except in a few special cases, the base is not meant to contain digitalized versions of whole manuscripts or printed books, but only selected samples. It is indeed not part of the project to create a full-fledged digital library, although partnerships have been

established with B.V.H. (*Bibliothèques virtuelles humanistes*, Tours) and medic@ (Bibliothèque InterUniversitaire de Médecine, Paris).

❖ Possible search criteria

The "Recherche dans le corpus d'images" screen offers two sets of criteria: frame 1 makes it possible to see all the images contained in a given document, provided its classmark is known, while frame 2 allows the user to search for all images concerning a specific character and/or matching certain criteria.

Once the images have been found, their format makes it possible to enlarge them as much as necessary and a commentary appears along with them, allowing identification.

5. What is coming next?

The BUDÉ database was published online in June 2007. For the time being, its main language is French, but it will soon be translated into nine European languages.

The project coordinators would be happy to welcome new contributors and would be especially glad to receive some help towards the translation of the interface into Dutch, English, German, Hungarian, Italian, Latin, Portuguese or Spanish.

If you would like to participate or have any queries or comments to make, either on technical or scientific matters, please contact us, by e-mail (base_bude(@)irht.cnrs.fr – please remove the brackets) or by post (Base BUDÉ (Section de l'humanisme) – Institut de Recherche de d'Histoire des Textes – 40 avenue d'Iéna – 75116 Paris – France).

In scientific literature, the information found *via* the database should be quoted as follows: "information" in *Base BUDÉ – EURHUM* http://bude.irht.cnrs.fr

When applicable, the research team responsible for feeding the information into the database should also be mentioned: *e.g.* "Hadrianus Junius, student of Johannes Hejerd, before 1523" in *Base BUDÉ – EURHUM (Huygens Instituut)* http://bude.irht.cnrs.fr