



Major Text Types in Textual Criticisms

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Major Text Types Used in Textual Criticism

Text Type	Characteristic Features	Examples	Approximate Date	Users
Alexandrian	Meticulously copied Preferred over others for accuracy Straight line of transmission between papyrus and codex	ⲡ ⁷⁵ and ⲡ ⁶⁶ Codex Vaticanus B Codex Sinaiticus Ⲭ Various Coptic Translations	Earliest dated to 2nd century	Origen Athanasius
Western	Early dating Loose paraphrase Harmonization with Gospel and NT texts Includes extra/explanatory material Narrative enriched	Codex Bezae D Old Latin manuscripts Italic manuscripts ⲡ ⁴⁸ and ⲡ ³⁸	Earliest dated to 2nd century	Justin Martyr Irenaeus Tertullian
Byzantine	Continuous development from 3rd century to the Middle Ages Complete with clarity Expanded text smooths out word difficulties in divergent readings Dominant Greek text type from 7th century onward Represents 80% of known manuscripts currently	Majority Text <i>Textus Receptus</i>	3rd Century onward	Basil the Great Chrysostom

Types of ancient documents known today

Type	Notes	Approximate Number
Papyri	Scholar designation = Gothic P with superscript number, i.e. ⲡ ⁷⁵	120
Majuscules (Unicals)	Earliest codices (pages bound into books) Written in capital letters only without punctuation, word spacing, or spacing. Most famous, oldest, and reliable are represented by Hebrew, Greek, or Latin letters with 0 prefix, i.e. Ⲭ /01	320
Minuscules	8th and 9th century manuscripts with some lower case letters and spacing in cursive writing. Designated by Arabic Numbers into family groups of like kind, i.e. <i>f</i> ¹³ Often thought to be most reliable in textual criticism.	2,900