

CHICAGO DEMOTIC DICTIONARY

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Work on the Chicago Demotic Dictionary (CDD) from July 2024 to June 2025 slowed compared to the previous year (2023–24) after CDD research assistants Brendan Hainline and Rolland Long left to pursue other projects. There are, however, plans to hire more student research assistants in fall 2025 to expedite the work.

The CDD consists of several preliminary files, twenty-four letter files, three number files, and the “problem” files. The preliminary files include the table of contents, lists, explanations of abbreviations, and a bibliography. The twenty-four letter files contain the entries for Demotic words beginning with each of the letters used to transliterate Demotic. The three number files contain examples of three kinds of numbers, because month and day numbers are written differently than other types of numbers. The problem files contain entries for words and signs whose reading, meaning, and placement in the dictionary are disputed.

These files will be published using InDesign, which, unlike Microsoft Word, does not automatically compress image files. The twenty-four letter and three number files were all transferred to InDesign before the CDD research assistants left. These files now await proofreading and the replacement of images degraded as a result of repeated compression. Meanwhile, the preliminary and problem files are being edited in preparation for their transfer to InDesign. Once all the files have been transferred and proofread, they will be published in print and as PDFs on the ISAC website. The text and images will then be used to create an interactive online database, with links to other online resources for Demotic.
