

Quick Start

The purpose of this guide is to point out the principal aspects of this CD compilation of ACIM Primary Source materials.

The principle purpose of this compilation is to facilitate version comparison, by cross-referencing the *Shorthand Notes* which are not mechanically searchable themselves, to the searchable e-texts of the primary typed source documents. While the later typed source documents are not always identical to the *Notes* they usually are and are often enough that with a cross-referencing grid, it's generally easy to 'look up' a passage in the e-text and instantly locate the page of the *Notes* where the same material is located.

What's on this CD?

There are two kinds of reproduction of the four different ACIM versions which are currently available. First, there are "facsimile" reproductions which are scanned photocopies of the original sheets of paper on which the Scribes wrote by hand or typed. Then there are "e-texts" which are machine readable and searchable word processor files. The great benefit of these is that they can be searched quickly for particular text strings. The e-texts are of varying quality, some being highly ac-

curate, and some being less accurate than we'd like. Always check the facsimile before trusting that an e-text rendition is accurate.

The exception to that is for the FIP *Second Edition*. What appears here is, as far as we are aware, an accurate copy of the 1996 FIP *Second Edition*. As this compilation was being completed FIP came out with a *Third Edition* and insofar as there are any differences there, we'll get to them in due time.

We have then Helen Schucman's original *Shorthand Notes* for most of all volumes of ACIM. This material is so far only available in facsimile form for the most part. While a complete transcript is said to exist, like so much in the ACIM story, it is being kept hidden.

Preliminary searchable transcripts of chapters 1, 2 and 31 of the *Text*, the *Song of Prayer* fragments, *Use of Terms*, *Special Messages*, and the 23 *Pre-canonical* pages Schucman penned in the days immediately before the start of Chapter 1 are now available. No guarantees of the accuracy of this material can be made yet.

We have Schucman's early *Urtext* which combines a copy of Thetford's original transcript plus some material dictated without notes, and which omits the bulk of the more "personal" material in the *Notes*.. Except for the very early pages,

this is a largely accurate transcript of the *Notes* and is useful if not yet perfect, for looking up passages in the *Notes*. We also have the later *HLC* (*Hugh Lynn Cayce version*) in both facsimile and several e-texts. The *HLC* version only ever consisted of the *Text* volume, so far as we are aware. In addition to these primary canonical materials we have included the *Special Messages* and Schucman's notebooks for material which is not generally considered part of the Course.

As you can see from the main menu, each version except for the *HLC* is presented in multiple files, one for each of the ACIM volumes, with additional files for the *Preface* and *Special Messages* and Helen's writings from the pre-scribal period. As you will see, much of this additional material is not available in all versions.

Each of these files contains some specific documentation at the end. The primary documentation for the entire package is the file "[Release Notes](#)."

Viewing the Documents

By clicking on the name of any volume from any of the sources menus, that file will load into your PDF viewer. Of course to view the menu you will be using your web browser, so the PDF viewer will be called from the browser. This can be quite

slow with the larger files in the default browser configuration. It can easily be speeded up in the *Firefox* browser. See [Speeding up Acrobat Reader and displaying multiple files](#) in the Documentation menu for instructions.

Comparing the Documents

With some minor exceptions described in the *Release Notes*, all versions fitted with a standard reference system based on the *HLC* chapter and section divisions for the *Text* and based on the native structure of the other volumes. With this standard reference system it is possible to jump from any point in any version to that same point in another version, or at least very close to it, with great speed and ease. The [Tutorial](#) explains how to do that if you don't already have sufficient experience with your PDF viewer to be conversant with such techniques.

Displaying any single document should present no difficulties. Displaying multiple documents for comparison is a bit more tricky, thus the *Tutorial*.

The Reference Systems

For a more complete description see section 1.2 *The Reference System* in the *Release Notes* or the [Referencing System Explained](#) file in the Documentation Menu.

You will notice that each page and most paragraphs have one or more numbers and letters in the headers and margins. Every version of every volume has been fitted with a chapter, section, paragraph reference system based on the *HLC* chapter and section breaks for the *Text* and based on the native structural divisions in the other volumes. This is provided for cross-referencing. In many cases paragraph breaks are different between versions so the paragraph references won't always be exact. Insofar as the two versions being compared contain the same material in the same order (they *usually* do) the chapter and section level divisions will, however, be identical. And even where paragraph breaks are not identical, they are usually close.

With no referencing, locating a passage in the facsimile copies can be exceedingly tedious and time consuming. While the referencing system here is not perfect, 99 times out of a hundred, it will get you within a page of where you want to be in seconds.

Each of the original handwritten and typed manuscript pages has or has been given a sequential number. The e-text editions of each volume are paginated in the exact same way. This precise page by page match makes it easy to exactly locate material in the same version across the various editions by page number also.

To a limited extent the page numbers from one version are used as cross-reference points in others. For instance the original *Shorthand Notes* page numbers are added to the *Urtext* section headings. The *Urtext* page numbers are inserted in the margins of the *Notes* pages as well.

What's missing?

There are a few elements we'd dearly like to include but can't because they don't yet exist. A complete transcript of the *Notes* would be very useful. We'd like to include the missing *Notes* pages but we don't have them.