

Collation

Latin *collatio* ("comparison"), from the verb *conferre*.

In the [Lachmannian method](#), *collatio* is part of *recensio*. It can be defined as the comparative examination of the [witnesses](#) in order to determine the [variant readings](#) in all witnesses.

If the collation is done manually, a collation exemplar or [reference text](#) (sometimes referred to as a base text for collation which is distinguished from a [base text](#) used for an edition) is chosen, against which the other witnesses are compared. Especially with broad textual traditions collation can be very exacting. A traditional method to cope with this difficulty is to proceed by singling out and then collating a limited number of [variant locations](#) or *loci critici* (*selecti*). This is for example the method carried out by Federico Sanguineti in his edition of *Dantis Alagherii Comedia* (2001).

It is possible nowadays to collate the witnesses in a semi-automated way, but this requires that every witness is first transcribed (see the explanation of the procedure by Tara Andrews in Macé 2015, 332-335). A number of collation software programs have been developed over the past years, see for example [CollateX](#).

References

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In other languages

DE: Kollationierung
FR: collation
IT: collazione

Often the Latin term *collatio* is also used.

[MB](#), [CM](#)