

Searching Tips for Modern Greek Materials

There are some variations in the way the Greek script is transliterated into the Roman alphabet, as different standards have been established internationally. The scheme used for the transliteration of the Greek script in the majority of online library databases is from the *ALA–LC Romanization Tables, Transliteration Schemes for Non-Roman Scripts*, 1997 edition.

American Library Association-Library of Congress Romanization Table for the Greek Script

Character modifiers in Romanization:

—	Name
—	macron
—	underscore

Vernacular:	Romanization:	Vernacular:	Romanization:
Α α	A a	Ξ ξ	X x
Β β	B b (Classical Greek)	Ο ο	O o
	V v (Modern Greek ¹)	Π π	P p
Γ γ	G g ² (n before medial γ, κ, ξ, χ)	Ρ ρ	R r
Δ δ	D d	‘Ρ ‘ρ	Rh rh ³
Ε ε	E e	Σ σ	S s
Ζ ζ	Z z	Τ τ	T t
Η η	Ē ē	Υ υ	Y y (u in diphthong) ⁴
Θ θ	Th th	Φ φ	Ph ph
Ι ι	I i	Χ χ	Ch ch
Κ κ	K k	Ψ ψ	Ps ps
Λ λ	L l	Ω ω	Ō ō
Μ μ	M m		
Μπ μπ	B b ⁵ (initial only), mp		
Ν ν	N n		

¹ The era of the Modern Greek language begins with texts written after 1453. Texts written before 1454 are considered Classical Greek.

² For example, Άγγελου= Angelou; Τσουγκαράκης=Tsoukarakēs; σύγχρονος= synchronos

³ Diacritical marks such as accents and the dieresis, and the iota subscript (ι) are omitted in romanization. As the result of a presidential decree in Greece in 1982, monosyllabic words are now written without accents;

polysyllabic words are written without accents; polysyllabic words are written with the acute accent (´) only.

⁴ For example, Ευάγγελος=Euangelos; αυγερινός=augerinos; Κουρτσάκης=Kourtsakēs

⁵ For example, Μπαμπινιώτης=Bampiniōtēs

Ντ ντ D d⁶ (initial only), nt

Breathing Marks:

Mark	Name	Romanization
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’	soft breathing (ψιλή)	[omit]
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῀	rough breathing (δασεια)	h
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The romanization for rough breathing is supplied whether or not the mark appears in the Greek vernacular text. This means that they will be transliterated with an “h” before the initial letter. **In searching for titles with words beginning with rough breathing marks, it is important to remember to add the “h” to your search as otherwise it will be unsuccessful.** The following are several examples of words that have rough breathing marks and are transliterated with an initial “h”:

ἐνα = hena	οι = hoi
έως = heōs	ο = ho
εαυτός = heautos	όσα = hosa
εβδομάδα = hevdomada	όλος = holos
εβραίος = hevraios	οδός = hodos
Ελλάδα = Hellada	
η = hē	όταν = hotan
ημέρα = hēmera	όμως = homōs
ημερολόγιο = hēmerologio	
ήλιος = hēlios	ομάδα = homada
ήσυχος = hēsychos	ιδρυμα = hidryma
	ιερεύς = hierous

All Greek words beginning with “Υ υ” have rough breathing marks :

υγεία = hygeia ύστερα = hystera υγρός = hygros

υπόσχομαι = hyposchomai υποθέτω = hypothetō

⁶ For example, Ντελόπουλος = Delopoulos but Παπαντώνιου = Papantōniou