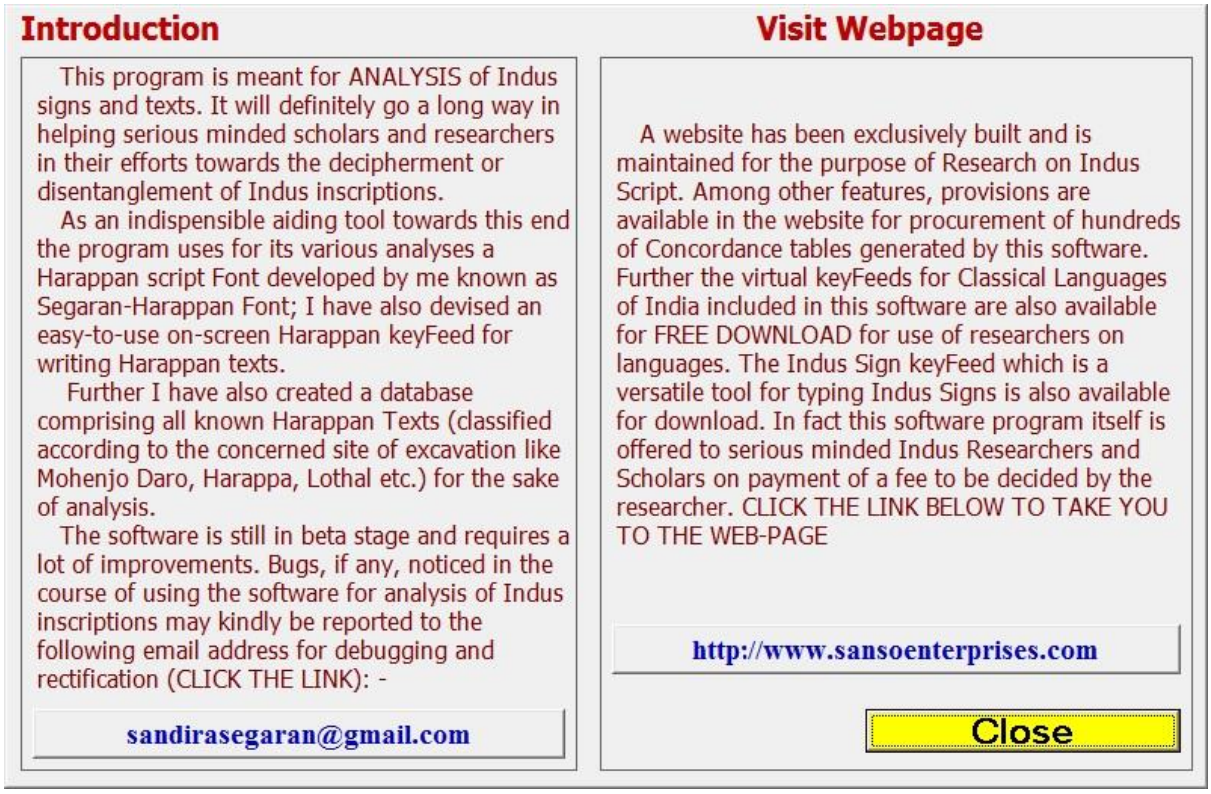
Indus Script Analyzer

I have included the phrase **'computed aided'** in the very title of the book. Hence, I am bound to explain in plain terms in what way computer aided my efforts to decipher the Indus Script. Anyone who has read my bio would know that I am basically a mathematician and symbolic logician and that I have taken a fancy to computer programming with a few successful enterprises to my credit. When I decided to devote my whole time to the decipherment of Indus Script the first thing I did was to develop a working software to aid my decipherment efforts. In fact, I have eventually succeeded in this direction.

AB-01. In this Appendix, a brief description of my much-hyped digital program for analysis of the Indus Script is furnished.

What you see above is the opening page of the program. Once you click on the self-explanatory button marked *'Click here to proceed'*, you are taken to the welcome page:

The button marked *'About Software / Author'* takes you to a window which furnishes some info on the author as well as on the nature of the program.



By clicking on 'close', you can come back to the welcome window.

The button marked *'Quit Program'* can be operated at any stage in order to quit the program.

The button marked *'Proceed to Main Menu'* is evidently self-explanatory.

AB-02. The *'Main Menu'* window which is pictured below is the portal from where you can navigate to any part of the program with ease. It contains the following navigation buttons:

(1) Indus Script Analysis I,

(2) Indus Script Analysis II,

(3) Indus Script Analysis III,

(4) Compare Texts,

(5) Find texts from ID,

(6) Religious Offerings (!) Analysis,

(7) Site-wise Inscriptions,

(8) FISH-signs,

(9) Statistically Speaking…,

(10) Stochastic Analysis,

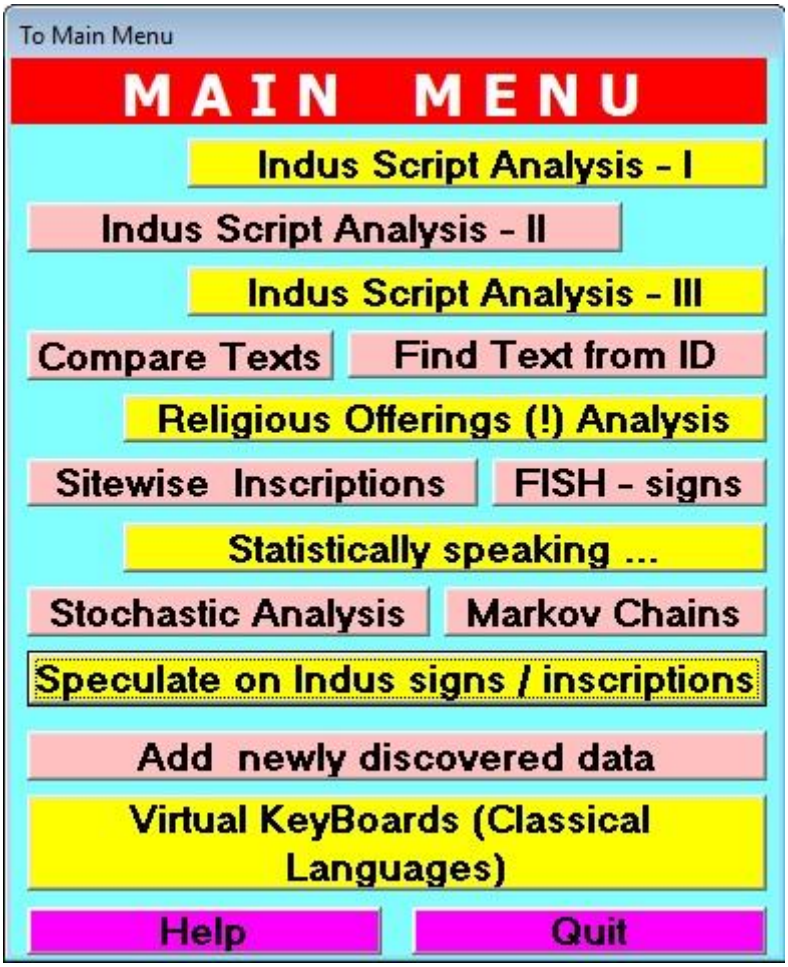
(11) Markov Chains,

(12) Speculate on Indus Signs and Inscriptions,

(13) Add newly discovered data,

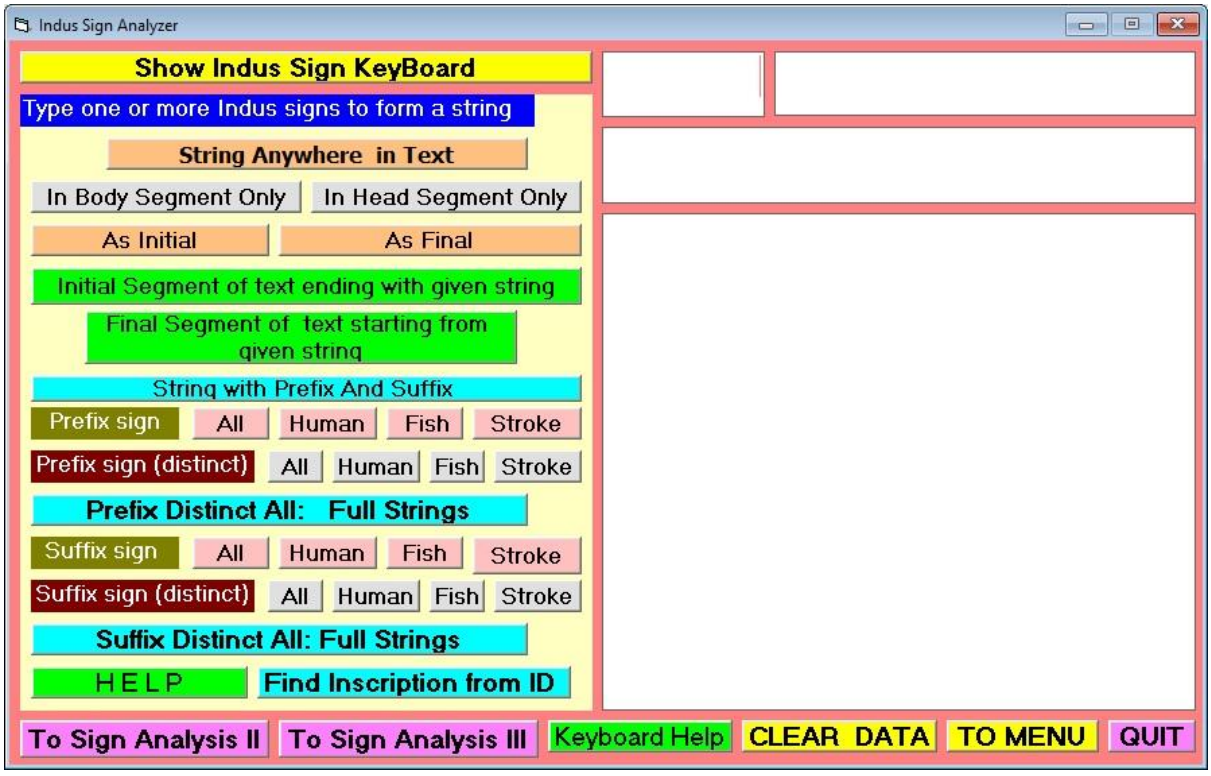
(14) Virtual Keyboards (Classical Languages)

(15) Control Buttons: 'Help' & 'Quit'



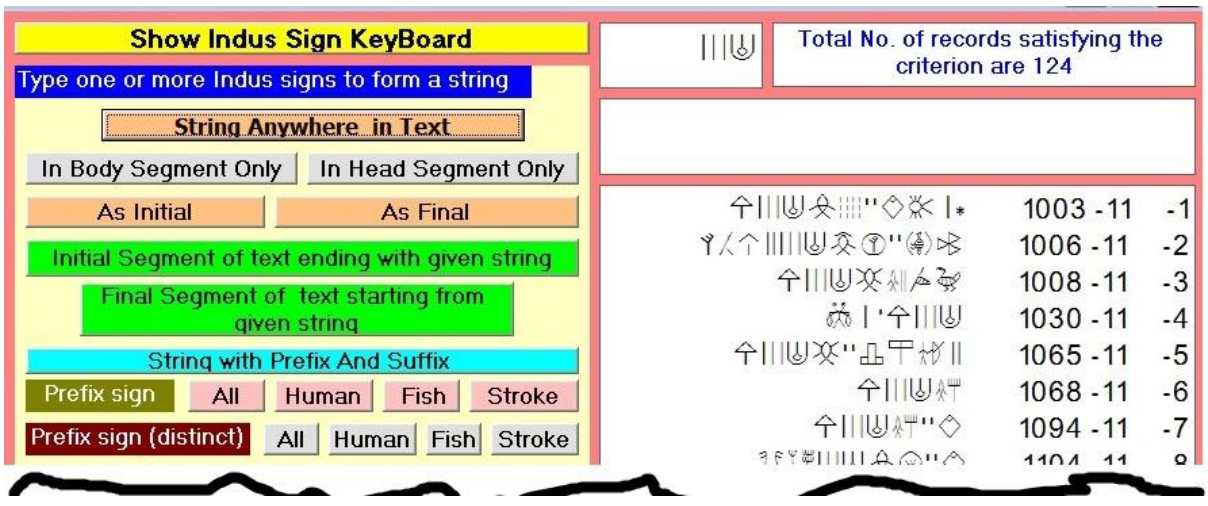
03. There are in all 3 separate windows for general analysis of Indus Inscriptions. They are described briefly in what follows. I am not going to explain in general terms how each button in a window works. Instead I'll take a simple concrete example and deal with it in a comprehensive manner. The following 2-sign text appears very frequently in Indus Inscriptions:

At first, we'll now examine this combination in **Indus Script Analysis I** window. To start with, we click *'Show Indus Sign Key-Board'* in order to make an entry of the above sign combination in the window for analysis. We have already learnt in Appendix A as how to handle the virtual key-board for typing Indus signs.



Once we have made entry of the sign combination, it is possible to make the following analyses in this window:

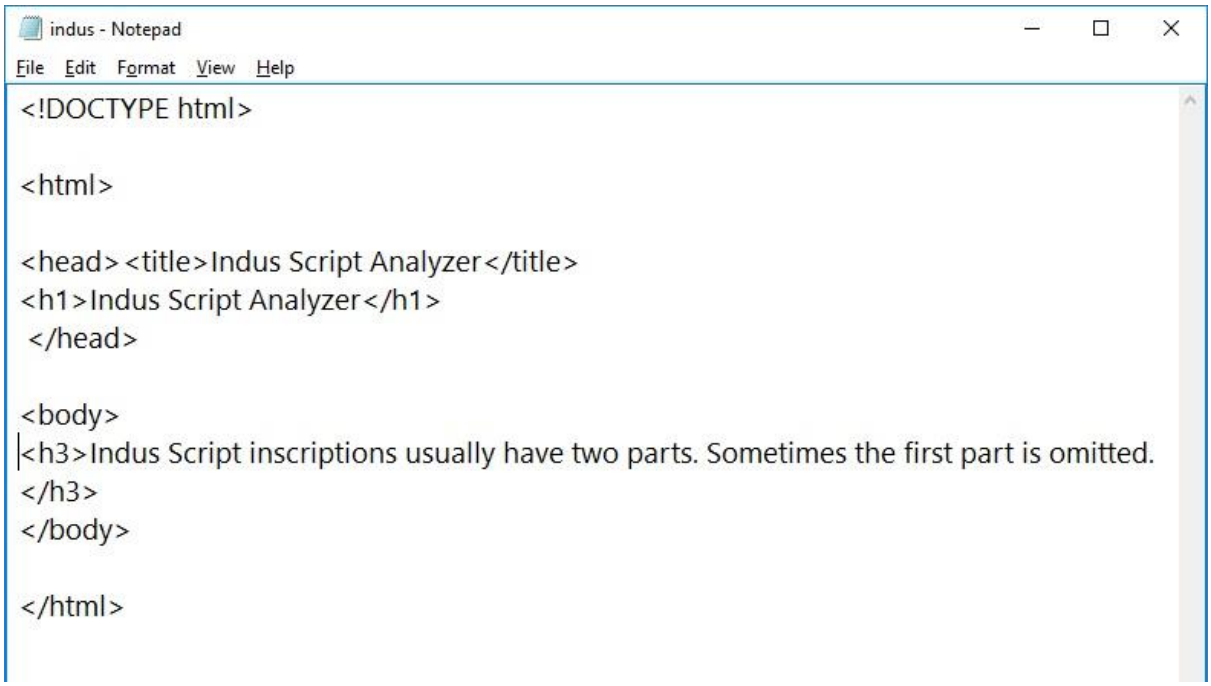
(1) *String Anywhere in Text:* All instances of the sign combination 𒀭𒀭𒀭 in Indus Inscriptions in any position are displayed as shown below. (there are about 124 instances):



A digression becomes inevitable at this stage. Most of the readers may be acquainted with of *HTML documents* which constitute the webpages we visit

in internet or we frequently refer in our computer system, offline. The rudiments are simply non-technical matters. The essential point is that any HTML document comprises of two parts called, (1) ***head*** and (2) ***body .*** The important point is that a webpage will be displayed properly even if the *head portion is omitted.* However, if the *body portion* is omitted the HTML document is incomplete and webpage will not have a title and other details of the documents.

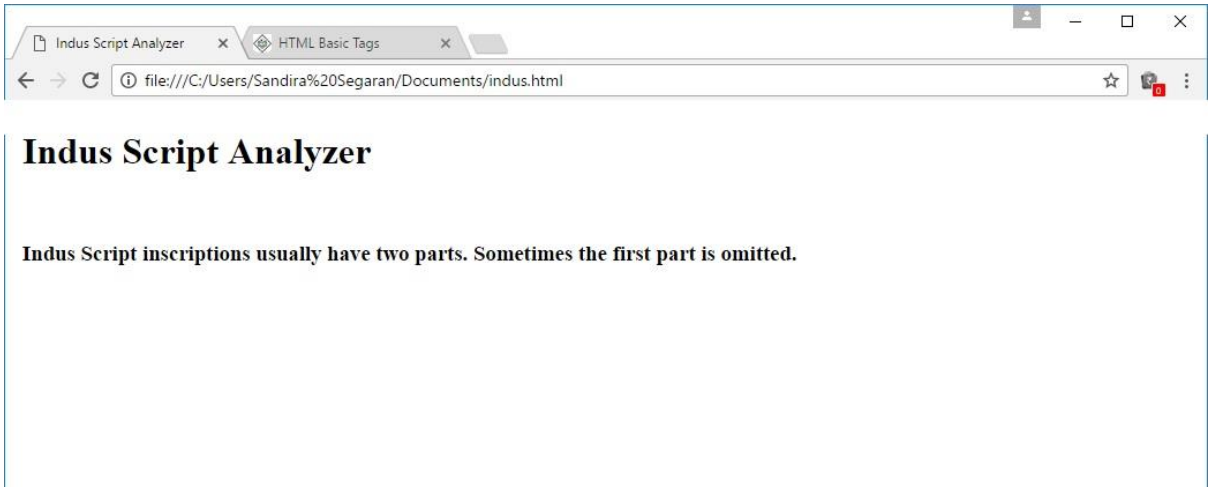
A very simple example will illustrate my point. Open Notepad and type the following simple lines:



Save the file as **indus.html.**

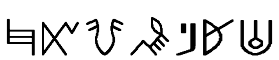
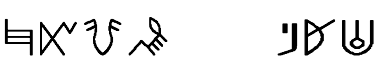
Now open Chrome or any other Browser. By clicking **Ctrl + O** you can display the saved file in the browser.

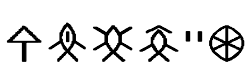
The following is your webpage, in which you'll find that the portion marked 'title' is *not* displayed, but the heading 'Indus Script Analyzer' between tags <h1> and </h1> is displayed. Same is the case with Indus Inscriptions; they consist usually of two portions and following the analogy of html documents, I call them as ***'head'*** and ***'body'.***



For examples, the following inscriptions are split into head and body segments:

(1) >>

(2)  >> 

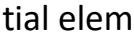
(3)  >>

(4) >>

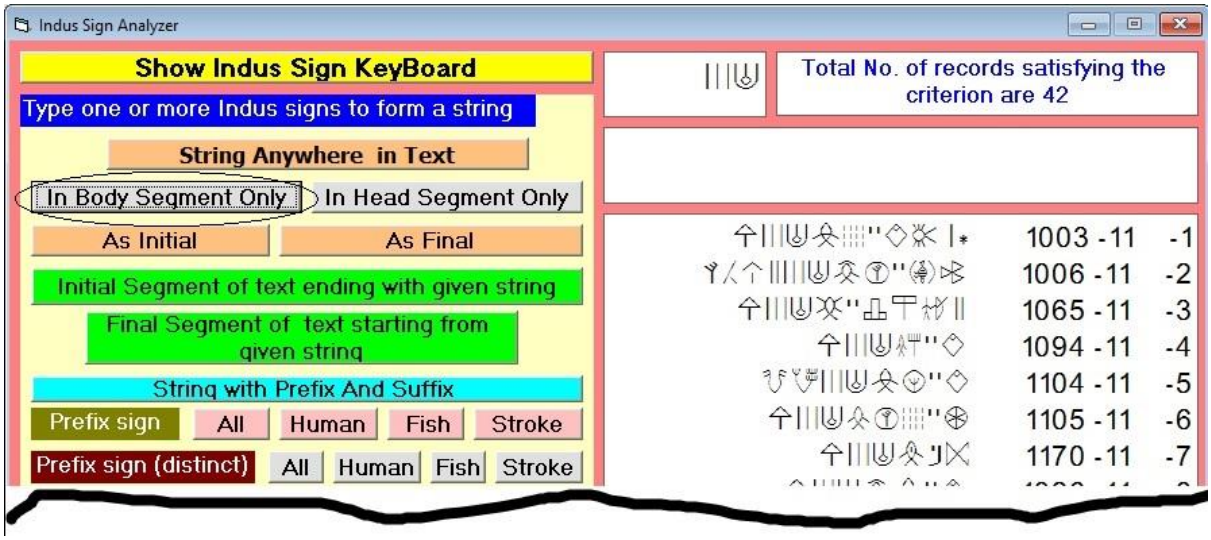
(5) >>

The above point is important, because when we talk of a word-initial element it may mean also the **initial element in the body portion.** For instance, is word-initial in head segment only in example (1) and (2) and word-initial in (5). In (1) , (2), (3) and (4) the signs , , and are word-initial elements respectively **in body-segments**.

Let us now revert to our main discussion on the working of the Indus Script Analyzer. Continuing to our next item of discussion:

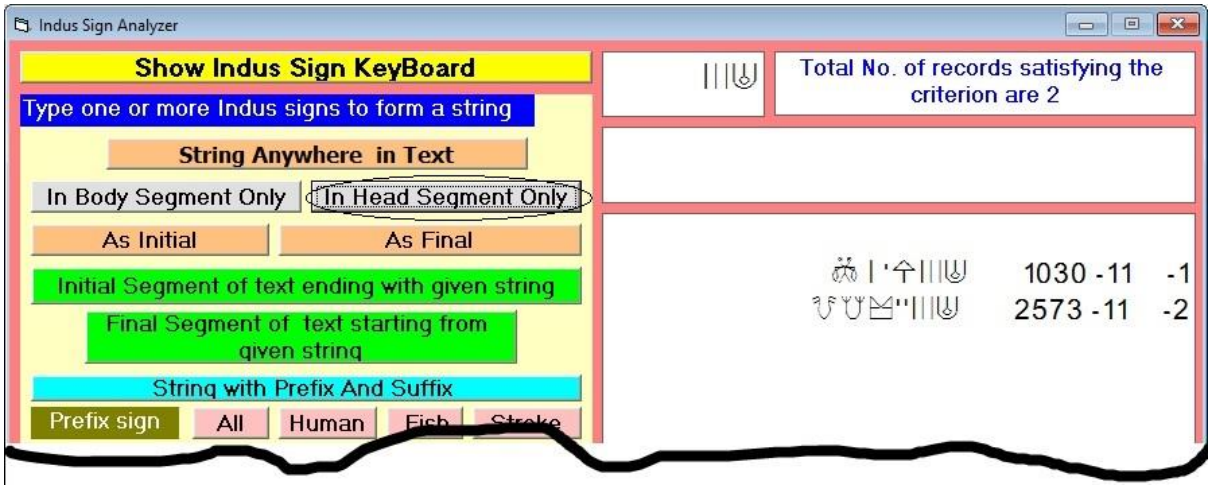
(2) *In Body-Segment only:* By clicking on this button, the Analyzer displays all inscriptions containing the sign combination in question, 

In body-segment only. There are about 42 cases. On the right-hand side top, you have a description of the result. The blank space below will be explained at the appropriate time.



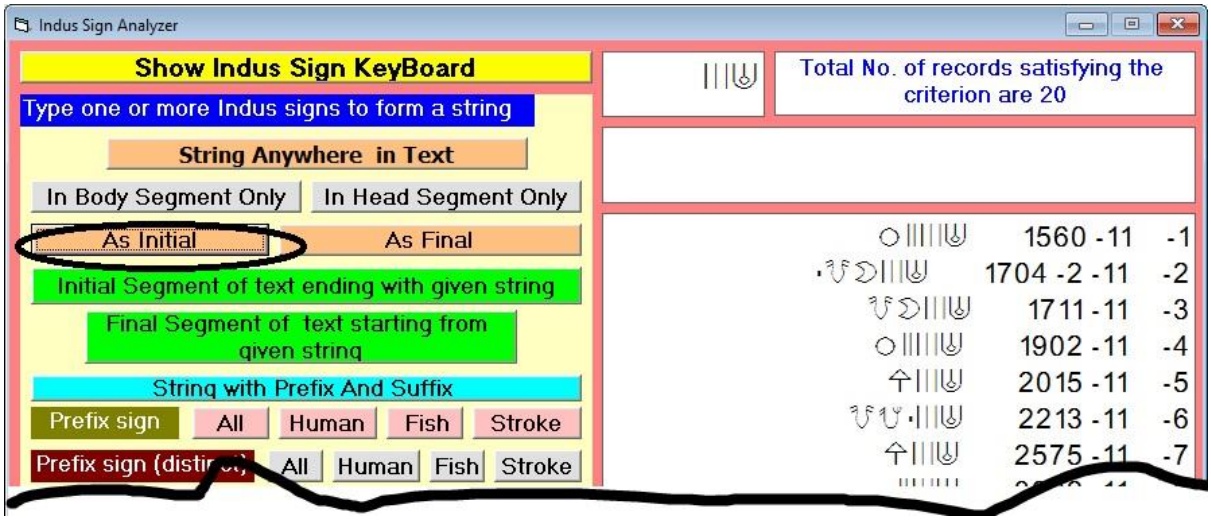
(3) *In Head-Segment only:* By clicking on this button, the Analyzer displays all inscriptions containing the sign combination in question,

In head-segment only. There are about 2 cases only.

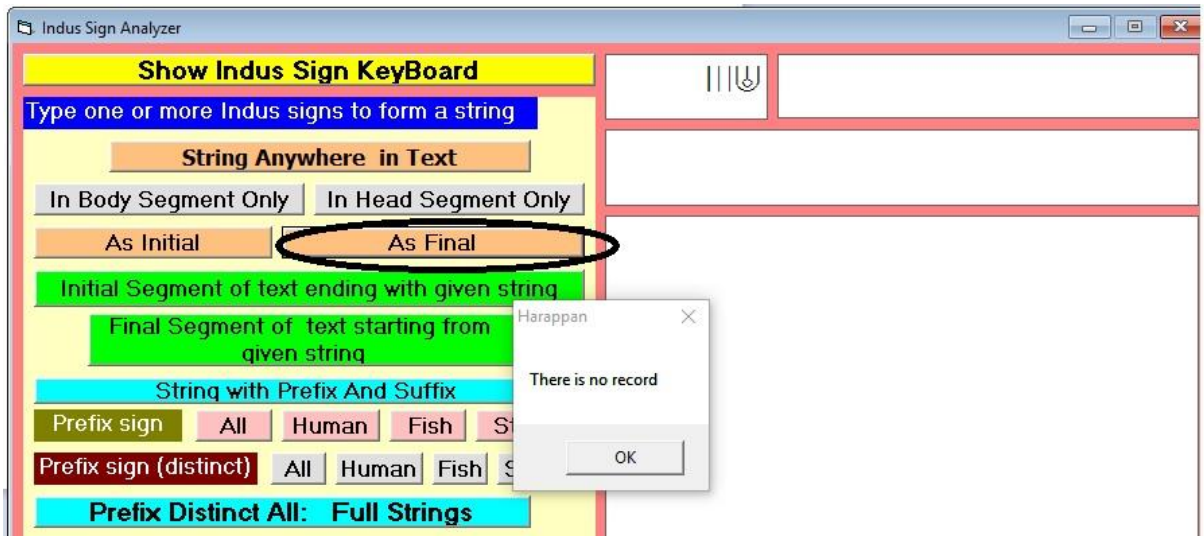


(4) *As Initial:* By clicking on this button, the Analyzer displays all inscriptions containing the sign combination in question, as initial element of a word or of an inscription. There are two instances to reckon with: (1) inscriptions containing body portion only. Here, there is no ambiguity; '*initial*' means initial of the entire inscription; and (2) inscriptions containing both 'head' and 'body'. Here, *'initial'* means initial of the body portion only.

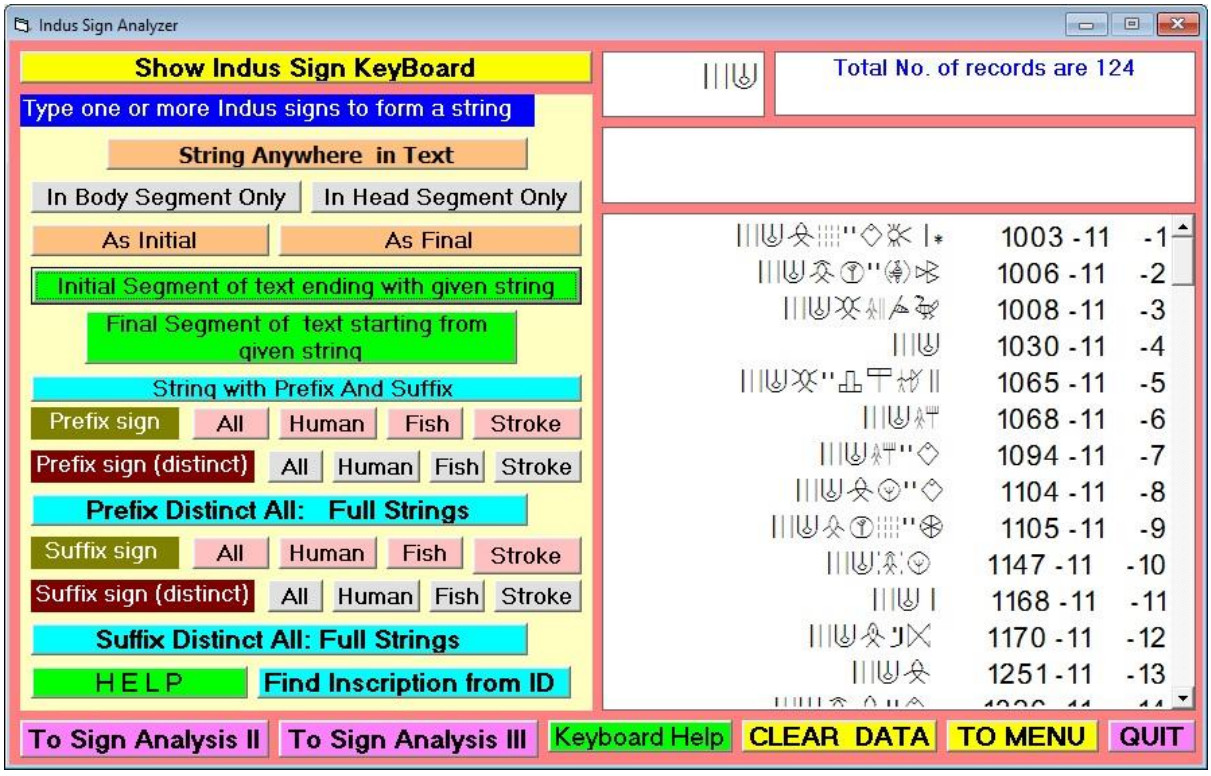
There are about 20 cases in this analysis.



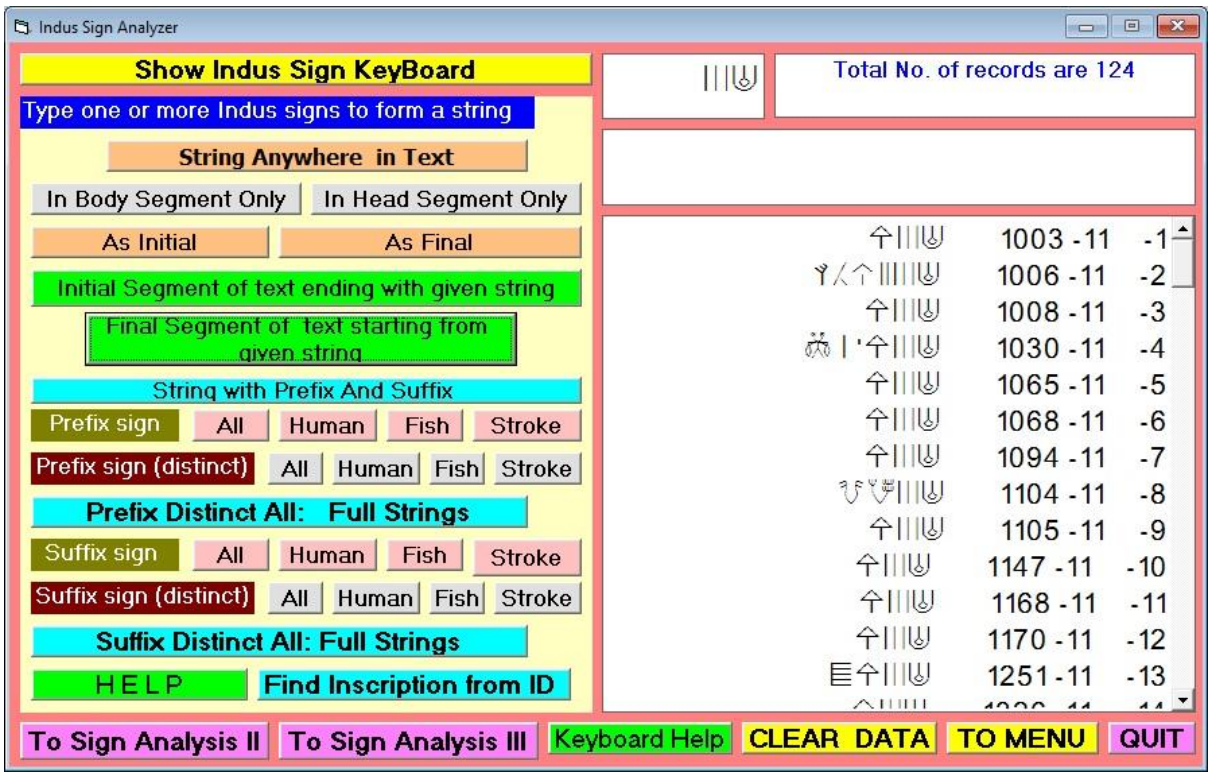
(5) *As Final:* By clicking on this button, the Analyzer displays all inscriptions containing the sign combination in question, 𒐗 as final element of a word or of an inscription. There are **no** such cases. *This is an important finding. From this analysis, I have established that* **the numeral stroke sign, 𒐗 is attached to 𒌋**, *but not to a sign following it.*

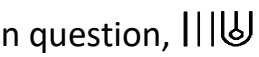


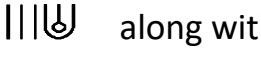
(6) *Initial Segment of text ending with the given string:* Self-explanatory. We sometimes need a list of such inscriptions. Naturally the entire list of 124 cases will be enumerated; the only thing is that the portions of inscriptions **following** the string under examination will be cut off.

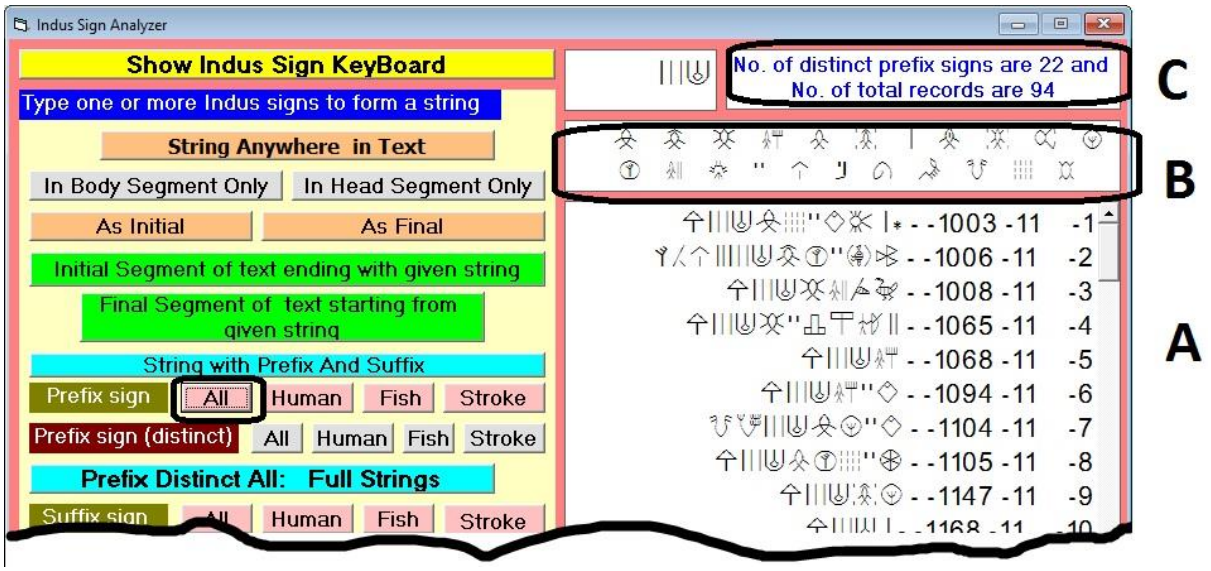


(7) *Final Segment of text starting from the given string:* Self-explanatory. We sometimes need a list of such inscriptions. Naturally the entire list of 124 cases will be enumerated; the only thing is that the portions of inscriptions **preceding** the string under examination will be cut off.



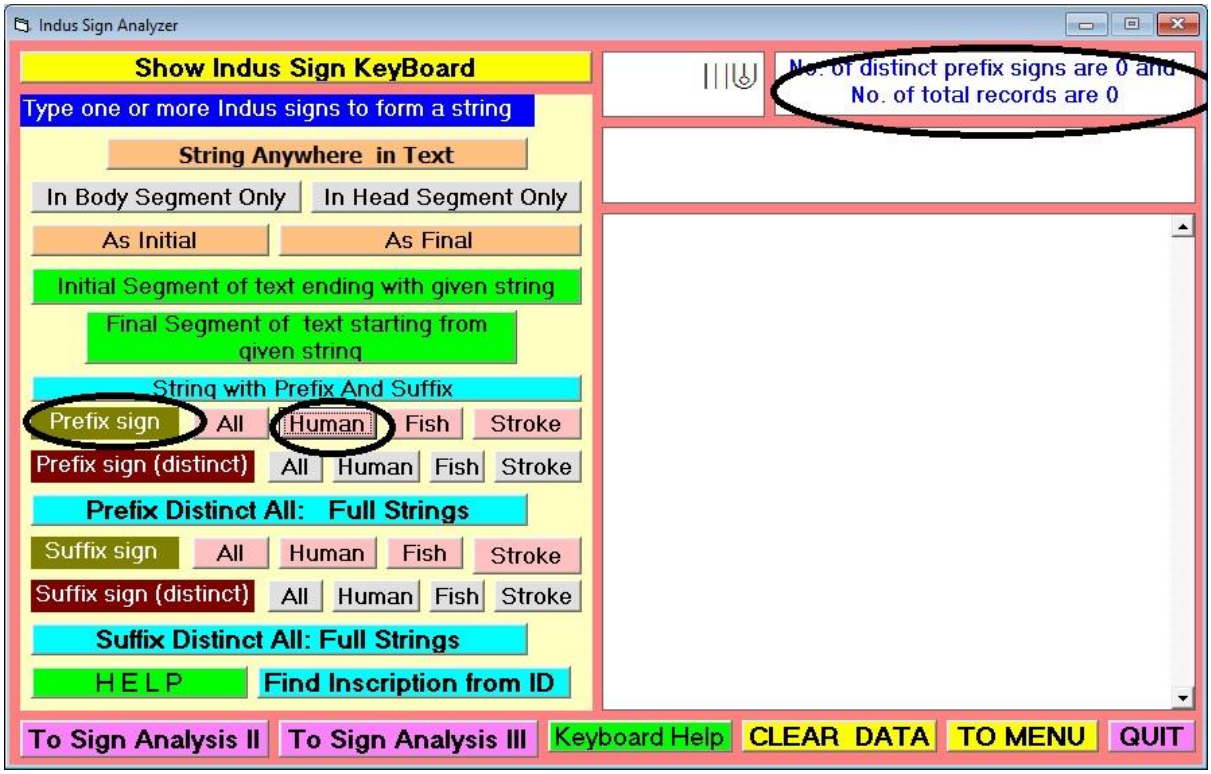
(8) *String with prefix and Suffix:* By clicking on this button, the Analyzer displays all inscriptions containing the sign combination in question,  along with its pre-element and post-element. This will give the researcher and idea as to which elements precede and follow the sign combination under scrutiny. There are about **90** such cases.

(9) Prefix sign: *All:* By clicking on this button, the Analyzer displays all inscriptions containing the sign combination in question,  along with its different types of pre-element.



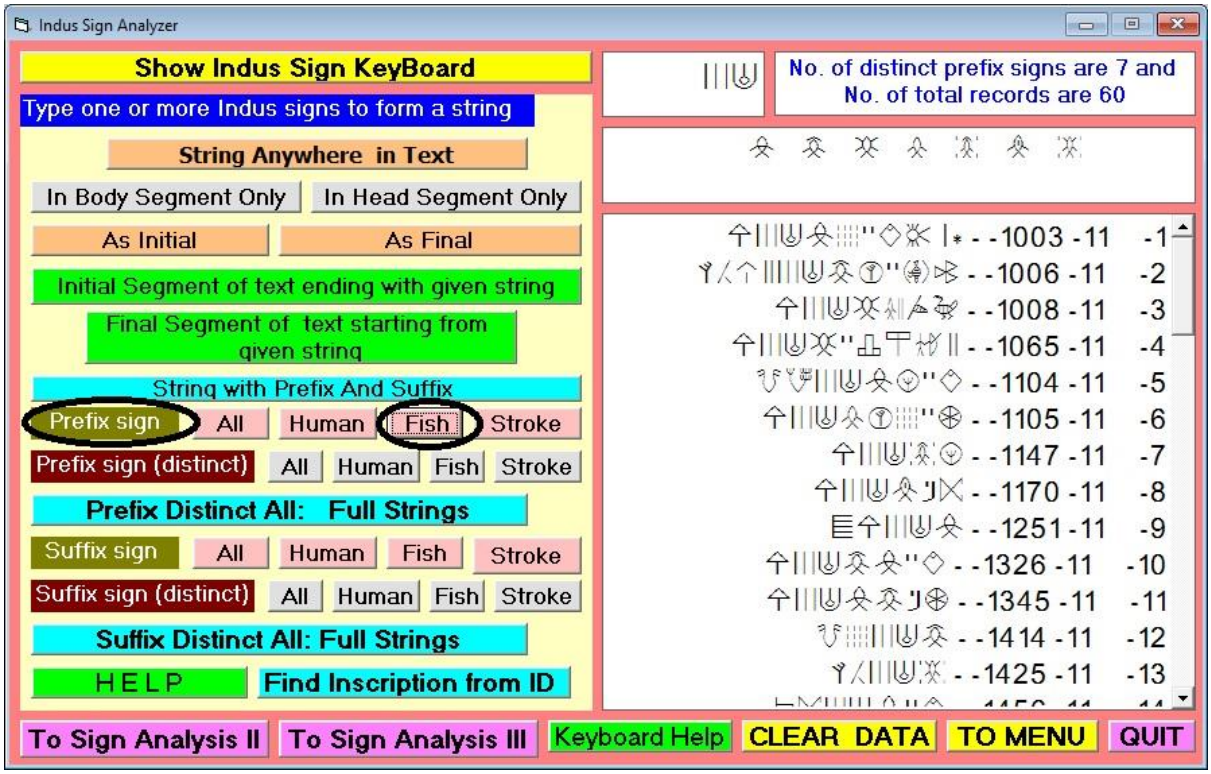
While entire records are displayed in the panel **A,** in the area marked **C,** a description of results is given. In this particular instance, it is reported that *'No. of distinct prefix signs are 22 and No. of total records are 94.'* In the area marked **B,** the 22 distinct prefixes are enumerated.

(10) Prefix sign: *Human:* By clicking on this button, the Analyzer displays all inscriptions containing the sign combination in question, preceded by different types of **Human** elements. In the present analysis there are no cases. See the result area.

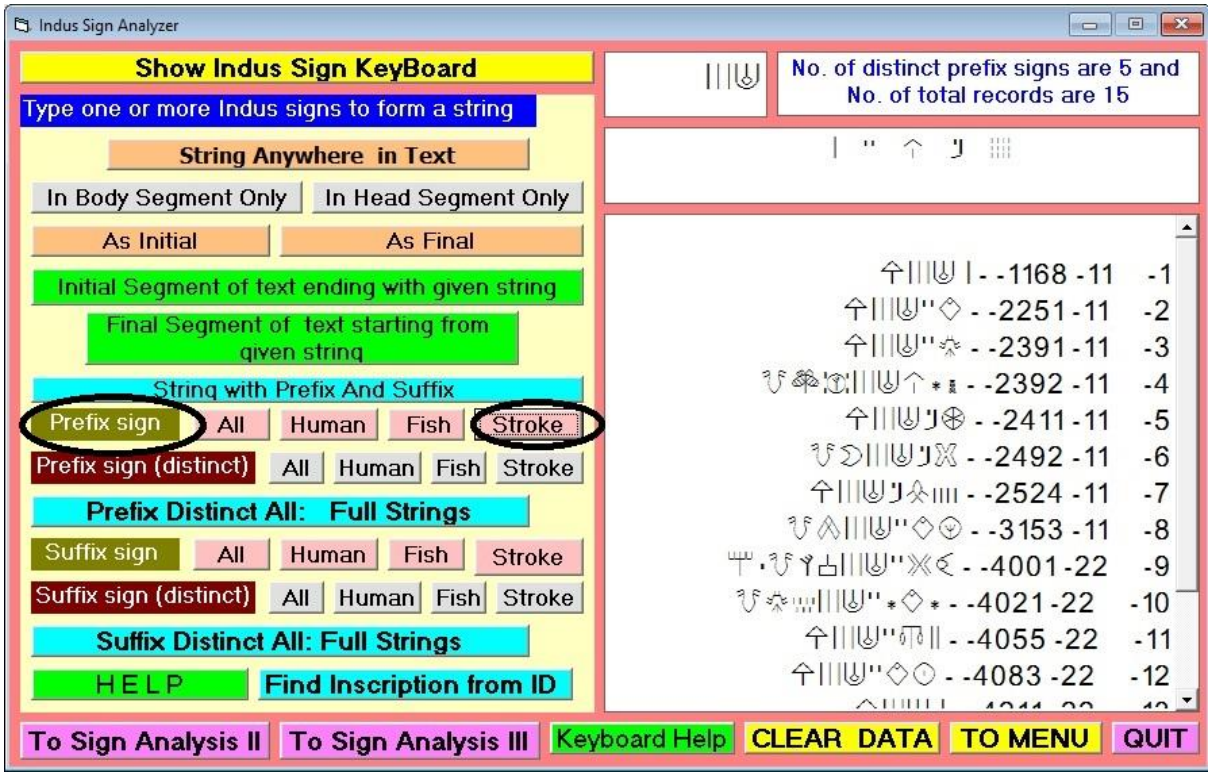


(11) Prefix sign: *Fish:* By clicking on this button, the Analyzer displays all inscriptions containing the sign combination in question, preceded by

different types of **Fish** elements.

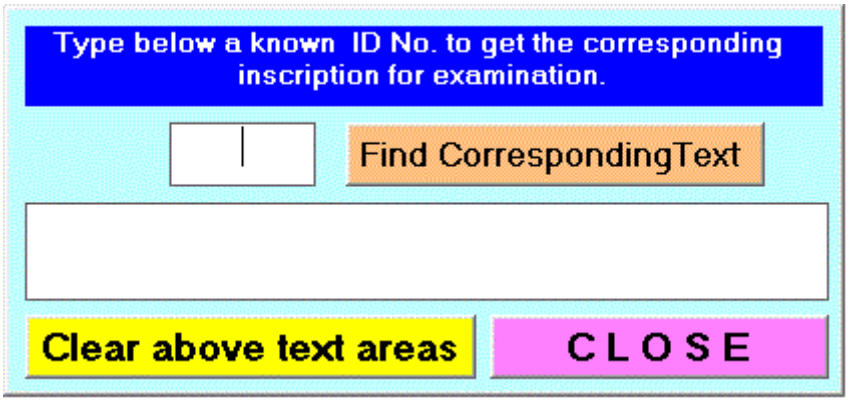


(12) Prefix sign: *Stroke:* By clicking on this button, the Analyzer displays all inscriptions containing the sign combination in question, preceded by different types of **Stroke (numeral)** elements.



(13) *Prefix Distinct All: Full strings* - By clicking on this button, the Analyzer displays all inscriptions containing the sign combination in question, along with its different types of pre-element.

The above procedures can be repeated for Suffix with the next buttons.

Find Inscription from ID:

Suppose you know the ID number and want to know the inscription referred to by the ID. You simply click on the button marked 'Find Inscription from ID', you'll be taken to another window as shown below: