



ACADEMIA ROMÂNĂ

Institutul Național de Cercetări Economice „Costin C. Kirițescu”

NOUA ENCICLOPEDIE A ROMÂNIEI. CUNOAȘTEREA ENCICLOPEDICĂ A ROMÂNIEI

Caiet de lucru
8.5

**LUCRĂRI ENCICLOPEDICE
ȘI MONOGRAFICE ROMÂNEȘTI.
CERCETARE BIBLIOGRAFICĂ TEMATICĂ
RETROSPECTIVĂ**



Centrul de Informare și Documentare Economică

Ediția de față cuprinde lucrări realizate în cadrul
programelor de cercetare ale
Institutului Național de Cercetări Economice „Costin C. Kirițescu”

Domeniul strategic 7.

*Dezvoltarea și crearea de instrumente de lucru – enciclopedii, dicționare,
baze de date, arhive etc. Promovarea, diseminarea și valorificarea rezultatelor
cercetărilor institutelor din rețeaua INCE*

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în programul de cercetare al institutelor componente ale Institutului Național
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Caiet de lucru

8.5

**Lucrări enciclopedice
și monografice românești.
Cercetare bibliografică tematică
retrospectivă**

CENTRUL DE INFORMARE ȘI DOCUMENTARE ECONOMICĂ

MATERIALE DOCUMENTARE DESPRE ENCICLOPEDII

(cercetare bibliografică pe internet)



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Autor: Nicușor Ruiu

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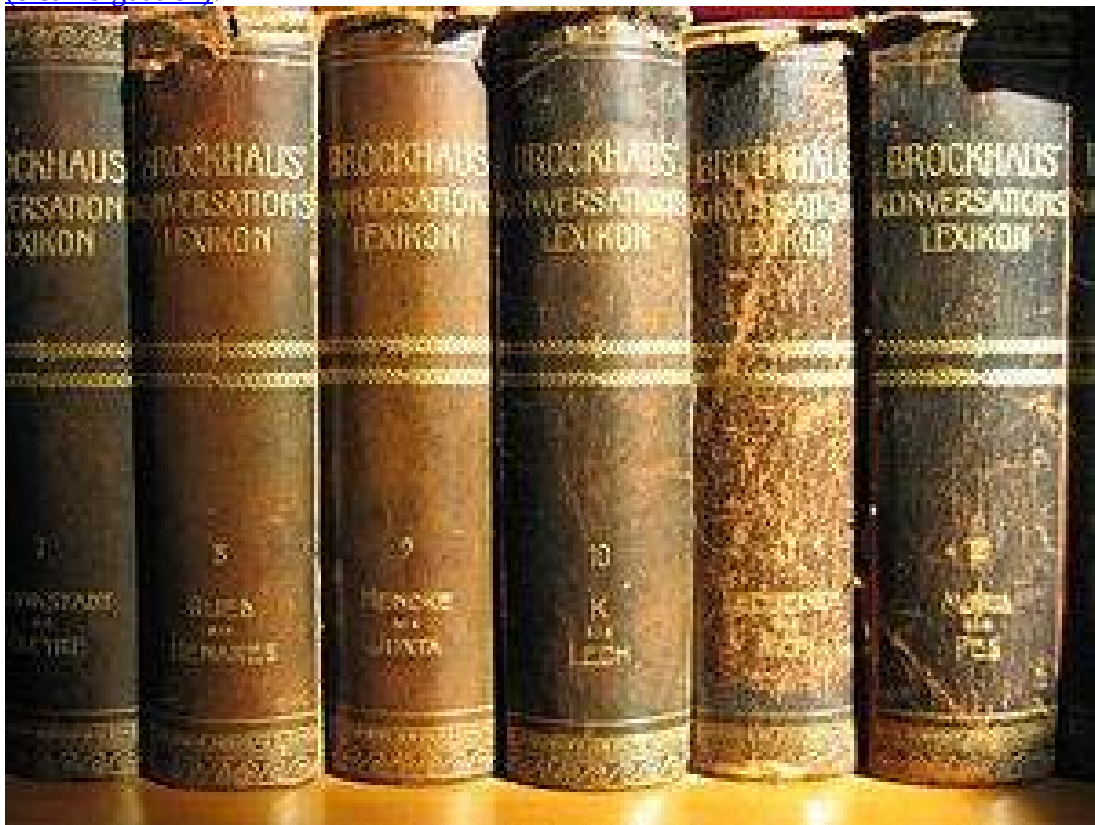
ENCYCLOPAEDIA - ISTORIE / CARACTERISTICI / ETIMOLOGIE

Encyclopedia

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Jump to: [navigation](#), [search](#)

This article is about the type of reference work. For other uses, see [Encyclopedia \(disambiguation\)](#).



[Brockhaus Enzyklopädie](#)

An **encyclopedia** ([also spelled](#) **encyclopaedia** or **encyclopædia**)^[1] is a type of [reference work](#), a [compendium](#) holding a summary of [information](#) from either all branches of [knowledge](#) or a particular branch of knowledge.^[2] Encyclopedias are divided into [articles](#)

or entries, which are usually accessed alphabetically by article name.^[3] Encyclopedia entries are longer and more detailed than those in most [dictionaries](#).^[3] Generally speaking, unlike dictionary entries, which focus on [linguistic](#) information about [words](#), encyclopedia articles focus on factual information to cover the thing or concept for which the article name stands.^{[4][5][6][7]}

Encyclopedias have existed for around 2,000 years; the oldest still in existence, *[Naturalis Historia](#)*, was written in [ca. 77 AD](#) by [Pliny the Elder](#). The modern encyclopedia evolved out of dictionaries around the 17th century. Historically, some encyclopedias were contained in one [volume](#), but some, such as the *[Encyclopædia Britannica](#)* or the world's largest *[Enciclopedia universal ilustrada europeo-americana](#)*, became huge multi-volume works. Some modern encyclopedias, such as [Wikipedia](#), are electronic and are often freely available.

The word *[encyclopaedia](#)* comes from the [Koine Greek](#) [ἐγκυκλοπαιδεία](#),^[8] from [Greek](#) [ἐγκύκλιος παιδεία](#),^[9] transliterated *enkyklios paideia*, meaning "general education": *enkyklios* ([ἐγκύκλιος](#)), meaning "circular, recurrent, required regularly, general"^[10] + *paideia* ([παιδεία](#)), meaning "education, rearing of a child".^[11] but it was reduced to a single word due to an error^[12] by copyists of Latin manuscripts. Together, the phrase literally translates as "complete instruction" or "complete knowledge".

Indeed, the purpose of an encyclopedia is to collect knowledge disseminated around the globe; to set forth its general system to the men with whom we live, and transmit it to those who will come after us, so that the work of preceding centuries will not become useless to the centuries to come; and so that our offspring, becoming better instructed, will at the same time become more virtuous and happy, and that we should not die without having rendered a service to the human race in the future years to come.

—[Diderot](#)^[13]

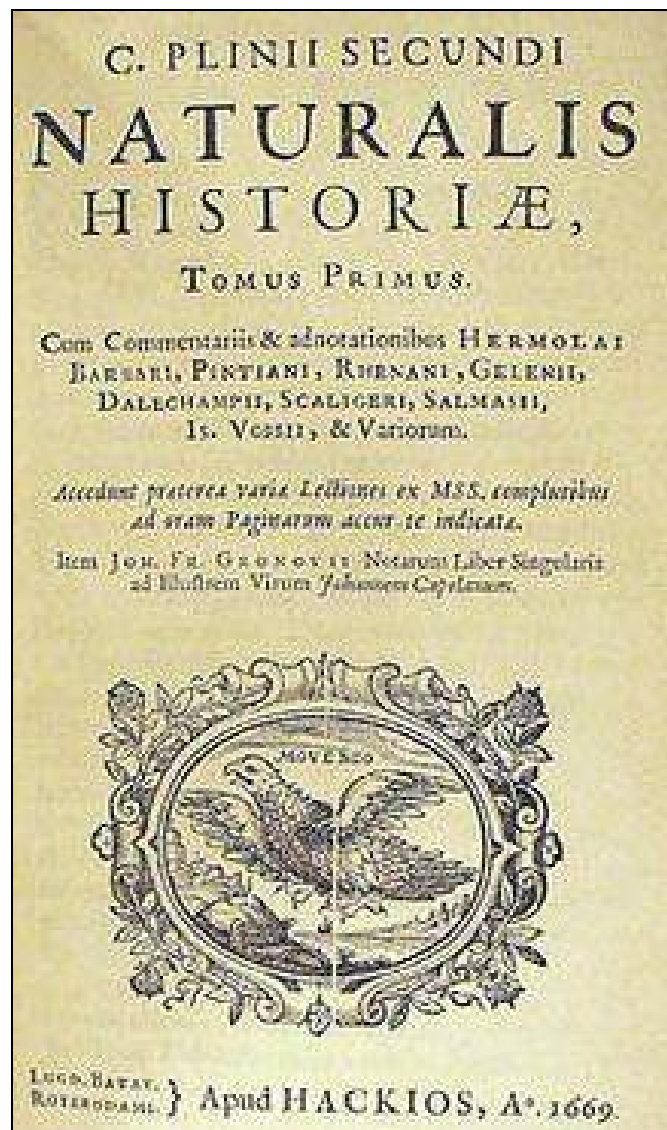
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History

Pliny the Elder



Naturalis Historiæ, 1669 edition, title page

One of the earliest encyclopedic works to have survived to modern times is the [Naturalis Historia](#) of [Pliny the Elder](#), a [Roman](#) statesman living in the 1st century AD. He compiled

a work of 37 chapters covering natural history, architecture, medicine, geography, geology, and all aspects of the world around him. He stated in the preface that he had compiled 20,000 facts from 2000 works by over 200 authors, and added many others from his own experience. The work was published around AD 77-79, although he probably never finished proofing the work before his death in the eruption of [Vesuvius](#) in 79 AD.^[14]

The content of his great work is vast and comprehensive, being nothing short of a compendium of learning and of art so far as they are connected with nature, or draw their materials from nature. He admits that

My subject is a barren one – the world of nature, or in other words life; and that subject in its least elevated department, and employing either rustic terms or foreign, many barbarian words that actually have to be introduced with an apology. Moreover, the path is not a beaten highway of authorship, nor one in which the mind is eager to range: there is not one of us who has made the same venture, nor yet one Greek who has tackled single-handed all departments of the subject.^[14]

He also elaborates on the difficulties of writing such a work:

It is a difficult task to give novelty to what is old, authority to what is new, brilliance to the common-place, light to the obscure, attraction to the stale, credibility to the doubtful, but nature to all things and all her properties to nature.^[14]

Although there were earlier works of similar nature, by [Marcus Terentius Varro](#) for example, Pliny's was the only one to survive the [Dark Ages](#). It became very popular in the Roman world, and survived, with many copies being made and distributed in the western world. It was one of the first classical manuscripts to be printed in 1470, and has remained popular ever since as a source of information on the [Roman](#) world, and especially [Roman art](#), [Roman technology](#) and [Roman engineering](#). It is also a recognised source for [medicine](#), [art](#), [mineralogy](#), [zoology](#), [botany](#), [geology](#) and many other topics not discussed by other classical authors. Among many interesting entries are those for the [elephant](#) and the [murex](#) snail, the much sought-after source of [Tyrian purple](#) dye.^[14]

Although his work has been criticized for the lack of candor in checking the "facts", some of his text has been confirmed by recent research, like the spectacular remains of Roman [gold mines](#) in Spain, especially at [Las Medulas](#), which Pliny probably saw in operation while a [Procurator](#) there a few years before he compiled the encyclopedia. Although many of the [mining](#) methods are now redundant, such as [hushing](#) and [fire-setting](#), it is Pliny who recorded them for posterity, thereby helping us understand their importance in a modern context. Pliny makes clear the fact in the preface to his work that he had checked his facts by reading and comparing the works of others, as well as referring to them by name. Many such books are now [lost works](#) and remembered only by his references, much like the lost sources mentioned in the work of [Vitruvius](#) a century earlier.^[citation needed]

Middle Ages



First printed edition of 1472 (by Guntherus Zainer, [Augsburg](#)), title page of book 14 (*de terra et partibus*), illustrated with a [T and O map](#).

The work *De nuptiis Mercurii et Philologiae* ("About the wedding of [Mercury](#) and Philologia") written by [Martianus Capella](#) (4th-5th century) was very influential on the successive medieval encyclopedias. It consists in a complete encyclopedia of classical erudition. It firstly introduced the division and classification of the seven [liberal arts](#) ([trivium](#) and [quadrivium](#)), followed by many successive works along the [Middle Ages](#).

The first Christian encyclopedia were the *Institutiones divinarum et saecularium litterarum* of [Cassiodorus](#) (543-560), which were divided in two parts: the first one dealt with Christian Divinity; the second one described the seven liberal arts.

[Saint Isidore of Seville](#), one of the greatest scholars of the early Middle Ages, is widely recognized as being the author of the first known encyclopedia of the Middle Ages, the [Etymologiae](#) or *Origines* (around 630), in which he compiled a sizable portion of the learning available at his time, both ancient and modern. The encyclopedia has 448 chapters in 20 volumes, and is valuable because of the quotes and fragments of texts by other authors that would have been lost had they not been collected by Saint Isidore.

The most popular encyclopedia of [Carolingian](#) Age was the *De universo* or *De rerum naturis* by [Rabanus Maurus](#), written about [830](#), which was based on *Etymologiae*.

During the XII and XIII centuries many encyclopedic works have been written. Among them *De proprietatibus rerum* by [Bartholomeus Anglicus](#)' (1240) was the most widely read and quoted encyclopedia in the [High Middle Ages](#)^[15] while [Vincent of Beauvais](#)'s *Speculum Majus* (1260) was the most ambitious encyclopedia in the late-medieval period at over 3 million words.^[15]

The first encyclopedias in vernacular language were translations or abridgements of works in [Latin](#).

Among them the most famous is *Li livre dou Trésor*, written in [French](#) by the [Florentine Brunetto Latini](#). It is mainly based on the *Speculum Majus*. Often also the works by the [Flemish Jacob van Maerlant](#), as a whole, are regarded as an encyclopedia. These works, too, are based on former Latin texts.

[Byzantine](#) encyclopedias were compendia of informations about both [Ancient](#) and Byzantine Greece. The first of them was the *Bibliotheca* written by the [patriarch Photius](#) (9th century).

The *Suda* or Souda (Greek: Σοῦδα) is a massive 10th century Byzantine encyclopedia of the ancient Mediterranean world, formerly attributed to an author called Suidas. It is an encyclopedic lexicon, written in Greek, with 30,000 entries, many drawing from ancient sources that have since been lost, and often derived from medieval Christian compilers.

Arabic and Persian

The [early Muslim compilations of knowledge](#) in the Middle Ages included many comprehensive works. Around year 960, the [Brethren of Purity](#) of [Basra](#)^[16] were engaged in their *Encyclopedia of the Brethren of Purity*. Notable works include [Abu Bakr al-Razi](#)'s encyclopedia of science, the [Mutazilite Al-Kindi](#)'s prolific output of 270 books, and [Ibn Sina](#)'s medical encyclopedia, which was a standard reference work for centuries. Also notable are works of [universal history](#) (or sociology) from [Asharites](#), [al-Tabri](#), [al-Masudi](#), [Tabari](#)'s *History of the Prophets and Kings*, [Ibn Rustah](#), [al-Athir](#), and [Ibn Khaldun](#), whose *Muqadimmah* contains cautions regarding trust in written records that remain wholly applicable today. These scholars influenced methods of research and editing, due in part to the Islamic practice of [isnad](#) which emphasized fidelity to written record, checking sources, and skeptical inquiry.^[citation needed]

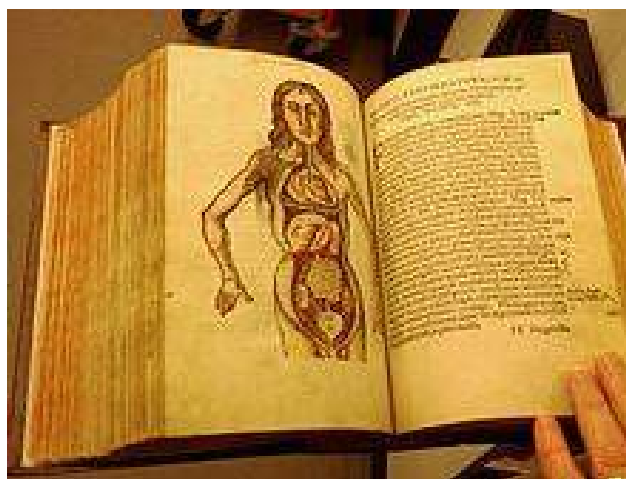
China

Main article: [Chinese encyclopedia](#)

The enormous encyclopedic work in China of the [Four Great Books of Song](#), compiled by the 11th century during the early [Song Dynasty](#) (960–1279), was a massive literary undertaking for the time. The last encyclopedia of the four, the [Prime Tortoise of the Record Bureau](#), amounted to 9.4 million [Chinese characters](#) in 1,000 written volumes. There were many great encyclopedists throughout Chinese history, including the scientist and statesman [Shen Kuo](#) (1031–1095) with his [Dream Pool Essays](#) of 1088, the statesman, inventor, and agronomist [Wang Zhen](#) (active 1290–1333) with his *Nong Shu* of 1313, and the written *Tiangong Kaiwu* of [Song Yingxing](#) (1587–1666), the latter of whom was termed the "[Diderot of China](#)" by British historian [Joseph Needham](#).^[17]

The [Chinese emperor Yongle](#) of the [Ming Dynasty](#) oversaw the compilation of the [Yongle Encyclopedia](#), one of the largest encyclopedias in history, which was completed in 1408 and comprised over 370 million Chinese characters in 11,000 handwritten volumes, of which only about 400 remain today. In the succeeding dynasty, emperor [Qianlong](#) of the [Qing Dynasty](#) personally composed 40,000 poems as part of a 4.7 million page library in 4 divisions, including thousands of essays, called the [Siku Quanshu](#) which is probably the largest collection of books in the world. It is instructive to compare his title for this knowledge, *Watching the waves in a Sacred Sea* to a Western-style title for all knowledge. Encyclopedic works, both in imitation of Chinese encyclopedias and as independent works of their own origin, have been known to exist in Japan since the 9th century ad.

Renaissance



Anatomy in *Margarita Philosophica*, 1565

These works were all hand copied and thus rarely available, beyond wealthy patrons or monastic men of learning: they were expensive, and usually written for those extending knowledge rather than those using it.^[15]

During [Renaissance](#) the creation of [printing](#) allowed a wider diffusion of encyclopedias and every scholar could have its own copy.

The *De expetendis et fugiendis rebus* by Giorgio Valla was posthumously printed in [1501](#) by [Aldo Manuzio](#) in [Venice](#). This work followed the traditional scheme of liberal arts. However, Valla added the translation of ancient Greek works on mathematics (firstly by [Archimedes](#)), newly discovered and translated.

The *Margarita Philosophica* by [Gregor Reisch](#), printed in 1503, was a complete encyclopedia explaining the seven liberal arts.

Much encyclopaedism of the [French Renaissance](#) was based upon the notion of not including every fact known to humans, but only that knowledge that was necessary, where necessity was judged by a wide variety of criteria, leading to works of greatly varying sizes. [Béroalde de Verville](#) laid the foundation for his encyclopaedic works in a [hexameral poem](#) entitled *Les cognoissances nécessaires* for example. Often, the criteria had moral bases, such as in the case of [Pierre de La Primaudaye](#)'s *L'Académie française* and Guillaume Telin's *Bref sommaire des sept vertus &c.*. Encyclopaedists encountered several problems with this approach, including how to decide what to omit as unnecessary, how to structure knowledge that resisted structure (often simply as a consequence of the sheer amount of material that deserved inclusion), and how to cope with the influx of newly discovered knowledge and the effects that it had on prior structures.^[18]

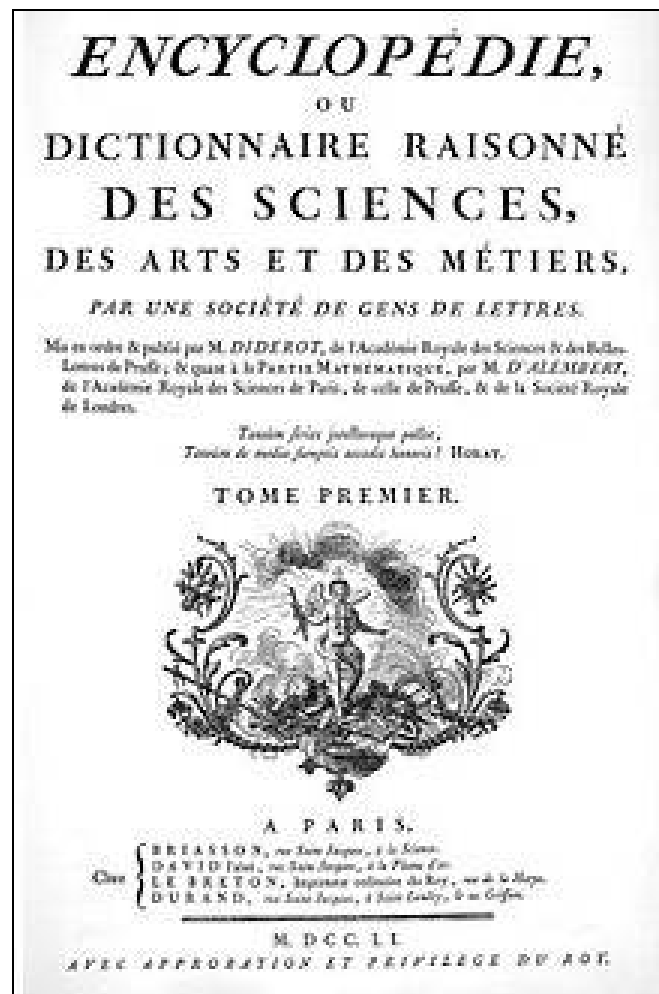
The term encyclopaedia was coined by 15th century humanists who misread copies of their texts of [Pliny](#) and [Quintilian](#), and combined the two Greek words "*enkyklios paideia*" into one word. The phrase *enkyklios paideia* (ἐγκύκλιος παιδεία) was used by Plutarch and the Latin word Enciclopedia came from him.

The first work titled in this way was the *Encyclopedia orbisque doctrinarum, hoc est omnium artium, scientiarum, ipsius philosophiae index ac divisio* written by [Johannes Aventinus](#) in [1517](#).^[citation needed]

The English physician and philosopher, Sir [Thomas Browne](#), specifically employed the word *encyclopaedia* for the first time in English^[citation needed] as early as 1646 in the preface to the reader to describe his [Pseudodoxia Epidemica](#) or *Vulgar Errors*, a series of refutations of common errors of his age. Browne structured his encyclopaedia upon the time-honoured schemata of the Renaissance, the so-called 'scale of creation' which ascends a hierarchical ladder via the mineral, vegetable, animal, human, planetary and cosmological worlds. Browne's compendium went through no less than five editions, each revised and augmented, the last edition appearing in 1672. *Pseudodoxia Epidemica* found itself upon the bookshelves of many educated European readers for throughout the late 17th century and early 18th century it was translated, for many years it was not

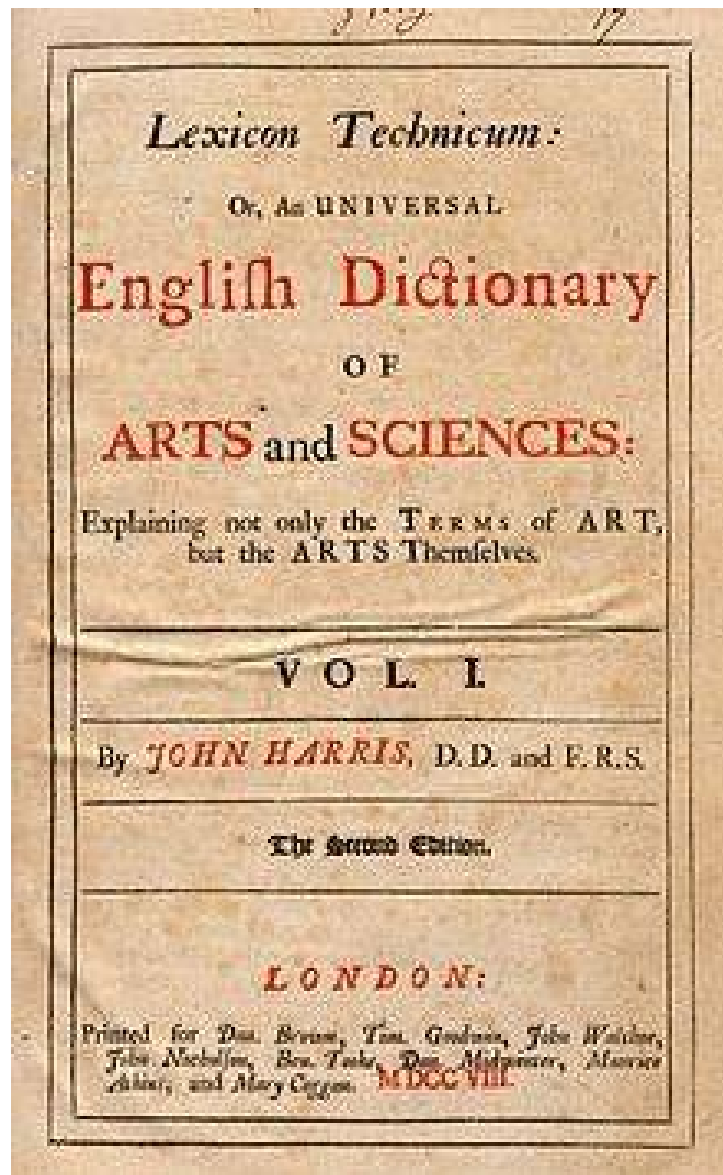
thought compatible with the French and Dutcheze, into the French, [Dutch](#) and German languages as well as [Latin](#).

18th–19th centuries



[Encyclopédie](#), 1773

The beginnings of the modern idea of the general-purpose, widely distributed printed encyclopedia precede the 18th century encyclopedists. However, [Chambers' Cyclopaedia, or Universal Dictionary of Arts and Sciences](#) (1728), and the [Encyclopédie](#) of Diderot and D'Alembert (1751 onwards), as well as [Encyclopædia Britannica](#) and the [Conversations-Lexikon](#), were the first to realize the form we would recognize today, with a comprehensive scope of topics, discussed in depth and organized in an accessible, systematic method. Chambers, in 1728, followed the earlier lead of John Harris's [Lexicon Technicum](#) of 1704 and later editions (see also below); this work was by its title and content "A Universal English Dictionary of Arts and Sciences: Explaining not only the Terms of Art, but the Arts Themselves".



 Harris' [Lexicon Technicum](#), title page of 2nd edition, 1708

[John Harris](#) is often credited with introducing the now-familiar alphabetic format in 1704 with his English *Lexicon Technicum: Or, A Universal English Dictionary of Arts and Sciences: Explaining not only the Terms of Art, but the Arts Themselves* – to give its full title. Organized alphabetically, its content does indeed contain explanation not merely of the terms used in the arts and sciences, but of the arts and sciences themselves. [Sir Isaac Newton](#) contributed his only published work on chemistry to the second volume of 1710. Its emphasis was on science—and conformably to the broad 18th-century understanding of the term 'science', its content extends beyond what would be called science or technology today, and includes topics from the humanities and fine arts, e.g. a substantial number from law, commerce, music, and heraldry. At about 1,200 pages, its scope can be

considered as more that of an [encyclopedic dictionary](#) than a true encyclopedia. Harris himself considered it a dictionary; the work is one of the first technical dictionaries in any language.^{[[citation needed](#)]}

[Ephraim Chambers](#) published his [Cyclopaedia](#) in 1728. It included a broad scope of subjects, used an alphabetic arrangement, relied on many different contributors and included the innovation of cross-referencing other sections within articles. Chambers has been referred to as the father of the modern encyclopedia for this two-volume work.

A French translation of Chambers' work inspired the [Encyclopédie](#), perhaps the most famous early encyclopedia, notable for its scope, the quality of some contributions, and its political and cultural impact in the years leading up to the [French revolution](#). The *Encyclopédie* was edited by [Jean le Rond d'Alembert](#) and [Denis Diderot](#) and published in 17 volumes of articles, issued from 1751 to 1765, and 11 volumes of illustrations, issued from 1762 to 1772. Five volumes of supplementary material and a two volume index, supervised by other editors, were issued from 1776 to 1780 by [Charles Joseph Panckoucke](#).

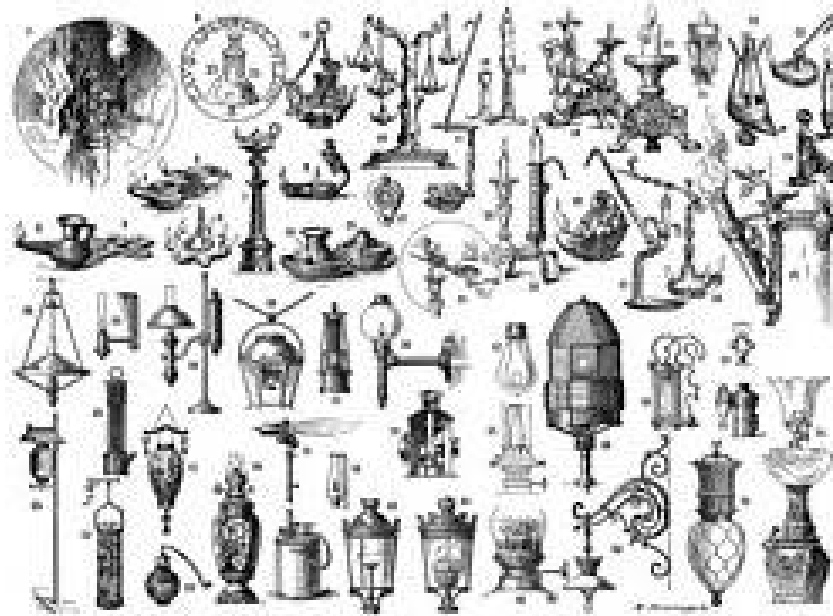
The *Encyclopédie* represented the essence of the [French Enlightenment](#).^[19] The prospectus stated an ambitious goal: the *Encyclopédie* was to be a systematic analysis of the "order and interrelations of human knowledge."^[20] Diderot, in his [Encyclopédie article of the same name](#), went further: "to collect all the knowledge that now lies scattered over the face of the earth, to make known its general structure to the men among we live, and to transmit it to those who will come after us," to make men not only wiser but also "more virtuous and more happy."^[21]

Realizing the inherent problems with the model of knowledge he had created, Diderot's view of his own success in writing the *Encyclopédie* were far from ecstatic. Diderot envisioned the perfect encyclopedia as more than the sum of its parts. In his own article on the encyclopedia, Diderot also wrote, "Were an analytical dictionary of the sciences and arts nothing more than a methodical combination of their elements, I would still ask whom it behooves to fabricate good elements." Diderot viewed the ideal encyclopedia as an index of connections. He realized that all knowledge could never be amassed in just one large work, but he hoped the relations among the subjects could be.

The *Encyclopédie* in turn inspired the venerable [Encyclopædia Britannica](#), which had a modest beginning in Scotland: the first edition, issued between 1768 and 1771, had just three hastily completed volumes – A–B, C–L, and M–Z – with a total of 2,391 pages. By 1797, when the third edition was completed, it had been expanded to 18 volumes addressing a full range of topics, with articles contributed by a range of authorities on their subjects.

The [German-language Conversations-Lexikon](#) was published at [Leipzig](#) from 1796 to 1808, in 6 volumes. Paralleling other 18th century encyclopedias, its scope was expanded beyond that of earlier publications, in an effort at comprehensiveness. It was, however, intended not for scholarly use but to provide results of research and discovery in a simple

and popular form without extensive detail. This format, a contrast to the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, was widely imitated by later 19th century encyclopedias in Britain, the United States, France, Spain, Italy and other countries. Of the influential late-18th century and early-19th century encyclopedias, the *Conversations-Lexikon* is perhaps most similar in form to today's encyclopedias.



A typical custom-made encyclopedia engraving by [Maurice Dessertenne](#) for the *Nouveau Larousse illustré* (France, 1898–1907)

The early years of the 19th century saw a flowering of encyclopedia publishing in the United Kingdom, Europe and America. In England [Rees's Cyclopaedia](#) (1802–1819) contains an enormous amount in information about the industrial and scientific revolutions of the time. A feature of these publications is the high-quality illustrations made by engravers like [Wilson Lowry](#) of art work supplied by specialist draftsmen like [John Farey, Jr.](#) Encyclopaedias were published in Scotland, as a result of the [Scottish Enlightenment](#), for education there was of a higher standard than in the rest of the United Kingdom. The [National Revival](#) of [Bulgaria](#), influenced by the [Enlightenment](#), resulted in [Petar Beron's](#) *Primer with Various Instructions* (also known as the *Fish Primer*) in 1824. It was a small encyclopedia for children, containing fables, proverbs, ancient history, basic [arithmetic](#)s, [zoology](#) and [linguistics](#).^[22] Beron later published a 7-volume work in natural sciences known as *Panepisteme* in 1867.

The 17-volume *Grand dictionnaire universel du XIXe siècle* and its supplements were published in France by [Pierre Larousse](#) from 1866 to 1890.

Encyclopædia Britannica appeared in various editions throughout the century, and the growth of [popular education](#) and the [Mechanics Institutes](#), spearheaded by the [Society for](#)

[the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge](#) led to the production of the [Penny Cyclopaedia](#), as its title suggests issued in weekly numbers at a penny each like a [newspaper](#).

In the early 20th century, the *Encyclopædia Britannica* reached its eleventh edition, and inexpensive encyclopedias such as [Harmsworth's Universal Encyclopaedia](#) and [Everyman's Encyclopaedia](#) were common.

International development

During the 19th and early 20th century, many smaller or less developed languages saw their first encyclopedias, using French, German, and English role models. While encyclopedias in larger languages, having large markets that could support a large editorial staff, churned out new 20-volume works in a few years and new editions with brief intervals, such publication plans often spanned a decade or more in smaller languages.

The first large encyclopedia in Russian, [Brockhaus and Efron Encyclopedic Dictionary](#) (86 volumes, 1890–1906), was a direct cooperation with the German Brockhaus.

Without such a formal cooperation, the Swedish *Conversations-lexicon* (4 volumes, 1821–1826) was a translation of Brockhaus 2nd edition. The first encyclopedia written originally in Swedish was *Svenskt konversationslexikon* (4 volumes, 1845–1851) by Per Gustaf Berg. A more ambitious project was [Nordisk familjebok](#), established in 1875 and intended to comprise 6 volumes. But in 1885, when it had published 8 volumes and gotten only halfway (A–K), the publisher turned to the government for extra funding; encyclopedias had become national monuments. It was finished in 1894 with 18 volumes,^[23] with two supplement volumes (1896–1899).





[Encyclopedia Americana](#) at Göttingen State and University Library.

The first major Danish encyclopedia was [Salmonsens Konversationsleksikon](#) (19 volumes, 1893–1911).

In Norway, encyclopedias follow the unique history of the [Norwegian language](#), the [Bokmål](#) variant having branched off from Danish during the 19th century. After the national independence in 1905, publisher [Aschehoug](#) (owned by [William Martin Nygaard](#)) hired librarian Haakon Nyhuus to edit *Illustreret norsk konversationsleksikon* (6 volumes, 1907–1913), in later editions known as *Aschehougs konversasjonsleksikon*. In the [Nynorsk](#) variant of the language, *Norsk Allkunnebok* (10 volumes, 1948–1966) was the only encyclopedia until the arrival of Wikipedia.

The first major Finnish encyclopedia was [Tietosanakirja](#) (11 volumes, 1909–1922). Inspired by the minority language example of *Norsk Allkunnebok*, a Swedish-language encyclopedia of Finland was initiated in 1969 and eventually published as [Uppslagsverket Finland](#) (3 volumes, 1982–1985; 2nd edition in 5 volumes, 2003–2007). With such a small market, the sales revenue only covered the printing cost, while editors were paid by endowments. In 2009 the entire contents was made available online, free of charge.

Already during [czarist Russian](#) rule, two editions appeared of the Latvian *Konversācijas vārdnīca* (2 volumes, 1891–1893; 4 volumes, 1906–1921). The larger *Latviešu konversācijas vārdnīca* (21 volumes, A–Tjepolo, 1927–1940) was interrupted by [World War II](#) and never completed. After the war, Latvian emigrants in Sweden published *Latvju enciklopēdija* (3 volumes, 1950–1956, with a supplement volume in 1962). Soviet authorities published *Latvijas PSR mazās enciklopēdijas* (3 volumes, 1967–1970) and *Latvijas padomju enciklopēdija* (10 volumes, 1981–1988).^[24]

Similarly, in the history of [Lithuanian encyclopedias](#), the *Lietuviškoji enciklopedija* (9 volumes A–J, 1933–1941) was interrupted by [World War II](#) and never completed. Lithuanian emigrants in the United States published *Lietuvių enciklopedija* (35 volumes, 1953–1966). Soviet authorities published *Mažoji lietuviškoji tarybinė enciklopedija* (3 volumes, 1966–1971), (12 volumes, 1976–1985), and *Tarybų Lietuvos enciklopedija* (4 volumes, 1985–1988). First Turkish encyclopedia was *Kamus-ül-Ulûm ve'l-Maarif* written by Ali Suvai in 1870 after that Ahmet Rifat Efendi's 7 volumes work "Lûgaat-i Tarihiye ve Coğrafiye" (Dictionary of History and Geography) published in Istanbul at 1881.^[25]

See also this list of [historical encyclopedias](#).

20th century



 1913 advertisement for [Encyclopædia Britannica](#), the oldest and one of the largest contemporary English encyclopedias.

Popular and affordable encyclopaedias such as [Harmsworth's Universal Encyclopaedia](#) and the [Children's Encyclopaedia](#) appeared in the early 1920s.

In the United States, the 1950s and 1960s saw the introduction of several large popular encyclopedias, often sold on installment plans. The best known of these were [World Book](#) and [Funk and Wagnalls](#).

The second half of the 20th century also saw the publication of several encyclopedias that were notable for synthesizing important topics in specific fields, often by means of new works authored by significant researchers. Such encyclopedias included *The Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (first published in 1967 and now in its second edition), and *Elsevier's Handbooks In Economics*^[26] series. Encyclopedias of at least one volume in size exist for most if not all [academic disciplines](#), including, typically, such narrow topics such as [bioethics](#) and [African American history](#).

By the late 20th century, encyclopedias were being published on [CD-ROMs](#) for use with personal computers. [Microsoft's Encarta](#), launched in 1993, was a landmark example as it had no printed equivalent. Articles were supplemented with video and audio files as well as numerous high-quality images. After sixteen years, Microsoft discontinued the Encarta line of products in 2009.^[27]

Traditional encyclopedias are written by a number of employed text writers, usually people with an [academic degree](#), and distributed as [proprietary](#) content.

Encyclopedias are essentially derivative from what has gone before, and particularly in the 19th century, [copyright infringement](#) was common among encyclopedia editors. However, modern encyclopedias are not merely larger compendia, including all that came before them. To make space for modern topics, valuable material of historic use regularly had to be discarded, at least before the advent of digital encyclopedias. Moreover, the opinions and world views of a particular generation can be observed in the encyclopedic writing of the time. For these reasons, old encyclopedias are a useful source of historical information, especially for a record of changes in science and technology.^[28]

As of 2007, old encyclopedias whose [copyright has expired](#), such as the 1911 edition of Britannica, are also the only [free content](#) English encyclopedias released in print form. However, works such as the [Great Soviet Encyclopedia](#), which were created in the public domain,^{[[citation needed](#)]} exist as free content encyclopedias in other languages.

Free encyclopedias

See also: [History of wikis](#)

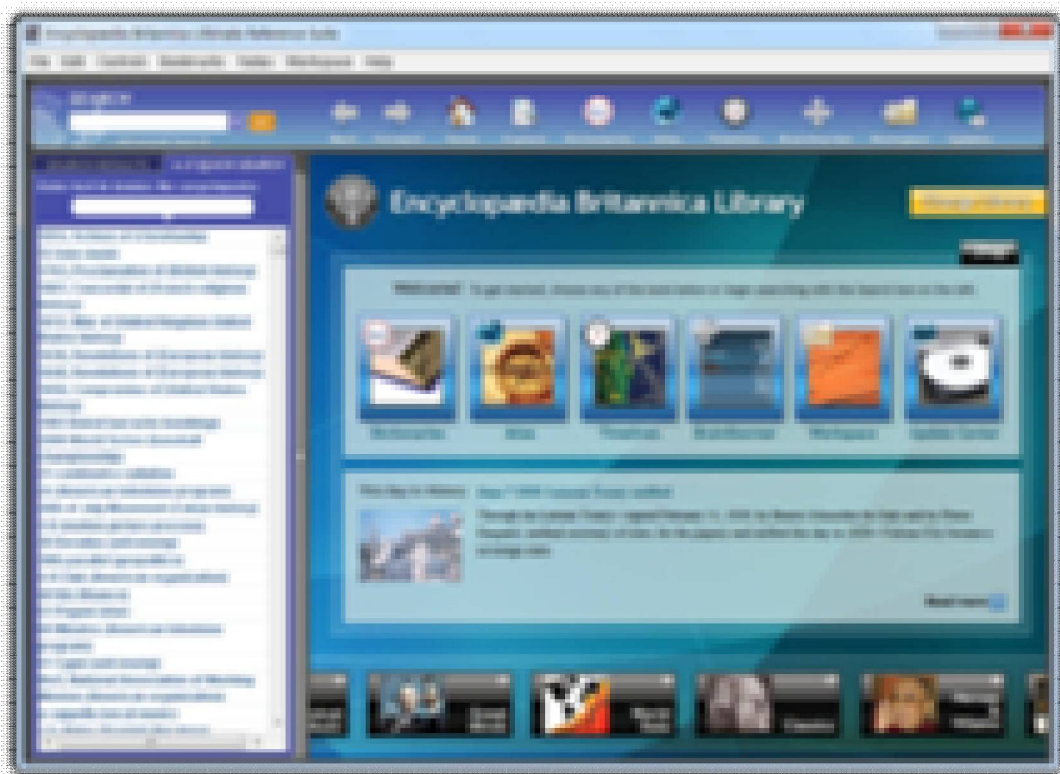


[Wikipedia](#) is one of the first "[user generated content](#)" encyclopedias.

The concept of a new free encyclopedia began with the [Interpedia](#) proposal on [Usenet](#) in 1993, which outlined an Internet-based [online encyclopedia](#) to which anyone could submit content and that would be freely accessible. Early projects in this vein included [Everything2](#) and [Open Site](#). In 1999, [Richard Stallman](#) proposed the [GNUPedia](#), an online encyclopedia which, similar to the [GNU operating system](#), would be a "generic" resource. The concept was very similar to Interpedia, but more in line with Stallman's [GNU](#) philosophy.

It was not until [Nupedia](#) and later [Wikipedia](#) that a stable free encyclopedia project was able to be established on the Internet. The English Wikipedia became the world's largest encyclopedia in 2004 at the 300,000 article stage^[29] and by late 2005, Wikipedia had produced over two million articles in more than 80 languages with content licensed under the [copyleft GNU Free Documentation License](#). As of August 2009, Wikipedia had over 3 million articles in English and well over 10 million combined in over 250 languages. Wikipedia currently has [4,016,189](#) articles in English. Since 2003, other free encyclopedias like the Chinese-language [Baidu Baike](#) and [Hudong](#), as well as English language encyclopedias like [Citizendium](#) and [Knol](#) have appeared.

Twenty-first century



 [Encyclopædia Britannica Ultimate Reference Suite](#), an example of a twenty-first century encyclopedia.

The encyclopedia's hierarchical structure and evolving nature is particularly adaptable to a [digital format](#), and all major printed multi-subject encyclopedias had moved to this method of delivery by the end of the 20th century. [Disk-based](#), typically [DVD-ROM](#) or [CD-ROM](#) format, publications have the advantage of being cheaply produced and easily portable. Additionally, they can include [media](#) which are impossible to store in the printed format, such as [animations](#), [audio](#) and [video](#). [Hyperlinking](#) between conceptually related items is also a significant benefit, although even Diderot's encyclopedia had cross-referencing.

On-line encyclopedias offer the additional advantage of being dynamic: new information can be presented almost immediately, rather than waiting for the next release of a static format, as with a disk- or paper-based publication. Many printed encyclopedias traditionally published annual supplemental volumes ("yearbooks") to update events between editions, as a partial solution to the problem of staying up-to-date, but this of course required the reader to check both the main volumes and the supplemental volumes. Some disk-based encyclopedias offer subscription-based access to online updates, which are then integrated with the content already on the user's [hard disk](#) in a manner not possible with a printed encyclopedia.

Information in a printed encyclopedia necessarily needs some form of hierarchical structure. Traditionally, the method employed is to present the information ordered alphabetically by the article title. However with the advent of dynamic electronic formats the need to impose a pre-determined structure is less necessary. Nonetheless, most electronic encyclopedias still offer a range of organizational strategies for the articles, such as by subject, area, or alphabetically.

Digital encyclopedias also offer greater search abilities than printed versions. While the printed versions rely on indexes to assist in searching for topics, computer accessible versions allow searching through article text for keywords or phrases.

Characteristics



This section **needs additional [citations](#) for [verification](#)**. (June 2010)

The modern encyclopaedia was developed from the [dictionary](#) in the 18th century. Historically, both encyclopaedias and dictionaries have been researched and written by well-educated, well-informed content [experts](#), but they are significantly different in structure. A dictionary is a linguistic work which primarily focuses on alphabetical listing of [words](#) and their [definitions](#). [Synonymous](#) words and those related by the subject matter are to be found scattered around the dictionary, giving no obvious place for in-depth treatment. Thus, a dictionary typically provides limited [information](#), [analysis](#) or background for the word defined. While it may offer a definition, it may leave the reader lacking in [understanding](#) the meaning, significance or limitations of a [term](#), and how the term relates to a broader field of knowledge.

To address those needs, an encyclopaedia article is typically non linguistic, and covers not a word, but a *subject* or [discipline](#). As well as defining and listing synonymous terms for the topic, the article is able to treat it in more depth and convey the most relevant accumulated knowledge on that subject. An encyclopaedia article also often includes many [maps](#) and [illustrations](#), as well as [bibliography](#) and [statistics](#).

Four major elements define an encyclopaedia: its subject matter, its scope, its method of organization, and its method of production:

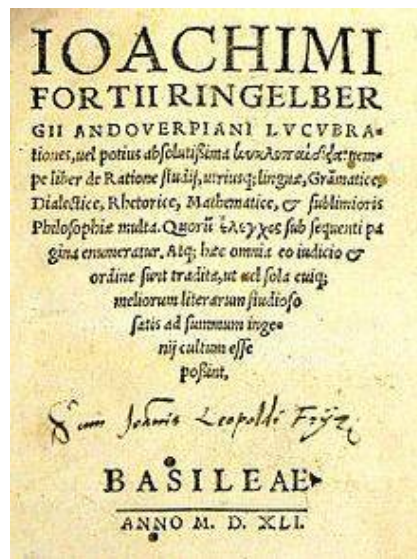
- Encyclopaedias can be general, containing articles on topics in every field (the English-language *Encyclopædia Britannica* and German [Brockhaus](#) are well-known examples). General encyclopaedias often contain guides on how to do a variety of things, as well as embedded dictionaries and [gazetteers](#).^[citation needed] There are also encyclopaedias that cover a wide variety of topics but from a particular cultural, ethnic, or national perspective, such as the [Great Soviet Encyclopedia](#) or [Encyclopaedia Judaica](#).
- Works of encyclopedic scope aim to convey the important accumulated knowledge for their subject domain, such as an encyclopaedia of medicine, philosophy, or law. Works vary in the breadth of material and the depth of discussion, depending on the [target audience](#). (For example, the [Medical encyclopaedia](#) produced by A.D.A.M., Inc. for the U.S. [National Institutes of Health](#).)
- Some systematic method of organization is essential to making an encyclopaedia usable as a work of reference. There have historically been two main methods of organizing printed encyclopaedias: the [alphabetical](#) method (consisting of a number of separate articles, organised in alphabetical order), or organization by [hierarchical](#) categories. The former method is today the most common by far, especially for general works. The fluidity of electronic media, however, allows new possibilities for multiple methods of organization of the same content. Further, electronic media offer previously unimaginable capabilities for search, indexing and cross reference. The epigraph from [Horace](#) on the title page of the 18th century *Encyclopédie* suggests the importance of the structure of an encyclopaedia: "What grace may be added to commonplace matters by the power of order and connection."
- As modern multimedia and the information age have evolved, they have had an ever-increasing effect on the collection, verification, summation, and presentation of information of all kinds. Projects such as [Everything2](#), [Encarta](#), [h2g2](#), and [Wikipedia](#) are examples of new forms of the encyclopaedia as information retrieval becomes simpler.

Some works entitled "dictionaries" are actually similar to encyclopaedias, especially those concerned with a particular field (such as the [Dictionary of the Middle Ages](#), the [Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships](#), and [Black's Law Dictionary](#)). The [Macquarie Dictionary](#), Australia's national dictionary, became an [encyclopedic dictionary](#) after its first edition in recognition of the use of proper nouns in common communication, and the words derived from such proper nouns.

There are some broad differences between encyclopedias and dictionaries. Most noticeably, encyclopedia articles are longer, fuller and more thorough than entries in most general-purpose dictionaries.^{[3][30]} There are differences in content as well. Generally speaking, dictionaries provide [linguistic](#) information about words themselves, while encyclopedias focus more on the thing for which those words stand.^{[4][5][6][7]} Thus, while dictionary entries are inextricably fixed to the word described, encyclopedia articles can be given a different entry name. As such, dictionary entries are not fully translatable into other languages, but encyclopedia articles can be.^[4]

In practice, however, the distinction is not concrete, as there is no clear-cut difference between factual, "encyclopedic" information and linguistic information such as appears in dictionaries.^{[6][30][31]} Thus encyclopedias may contain material that is also found in dictionaries, and vice versa.^[31] In particular, dictionary entries often contain factual information about the thing named by the word.^{[30][31]}

Etymology



Title page of "*Lucubrationes...*" 1541 edition, the first book to use the word encyclopedia in the title

See also: [American and British English spelling differences#Simplification of ae and oe](#)

The word "encyclopaedia" comes from the [Pseudo-^{\[32\]} Classical Greek](#) "ἐγκύκλιος παιδεία", transliterated "enkyklios paideia"; "enkyklios" (ἐγκύκλιος), meaning "circular, recurrent, required regularly, general" + "paideia" (παιδεία), meaning "education". Together, the phrase literally translates as "common knowledge" or "general knowledge". Copyists of Latin manuscripts took this phrase to be a single Greek word, "enkuklopaedia", with the same meaning, and this spurious Greek word became the New Latin word "encyclopaedia", which in turn came into English. Though the notion of a compendium of knowledge dates back thousands of years, the term was first used in the title of a book in 1517 by Johannes Avenarius: *Encyclopedia orbisque doctrinarum, hoc est omnium artium, scientiarum, ipsius philosophiae index ac divisio*, and in 1541 by [Joachimus Fortius Ringelbergius](#), *Lucubrationes vel potius absolutissima kyklopaideia* ([Basel](#), 1541). The word *encyclopaedia* was first used as a noun in the title of his book by the Croatian encyclopedist [Pavao Skalić](#) in his *Encyclopaedia seu orbis disciplinarum tam sacrarum quam prophanarum epistemon* (*Encyclopaedia, or Knowledge of the World of Disciplines*, [Basel](#), 1559).^[dubious – discuss] One of the oldest vernacular uses was by [François Rabelais](#) in his *Pantagruel* in 1532.^{[33][34]}

Several encyclopaedias have names that include the suffix *-p(a)edia*, e.g., [Banglapedia](#) (on matters relevant for Bengal).

In British usage, the spellings *encyclopedia* and *encyclopaedia* are both current.^[35] Although the latter spelling is considered more "proper" by British speakers, the former is becoming increasingly common in British English, in part due to the spread of American English. In American usage, only the former is commonly used.^[36] The spelling *encyclopaedia*—with the [æ ligature](#)—was frequently used in the 19th century and is increasingly rare, although it is retained in product titles such as *Encyclopædia Britannica* and others. The [Oxford English Dictionary](#) (1989) records *encyclopaedia* and *encyclopaedia* as equal alternatives (in that order), and notes the *æ* would be obsolete except that it is preserved in works that have Latin titles. [Webster's Third New International Dictionary](#) (1997–2002) features *encyclopedia* as the main headword and *encyclopaedia* as a minor variant. In addition, *cyclopedia* and *cyclopaedia* are now rarely used shortened forms of the word originating in the 17th century.

See also



[Literature portal](#)



[Education portal](#)

- [Biographical dictionary](#)
- [Fictitious entry](#)
- [History of science and technology](#)
- [Lexicography](#)
- [Lexicon](#)
- [Library science](#)
- [List of encyclopedias](#)
- [Thesaurus](#)
- [Wikipedia](#)

Notes

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3. [^] [a b c](#) Hartmann, R. R. K.; James, Gregory; Gregory James (1998). [Dictionary of Lexicography](#). Routledge. p. 48. [ISBN 0-415-14143-5](#). Retrieved July 27, 2010.
4. [^] [a b c](#) Béjoint, Henri (2000). [Modern Lexicography](#), pp. 30–31. Oxford University Press. [ISBN 0-19-829951-6](#)
5. [^] [a b](#) ["Encyclopaedia"](#). *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Retrieved July 27, 2010. "An English lexicographer, H.W. Fowler, wrote in the preface to the first edition

- (1911) of *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English* that a dictionary is concerned with the uses of words and phrases and with giving information about the things for which they stand only so far as current use of the words depends upon knowledge of those things. The emphasis in an encyclopaedia is much more on the nature of the things for which the words and phrases stand."
6. ^ [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) Hartmann, R. R. K.; Gregory James (1998). [Dictionary of Lexicography](#). Routledge. p. 49. [ISBN 0-415-14143-5](#). Retrieved July 27, 2010. "In contrast with linguistic information, encyclopedia material is more concerned with the description of objective realities than the words or phrases that refer to them. In practice, however, there is no hard and fast boundary between factual and lexical knowledge."
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 12. [^](#) According to some accounts such as the [American Heritage Dictionary](#) copyists of Latin manuscripts took this phrase to be a single Greek word, enkuklopaedia,
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 14. ^ [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) [d](#) Naturalis Historia
 15. ^ [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) See "Encyclopedia" in [Dictionary of the Middle Ages](#).
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24. [^ List of Latvian encyclopedias](#) from the website Historia.lv.
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35. [^](#) ["encyclopaedia"](#), Chambers Reference Online; ["encyclopaedia"](#)^{[[dead link](#)]}, AskOxford.
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- [Encyclopedia](#) – Diderot's article on the Encyclopedia from the original [Encyclopédie](#).
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- [Encyclopedias online](#) University of Wisconsin – Stout listing by category
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Albanian

Encyclopedias written in [Albanian](#).

- [Albanian Encyclopedic Dictionary](#) (*Albanian: Fjalori Enciklopedik Shqiptar*) - published by [Academy of Sciences of Albania](#).
- [Encyclopedia of Yugoslavia](#) (Albanian edition - the very first encyclopedia published in Albanian)
- [Albanian Wikipedia](#) (Wikipedia shqip)

Arabic

Encyclopedias written in [Arabic](#).

Main article: [Arabic encyclopedia](#)

Global Arabic Encyclopedia (external link:

[http://www.mawsoah.net/maogen.asp?th=0\\$\\$main&fileid=PaidVer](http://www.mawsoah.net/maogen.asp?th=0$$main&fileid=PaidVer))

Armenian

Encyclopedias written in [Armenian](#).

- [Armenian Encyclopedia](#).

Azerbaijani

Encyclopedias written in [Azerbaijan](#).

- [Azerbaijani Soviet Encyclopedia](#)

Belarusian

Encyclopedias written in [Belarusian](#)

- [Belarusian Soviet Encyclopedia](#) (1969–1976) (Беларуская савецкая энцыклапедыя)
- [Belarusian Encyclopedia](#) (1996–2004) (Беларуская энцыклапедыя)

Bengali

- [Banglapedia](#)

Bulgarian

Encyclopedias written in [Bulgarian](#)

- [Danchovi Bros Bulgarian Encyclopedia \(1936\)](#) (Българска енциклопедия на Братя Данчови)
- [Concise Bulgarian Encyclopedia \(1963-1969\)](#) (Кратка българска енциклопедия)
- [Encyclopedia Bulgaria \(1981-1997\)](#) (Енциклопедия България)
- [Bulgarian Wikipedia](#) (Уикипедия на български език)

Catalan

Encyclopedias written in [Catalan](#).

- [Gran Enciclopèdia Catalana \[1\]](#) (*Catalan Encyclopedia*)

Chinese

Encyclopedias written in [Chinese](#).

Main article: [Chinese encyclopedias](#)

Croatian

Encyclopedia written in [Croatian](#).

- [Enciklopedija hrvatske umjetnosti](#) (1995–1996) (*Encyclopedia of Croatian Art*)
- [Filmska enciklopedija](#) (1986–1990) (*Film Encyclopedia*)
- [General Encyclopedia of the Yugoslavian Lexicographical Institute](#) (*Opća enciklopedija Jugoslavenskog leksikografskog zavoda*)
- [Hrvatska enciklopedija](#) (1999–2007) (*Croatian Encyclopedia*)
- [Istarska enciklopedija](#) (2005) (*Istrian Encyclopedia*)
- [Krležijana](#) (1993–1999) (*Encyclopedia of Miroslav Krleža*)
- [Medicinska enciklopedija](#) (1967–1986) (*Medical Encyclopedia*)
- [Pomorska enciklopedija](#) (1972–1989) (*Naval Encyclopedia*)
- [Proleksis Encyclopedia](#) (*Proleksis enciklopedija*)
- [Tehnička enciklopedija](#) (1963–1997) (*Technical Encyclopedia*)
- [Croatian Wikipedia](#) (*Wikipedija na hrvatskom jeziku*)

Danish

Encyclopedias written in [Danish](#).

- [Salmonsens Konversationsleksikon](#)
- [Den Store Danske Encyklopædi](#)
- [Danish Wikipedia](#)

Dutch

Encyclopedias written in [Dutch](#).

Main article: [List of Dutch encyclopedias](#)

- [Winkler Prins Geïllustreerde Encyclopaedie](#) (1870–1882; 2nd ed. 1884-1888)

- [*Oosthoek's Geïllustreerde Encyclopaedie*](#) (1916–1923; 7th ed. 1976-1981)
- [*Grote Nederlandse Larousse Encyclopedie*](#) (1971–1979)
- [*Grote Spectrum Encyclopedie*](#) (1974–1980)
- [*Dutch Wikipedia*](#) (*Nederlandstalige Wikipedia*)
- [*Eerste Nederlandse Systematisch Ingerichte Encyclopaedie*](#) (abbr. **E.N.S.I.E.**, "First Dutch Systematically Arranged Encyclopaedia")

English

Encyclopedias written in English (A-Z order).

- [*Academic American Encyclopedia*](#)
- [*Banglapedia*](#), the national encyclopedia of [Bangladesh](#), available in English and Bengali
- [*Britannica Junior*](#)
- [*Book of Knowledge*](#)
- [*The Children's Encyclopedia*](#)
- [*Collins Encyclopedia of Scotland*](#): a one volume encyclopedia
- [*Columbia Encyclopedia*](#): a one-volume encyclopedia from [Columbia University Press](#)
- [*Cambridge Encyclopedia*](#): a one-volume encyclopedia from [Cambridge University Press](#)
- [*Canadian Encyclopedia*](#): Originally a multi-volume print encyclopedia from [Hurtig Publishers](#) focusing on Canadian topics (founded 1985). Now a free, online-only publication of the [Historica Dominion Institute](#)
- [*Collier's Encyclopedia*](#) (1951–1998)
- [*Compton's Encyclopedia*](#): 26 volume encyclopedia
- [*Dictionary of the Middle Ages*](#) (1982–1989)
- [*Encyclopedia Americana*](#)
- [*Encyclopædia Biblica*](#): published in 1899.
- [*Encyclopædia Britannica*](#): in print 1768–2010, online since 1994; See also the [*1911 Encyclopædia Britannica*](#).
- [*Encyclopædia Britannica Ultimate Reference Suite*](#), available on DVD
- [*Encyclopædia Iranica*](#): history and contemporary topics related to [Iranian peoples](#).
- [*Encyclopedia Judaica*](#): a 26-volume English-language encyclopedia of the Jewish people and their faith, Judaism.
- [*Encyclopedia of Associations*](#), also available online as [Associations Unlimited](#).
- [*Encyclopaedia of Wales*](#), one volume, also available in Welsh.
- [*English Wikipedia*](#) (2001)
- [*Funk & Wagnalls*](#)
- [*Global Encyclopedia*](#) a Grolier publication during the 1980s.
- [*Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia*](#)
- [*Merit Students Encyclopedia*](#) (1967–1992)
- [*New American Cyclopedic*](#) (1857–66)
- [*New American Desk Encyclopedia*](#): Small paperback encyclopedia
- [*New International Encyclopaedia*](#) (1902–1927)

- [*The Nuttall Encyclopaedia*](#): 1900
- [*Oracle Encyclopædia*](#): a five volume encyclopedia published in 1895
- [*Pears Cyclopaedia*](#): a one-volume encyclopaedia published annually in the United Kingdom
- [*The Penguin Encyclopedia*](#): a one-volume encyclopedia published by the [Penguin Group](#)
- [*The Poets' Encyclopedia*](#)
- [*Random House Encyclopedia*](#): a one-volume encyclopedia from [Random House](#)
- [*World Book Encyclopedia*](#) World Book is the world's best selling print encyclopedia

Esperanto

Encyclopedias written in [Esperanto](#).

- [*Enciklopedio de Esperanto*](#): two-volume encyclopedia about Esperanto issues (Budapest 1934); reprint in one volume, without the illustrations (1986)
- *Esperanto en perspektivo*: encyclopedic handbook about Esperanto issues (Rotterdam and London 1974)
- [Esperanto Wikipedia](#) (2001)

Estonian

Encyclopedias written in [Estonian](#).

- [*Eesti Üleüldise teaduse raamat ehk encyklopädia konversationi-lexikon*](#) by [Karl August Hermann](#) (1900–1906)
- [*Eesti Entsüklopeedia*](#) (1932–1937)
- [*Eesti nõukogude entsüklopeedia*](#) (1968–1976)
- [*ENEKE*](#) (1982–1986)
- [*Eesti nõukogude entsüklopeedia*](#) (ENE) (1985–1990) / [*Eesti entsüklopeedia*](#) (EE) (1990–2006)
- [Estonian Wikipedia](#) (2002)
- [*Estonica*](#).
- [*TEA entsüklopeedia*](#) (2008)

Finnish

Encyclopedias written in [Finnish](#).

- *Facta* (1969–1974)
- *Factum* (2003–2005)
- [*Iso tietosanakirja*](#) (1931–1958)
- [*Otavan iso tietosanakirja – Encyclopedia Fennica*](#) (1960–1965)
- [*Pieni tietosanakirja*](#) (1925–1928)

- [Spectrum Tietokeskus](#) (1976–1987)
- [Tiedon Värrikäs Maailma](#) (1972-1980)
- [Tietosanakirja](#) (1909–1922)
- [Finnish Wikipedia](#) (Suomenkielinen Wikipedia)

French

Encyclopedias written in [French](#).

- [Encyclopédie](#) (1751–1772)
- [Encyclopédie Méthodique](#) (Pancoucke) 1782–1832
- [Encyclopédie nouvelle](#) (Pierre Leroux and Jean Reynaud) 1839–1840
- [Grand dictionnaire universel du XIXe siècle](#) by [Pierre Larousse](#) (17 volumes 1866–1877) —really an encyclopedia despite its name
- [La Grande Encyclopédie](#), general secretaries of the editorial board: [Camille Dreyfus](#) and [André Berthelot](#) (31 volumes 1886–1902)
- [Nouveau Larousse illustré](#) (1897–1904)
- [Grand Larousse encyclopédique](#) (1960–1964)
- [Encyclopædia Universalis](#) (1968–....)
- [Grand Dictionnaire Encyclopédique Larousse](#)
- [Claude Augé Nouveau Petit Larousse Illustré](#)
- [Encyclopædia Britannica](#) translated into French
- [French Wikipedia](#) (Wikipédia francophone)

[Dictionnaires généraux, universels, encyclopédiques, et autres...](#) A bibliography of French encyclopedias up to Larousse.

Georgian

Encyclopedias written in [Georgian](#).

- [Georgian Soviet Encyclopedia](#).

German

Encyclopedias written in [German](#).

- [Bertelsmann Lexikothek](#) (1967)
- [Grosses vollständiges Universal-Lexicon](#) (1751–1754)
- [Conversations-Lexikon mit vorzüglicher Rücksicht auf die gegenwärtigen Zeiten](#) (1796–1808; see [Brockhaus](#))
- [Oekonomische Encyklopädie](#) (General System of State, City, Home and Agriculture) Editor [Johann Georg Krünitz](#) (242 Volumes 1773–1858)
- [Brockhaus](#) (eds. 1–14 by 1900)
- [Pierers Universal-Lexikon](#) (1824–1836; 7th ed. 1888–1893)

- [*Meyers Konversations-Lexikon*](#) (1839–1855; 5th ed. 1893–1897)
- [*Herders Konversations-Lexikon*](#) (1854–1857; 2nd ed. 1875–1879)
- [*The Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in Word and Picture*](#) (1886–1902)
- [German Wikipedia](#) (*Deutsche Wikipedia*)

Greek

Encyclopedias written in [Greek](#).

- *Encyclopedic lexicon* by P. Gerakakis, I–V volumes, 1861–1865 (Γερακάκης, Πέτρος. *Λεξικόν εγκυκλοπαίδειας: περιέχον τα κυριωτέρα των επιστημών και τεχνών*)
- [*Suda*](#) (*Historical encyclopedia of the ancient Mediterranean world*), (10th century)
- [*Helios*](#) (*Νεώτερον Εγκυκλοπαιδικόν Λεξικόν, Ἥλιος*), (1950)
- [*Papyrus - Larousse – Britannica*](#) (*Πάπυρος - Λαρούς - Μπριτάννικα*) (1975–2004)
- [Greek Wikipedia](#) (*Ελληνική Βικιπαίδεια*)

Gujarati

Encyclopedias written in [Gujarati](#).

- "[Bhagavadgomandal](#)" - Completed around by [Bhagvatsingh of Gondal](#) with the help of his education minister Chandulal Patel.
- [Gujarati Vishwakosh](#) (1985–2009)

Hebrew

Encyclopedias written in [Hebrew](#).

- [Encyclopaedia Hebraica](#)
- [Encyclopedia of the Holocaust](#)
- [Hebrew Wikipedia](#)

Hindi

Encyclopedias written in [Hindi](#).

- Encyclopædia Britannica in Hindi (*इनसाक्लोपिडिया ब्रिटानिका*)
- [Hindi Wikipedia](#)
[CDAC Hindi Vishvakosh](#)(*सीडैक हिन्दी विश्वकोश*)

Hungarian

Encyclopedias written in [Hungarian](#).

- [Pallas Nagy Lexikona](#) 1893–1900
- [Révai Nagy Lexikona](#) 1911–1935
- [Tolnai Világlexikona](#) 1912-1918, 1926–1930
- [A Napkelet Lexikona](#) 1927
- [Új Idők Lexikona](#) 1936–1942
- [Új Magyar Lexikon](#) 1961–1972
- [Magyar Nagylexikon](#) 1993–2004
- [Britannica Hungarica Világenciklopédia](#) 1994–2001
- [Pannon Enciklopédia](#)
- [Hungarian Wikipedia](#) 2003-

Icelandic

Encyclopedias written in [Icelandic](#)

- [Íslenska alfræðiorðabókin A-Ö](#)

Indonesian

Encyclopedias written in [Indonesia](#)

- [Ensiklopedi Nasional Indonesia](#)
- [Ensiklopedi Islam](#)
- [Indonesian Wikipedia](#) (*Wikipedia in Indonesia*)

Italian

Encyclopedias written in [Italian](#).

- [Enciclopedia italiana di scienze, lettere ed arti](#) (1929–1960)
- [Dizionario enciclopedico italiano](#) (1955-)
- [Italian Wikipedia](#) (*Wikipedia in italiano*)

Japanese

Encyclopedias written in [Japanese](#).

Main article: [Japanese encyclopedias](#)

Kazakh

Encyclopedias translated into [Kazakh](#).

- [Great Soviet Encyclopedia](#).

Korean

Encyclopedias written in [Korean](#).

- [Doosan Encyclopedia](#)
- [Encyclopedia of Korean Culture](#)
- [Jibong yuseol](#)
- [Korean Wikipedia](#)

Kurdish

Encyclopedias written in [Kurdish](#).

- [Kurdistanica](#) (1992).

Kyrgyz

Encyclopedias written in [Kyrgyz](#).

- [Great Soviet Encyclopedia](#).

Latin

Encyclopedias written in [Latin](#).

- Nine Books of Disciplines by [Marcus Terentius Varro](#)
- [Naturalis Historia](#) of [Pliny the Elder](#)
- [Etymologiae](#) of [Isidore of Seville](#)
- [Speculum Maius](#) of [Vincent of Beauvais](#)
- [De proprietatibus rerum](#) of [Bartholomeus Anglicus](#)
- Liber de natura rerum of [Thomas of Cantimpré](#)
- [Fons memorabilium universi](#) of [Domenico Bandini of Arezzo](#)
- [Latin Wikipedia](#)

Latvian

Encyclopedias written in [Latvian](#).

- [Latvian Wikipedia](#) (2003)
- Latviešu konversācijas vārdnīca, 1927-1940
- Latvijas padomju enciklopēdija, 1981-1988

Leonese

Encyclopedias written in [Leonese](#).

- [Llionpedia](#) (2009)

Lithuanian

Encyclopedias written in [Lithuanian](#).

Main article: [Lithuanian encyclopedias](#)

Macedonian

Encyclopedias written in [Macedonian](#).

- [Encyclopedia of Yugoslavia](#) (Macedonian edition - the very first encyclopedia published in Macedonian)
- [Macedonian Wikipedia](#) (Википедија)

Malayalam

Encyclopedias written in [Malayalam](#).

- [Srava Vijyana Kosham](#)
- [Viswa Sahitya Vijnanakosam](#)
- Puranic Encyclopedia [Vettom Mani](#) Published By DC Books
- [Malayalam Britannica](#)
- [Malayalam Wikipedia](#)

Moldavian

Encyclopedias translated into [Moldavian](#).

- [Great Soviet Encyclopedia](#).

Nepali

Encyclopedias written in [Nepali](#).

- [\[2\]](#) (1994)

Norwegian

Encyclopedias written in [Norwegian](#).

- [Store norske leksikon](#)
- [Caplex](#)
- [Norwegian Wikipedia](#)

Persian

Encyclopedias written in [Persian](#).

- [Treasure Box of Knowledge](#) (1993)
- [Encyclopedia of Sophistication](#) (2003)
- [Persian Wikipedia](#) (2004)
- [The Encyclopedia of Iranian Old Music](#) (2000)
- [Encyclopaedia of Persian Language and Literature](#)
- [Encyclopedia of Iran and Islam](#)
- [Encyclopedia of Islam World](#)
- [Encyclopedia Islamica](#)
- [Dehkhoda Dictionary](#) (Loghatnameh Dehkhoda)
- [The Persian Encyclopedia](#)

Polish

Encyclopedias written in [Polish](#).

- [Encyklopedia Polski](#) (Encyclopedia of Poland), 1996
- [Great Universal Encyclopedia of PWN \(Wielka Encyklopedia Powszechna PWN\)](#)
- Published by PWN (1962–1970) - 12 volumes
- [Great Encyclopedia of PWN \(Wielka Encyklopedia PWN\)](#) - Published by PWN
(2001–2005) - 30 volumes
- [Internet PWN Encyclopedia \(Internetowa encyklopedia PWN\)](#), also referred to as
'Nowa encyklopedia powszechna PWN', is a free Internet Encyclopedia published
by PWN
- [Polish Wikipedia](#)

Portuguese

Encyclopedias written in [Portuguese](#).

- [Biblioteca Universal](#) - Published by Texto Editora (paper, multimedia and Online) [3]
- [Diciopédia](#) - Published by Porto Editora (Multimedia and Online) [4]
- [Infopédia](#) - Published by Porto Editora (Online) [5]
- [Barsa \(encyclopedia\)](#) - [6]
- [Grande Enciclopédia Portuguesa e Brasileira](#) (since 1936) - 40 Volumes and later supplements
- [Enciclopédia Luso-Brasileira de Cultura](#) - Published by Editorial Verbo (1963–1995) - 22 volumes
- [Enciclopédia Verbo Edição Século XXI](#) - Published by Editorial Verbo (since 1998) - 29 volumes
- [Portuguese Wikipedia](#)

Romanian

Encyclopedias written in [Romanian](#).

- [Enciclopedia Română](#) (1899–1904)
- [Enciclopedia Cugetarea](#) (1940, 1999)
- [Lexiconul Tehnic Român](#) (1948–1968)
- [Dicționar enciclopedic român](#) (1962–1966)
- [Romanian Wikipedia](#)

Russian

Encyclopedias written in [Russian](#).

- *Encyclopedic lexicon* ([Энциклопедический лексикон](#)), 1834–1841, not finished, letters [А–Д](#)
- *Geographical-statistical dictionary of Russian Empire* ([Географическо-статистический словарь Российской Империи](#)), 1863–1885
- [Brockhaus and Efron Encyclopedic Dictionary](#) ([Энциклопедический словарь Брокгауза и Ефрона](#), 1890–1906)
- [Encyclopedia of Domestic Animation](#) ([Энциклопедия отечественной мультипликации](#))
- [Great Soviet Encyclopedia](#) ([Большая Советская энциклопедия](#), БСЭ)
- [Great Russian Encyclopedia](#) ([Большая Российская энциклопедия](#), БРЭ)
- [Soviet Encyclopedic Dictionary](#) ([Советский Энциклопедический Словарь](#), СЭС)
- [Russian Wikipedia](#) ([Русская Википедия](#))

Serbian

Encyclopedias written in [Serbian](#).

- [Encyclopedia of Yugoslavia](#) (1955–1971) (*Енциклопедија Југославије*)
- [General Encyclopedia of the Yugoslavian Lexicographical Institute](#) (*Опћа енциклопедија Југославенског лексикografskog zavoda*)
- [Serbian Wikipedia](#) (*Википедија на српском језику*)
- [Vojna Enciklopedija](#) (*Војна Енциклопедија - Military Encyclopedia*)
- [Encyclopædia Britannica](#) (concise edition, Serbian translation)
- [Srpska Porodična Enciklopedija](#) (*Српска Породична Енциклопедија - Serbian Family Encyclopedia*)
- [Mala Prosvetina Enciklopedija](#) (1985) (*Мала Просветина Енциклопедија - Prosveta's Small Encyclopedia*)

Sinhalese

Encyclopedia written in [Sinhala](#).

- Sinhalese Encyclopaedia (*සිංහල විශ්වකෝෂය*)
- [Sinhalese Wikipedia](#) (*සිංහල විකිපීඩියා*)

Slovak

Encyclopedias written in [Slovak](#).

- *[Slovenský náučný slovník](#)*
- [Pyramída](#)
- [Encyklopédia Slovenska](#)
- [Encyclopaedia Beliana](#)
- [Všeobecný encyklopedický slovník](#)
- [Ottova všeobecná encyklopédia v dvoch zväzkoch](#)
- [Univerzum – všeobecná obrazová encyklopédia A - Ž](#)
- [Univerzum](#)

Slovene

Encyclopedias written in [Slovene](#).

- [Enciklopedija Slovenije](#)
- [Slovene Wikipedia](#) (*slovenska Wikipedia*)

Spanish

Encyclopedias written in Spanish.

- [Diccionario Enciclopédico Espasa](#)

- [Diccionario Enciclopédico Hispano-Americano de Literatura, Ciencias y Artes](#): Barcelona, Montaner y Simón, 1887–1899, reprints and appendices up to 1910. Wonderful and very readable articles, many of them written by known Spanish scholars of the day. Reprinted by the London editor Walter M. Jackson (C. H. Simonds Company, Impresores, Boston, Estados Unidos de Norte América). See reference at <http://www.filosofia.org/enc/eha/eha.htm>
- [El Nuevo Tesoro de la Juventud](#), published by Grolier in 20 volumes
- [Enciclopedia Encarta](#)
- [Enciclopedia universal ilustrada europeo-americana](#); the biggest encyclopedia of its time. Also known as Enciclopedia Espasa o Enciclopedia Espasa-Calpe
- [Enciclopedia Labor](#)
- [Enciclopedia Libre Universal](#) also known as *Enciclopedia Libre*
- [Monitor: enciclopedia Salvat para todos](#), 13 volumes, 1965–70
- [Gran enciclopedia planeta](#), 20 volumes, DVD and on-line encyclopedia, 2004
- [Nueva enciclopedia Durvan](#)
- [Nueva enciclopedia cumbre](#), published by Grolier in 14 volumes and available online.
- [Enciclopedia Universal Micronet](#)
- [Gran Enciclopedia de Andalucía](#)
- [Gran Enciclopedia Aragonesa](#)
- [Gran Enciclopedia Asturiana](#)
- [Gran Enciclopedia Extremeña](#)
- [Gran Enciclopedia Gallega](#)
- [Spanish Wikipedia](#) (*Wikipedia en español*)

Swedish

Encyclopedias written in [Swedish](#).

- [Nordisk familjebok](#) (1876–1899; 2nd ed. 1904–1926)
- [Nordisk familjebok](#) (editions 2–4 of 20+ volumes each, 1904–1957)
- [Svensk uppslagsbok](#) (2 editions, 31 and 32 volumes, 1929–1955)
- *Kunskapens bok* (6 editions, 8 or 9 volumes each, 1937–1959)
- [Focus](#) (5 volumes, 1958–1960, introducing a new era of smaller modular encyclopedias, several later editions)
- [Bra böckers lexikon](#) (4 editions of 25 volumes each, 1973–1995)
- *Bonniers familjelexikon* (20 volumes, 1983–1986)
- [Nationalencyklopedin](#) (20 volumes, 1989–1996)
- *Lexikon 2000* (25 volumes, 1995)
- [Susning.nu](#) (a Swedish online wiki started in 2001, anyone-to-edit encyclopedia until 2004, shut down in 2009)
- [Swedish Wikipedia](#) (*Svenskspråkiga Wikipedia*)
- [Svenska uppslagsverk](#), a comprehensive bibliography maintained by collector Christofer Psilander

See also: [:Category:Swedish encyclopedias](#)

Tajik

Encyclopedia translated into [Tajik](#).

- [Great Soviet Encyclopedia](#)

Tamil

Encyclopedia written in [Tamil](#).

- Encyclopædia Britannica (28000 articles. A three-volume encyclopaedia of selected articles from the English version and special articles on Tamil culture and history. In Tamil பிரிட்டானிக்கா தகவல் களஞ்சியம்)
- Islamic Encyclopaedia (written by Abdul Raheem. In Tamil இஸ்லாமியக் கலைக்களஞ்சியம்)
- Encyclopaedia of Herbs (மூலிகைக் கலைக்களஞ்சியம்)

Turkish

Encyclopedias written in [Turkish](#)

- [Anabritannica](#)

Turkmen

Encyclopedia translated into [Turkmen](#).

- [Great Soviet Encyclopedia](#)

Urdu

Encyclopedias written in [Urdu](#)

- [Mohazzabul Lughat India](#)
- [Shahkar Islami Encyclopedia](#)
- [Shahkar Encyclopedia Pakistan](#)
- [Shahkar Encyclopedia Falakiat](#) (Encyclopedia Astronomy)
- [Shahkar Encyclopedia Ijadat](#) (Encyclopedia Inventions)

Ukrainian

Encyclopedias written in [Ukrainian](#).

- [Encyclopedia of Ukraine](#) (Енциклопедія українознавства)
- [Ukrainian Soviet Encyclopedia](#) (Українська радянська енциклопедія)
- [Universal Encyclopedic Dictionary](#) (Універсальний словник-енциклопедія, 1999, last updated in 2006)
- [Ukrainian Wikipedia](#) (Українська Вікіпедія)

Uzbek

Encyclopedias translated into [Uzbek](#)

- [Great Soviet Encyclopedia](#)

Vietnamese

Encyclopedias written in [Vietnamese](#).

Main article: [Vietnamese encyclopedias](#)

[Tủ điển Bách khoa toàn thư Việt Nam](#)

Welsh

Encyclopedias written in [Welsh](#).

- *Gwyddoniadur Cymru yr Academi Gymreig* (also in [English](#))

List of encyclopedias by branch of knowledge

General encyclopedia

Printed works

English language

- [*The Children's Encyclopedia*](#), by [Arthur Mee](#).
- [*Children's Illustrated Encyclopedia*](#), published by [Dorling Kindersley](#)
- [*Collier's Encyclopedia*](#)
- [*Columbia Encyclopedia*](#): a one-volume encyclopedia from Columbia University Press last published in 2000.
- [*Cambridge Encyclopedia*](#): a one-volume encyclopedia from [Cambridge University Press](#) last published in 1997, edited by David Crystal
- [*Compton's Encyclopedia*](#): 26 volume encyclopedia
- [*Encyclopedia Americana*](#): both a print work and currently a part of Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia.
- [*Encyclopædia Britannica*](#): one of the best-known encyclopedias in English.
- [*Funk & Wagnalls*](#)
- [*Groliers Encyclopedia*](#)
- [*Grolier Book of Knowledge*](#): 20 volumes of equal length
- [*New American Desk Encyclopedia*](#): Small paperback encyclopedia last published in 1997
- [*Oracle Encyclopædia*](#): a five volume encyclopedia published in 1895
- [*Random House Encyclopedia*](#): a one-volume encyclopedia from Random House last published in 1990
- [*Pears Cyclopaedia*](#): a one-volume encyclopaedia published annually in the United Kingdom
- [*The Penguin Encyclopedia*](#): a one-volume encyclopedia published by the Penguin Group in 2002 and edited by David Crystal
- [*World Book Encyclopedia*](#): designed for family use, World Book is the world's best selling print encyclopedia

Spanish language

- [Diccionario Enciclopédico Espasa](#)
- [Diccionario Enciclopédico Hispano-Americano de Literatura, Ciencias y Artes](#): Barcelona, Montaner y Simón, 1887–1899, reprints and appendices up to 1910. Reprinted by the London editor Walter M. Jackson (C. H. Simonds Company, Impresores, Boston, Estados Unidos de Norte América).
- [Enciclopedia Encarta](#)
- [Enciclopedia universal ilustrada europeo-americana](#); the biggest encyclopedia of its time. Also known as Enciclopedia Espasa o Enciclopedia Espasa-Calpe
- [Enciclopedia Labor](#)
- [Enciclopedia Libre Universal](#) also known as *Enciclopedia Libre*
- [Enciclopedia moderna: diccionario universal de literatura, ciencias, artes, agricultura, industria y comercio](#), Madrid: editor Francisco de Paula Mellado, 1851-1855, 37 volúmenes.
- [Enciclopedia Salvat](#)
- [Gran enciclopedia planeta](#), 20 volumes, DVD and on-line encyclopedia, 2004. Geared for adults, and published by the same people who publish the Encyclopædia Britannica.
- [Britannica Enciclopedia Universal Ilustrada](#), 20 volumes; heavily illustrated. Also published by the Encyclopædia Britannica, but designed for students 10–17 years of age.
- [Nueva enciclopedia Durvan](#)
- [Nueva enciclopedia cumbre](#), published by Grolier in 14 volumes and available online.

Other languages

- [Allgemeine Encyclopädie der Wissenschaften und Künste](#): very large 19th-century German-language encyclopaedia by Ersch and Gruber
- [Anabritannica](#): published in Turkey and based on the *Britannica*
- [Micropædia](#)
- [Banglapedia](#): National encyclopedia of Bangladesh
- [Brockhaus](#): German encyclopedia
- [Brockhaus and Efron](#): Russian-language imperial encyclopedia in 86 volumes
- [Encyclopedia of China](#)

- [Den Store Danske Encyklopædi](#) (The Great Danish Encyclopedia) in Danish
- [Enciclopedia Italiana](#) in Italian
- [Enciklopedija Jugoslavije](#) in Serbo-Croatian
- [Enciklopedija Slovenije](#) in Slovene
- [Enciclopedia României](#) in Romanian (1939)
- [Great Soviet Encyclopedia](#) (*Большая Советская Энциклопедия*): The second largest and most comprehensive encyclopedia in Russian; here were 3 editions, 3rd edition of 1969-1978 contains 30 volumes
- [Grosses vollständiges Universal-Lexicon](#): huge 18th-century German encyclopedia by [Johann Heinrich Zedler](#)
- [Gujin tushu jicheng](#): Chinese language encyclopedia completed in 1725 (10 million Chinese characters)
- [Tamil Kalaik kaLanjiyam](#): Tamil-language 10-volume encyclopedia published in 1963.
- [Lexicon Universale](#) in Latin (1698)
- [Literary Encyclopedia](#) (*Литературная энциклопедия*) Russian, 11 volumes 1929-1939 (incomplete - 12th volume draft later published)
- [Magyar Nagylexikon](#) (The Great Hungarian Lexicon): 19 volume general encyclopedia in Hungarian
- [Musik in Geschichte und Gegenwart](#) (1999): 27 volume German encyclopedia of music and musicians
- [Meyers Konversations-Lexikon](#); in German
- [Pomorska enciklopedija](#): in Serbo-Croatian (The Maritime Encyclopedia)
- [Medicinska enciklopedija](#): in Serbo-Croatian
- [Tehnička enciklopedija](#): in Serbo-Croatian (Technical encyclopedia)
- [Enciklopedija hrvatske umjetnosti](#): in Croatian (The Encyclopedia of Croatian Art), (2005)
- [Filmska enciklopedija](#): in Croatian (The Film encyclopedia)
- [Nationalencyklopedin](#): encyclopedia in Swedish
- [Nordisk familjebok](#): encyclopedia in Swedish
- [Otto's encyclopedia](#): the largest Czech-language encyclopedia published between 1888–1908 and 1930–1943
- [Soviet Concise Literary Encyclopedia](#): Soviet-era encyclopedia of literature, 9 volumes published between 1962 and 1978
- [The Book of Healing](#): a thirty volume Arabic-language encyclopedia published by [Avicenna](#) in 1027

- [*The Persian Encyclopedia*](#) : a three volume Persian-language encyclopedia edited by [Gholamhossein Mosahab](#), partially based on the early editions of the [Columbia Encyclopedia](#)
- [Vojna enciklopedija](#) in Serbo-Croatian (The Military Encyclopedia)
- [Wielka Encyklopedia Powszechna PWN](#), 13 volumes, 1962–1970, the largest encyclopedia to date in Polish
- [Wielka Encyklopedia PWN](#), 2001–2005, the successor to the WEP PWN; larger and more objective, it is currently being finished

On CD-ROM, DVD-ROM and/or the Internet

- [AllRefer.com: Columbia Encyclopedia](#)
- [Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia](#): only available in electronic form.
- [Encyclopædia Britannica](#). See also the [1911 Encyclopædia Britannica](#).
- [Encyclopædia Britannica Ultimate Reference Suite](#), available on DVD
- [Encyclopedia of Kirill and Mefodiy](#): in Russian.
- [Gran Enciclopedia Planeta](#), in Spanish.
- [Grolier's Electronic Encyclopedia](#): The first computer encyclopedia, produced on CD-ROM by KnowledgeSet in 1985.
- [Microsoft Encarta](#): once published by [Microsoft](#), now discontinued. It was only available in electronic form.
- [Nueva enciclopedia cumbre](#), published by Grolier.
- [Micronet Universal](#): in Spanish. Published by Micronet.
- [here Encyclopédie Larousse en ligne](#), available.
- [here The Enciclopedia Compacta Britannica](#), available from Babylon. The *Britannica Concise Encyclopedia* translated into Spanish.
- [Rubricon](#): the largest online encyclopedic portal in Russian.
- [Wikipedia](#): Officially the world's largest free encyclopedia — a project to create a comprehensive encyclopedia using [wiki](#) software
- [Software MacKiev World Book](#): Windows and Mac electronic versions published by. Contains every article from print encyclopedia.

Website only

- [Enciclopedia Libre](#): project to create a Spanish encyclopedia using [wiki](#) software, released under the [GFDL](#).
- [Encyclopedia of Life Sciences](#)
- *Encyclopaedia of Turkey*: An online encyclopedia about Turkey and Anatolian Culture.

- [website Enciclopedia României](#) (Encyclopedia of Romania): project to create a Romanian-language encyclopedia using [wiki](#) software, released under the [CC by-nc-nd 3.0](#) -
- *EncycloZine*: an online encyclopedia of books and knowledge.
- [Everything2](#)
- [Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia](#): an electronic encyclopedia published by [Grolier](#).
- [Hierarchypedia: an online encyclopedia using Wikimedia that is no longer online.](#)
- [Internet FAQ archives](#)
- *netcyclo*: John Anderson's Internet encyclopedia project.
- [Nupedia](#): a [peer reviewed](#), [open content](#) encyclopedia project, currently inactive.
- [Open Site](#): an effort inspired by, but not officially affiliated with, the [Open Directory Project](#).
- [Ekşi Sözlük](#): a collaborative hypertext Turkish dictionary and encyclopedia site that shares a similar concept with Everything2 or H2G2.
- [Probert Encyclopaedia](#): an online topical encyclopedia consisting of almost 100,000 short entries, published by Mathew Probert and based in the United Kingdom.
- [Susning.nu](#): project to create a Swedish-language encyclopedia using [wiki](#) software. Anyone-can-edit encyclopedia until 2004, shut down in 2009.
- [Wikipedia](#)
- *Wikiweise*: project to create a German-language encyclopedia using wiki software, released under the [GFDL](#).
- [WikiZnanie](#): project to create a Russian-language encyclopedia using wiki software, released under the [BSD DPL](#).

Specialized encyclopedias

National, regional, ethnic or cultural

African

- [*Encyclopedia Zimbabwe*](#)

American

- [*Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*](#)
- [*Ohio History Central*](#)
- [*Encyclopedia of New Jersey*](#)
- [*Handbook of Texas*](#)
- [*Utah History Encyclopedia*](#) (1994)

Australian

- [*Australian Encyclopaedia*](#) (1925, 1958, 1977, 1983, 1988, 1996)
- [*Online version Encyclopedia of Melbourne*](#) Sept 2005. Edited by Andrew Brown-May and Shurlee Swain. 864 pp. ISBN 978-0-521-84234-1 -

Austrian

- [*aeiou Encyclopedia*](#) (1996ff.) Austrian

Bangladesh

- [*Banglapedia*](#) in 10 Volumes published in 2003 bilingual of English and Bengali.

Belarusian

- [*Belarusian Soviet Encyclopedia*](#) in 12 volumes (1969–1974)
- [*Encyclopedia of Literature and Art of Belarus*](#) in 5 volumes (1984–1987)

- [Encyclopedia of Ethnography of Belarus](#) in 1 volume (1989)
- [Encyclopedia of History of Belarus](#) in 6 volumes (1993–2003)
- [Belarusian Encyclopedia](#) in 18 volumes (1996–2004)
- [Encyclopedia of Grand Duchy of Lithuania](#) in 3 volumes (2005–2010)

Canadian

- [Canada: An Encyclopedia of the Country](#) - (1898–1900)
- [Canada and its Province](#) - (1913–1917)
- [The Canadian Encyclopedia](#) - (1985 and 1988)
- [Encyclopedia Canadiana](#) - (1957)
- [The Encyclopedia of Canada](#) - (1935–1937)
- [Encyclopedia of Music in Canada](#) - (1981 and 1992)
- [The Junior Encyclopedia of Canada](#) - (1989)

China

- [Berkshire Encyclopedia of China](#), 2009, 5 vls.

Cuba

- [Enciclopedia Cubana](#), 2010.

Croatian

[Opća enciklopedija JLZ](#) - (1977–1982)
[Hrvatska opća enciklopedija](#) (started in 1999- 7th vol. 2005 of 11)
[Opća i nacionalna enciklopedija](#) (2005- complete 2007)

India

- [Encyclopedia of Indian heritage and culture](#), ed. by Devendra Mishra, New Delhi : Shree Publ. & Distributors, 2008-
- [Encyclopedia of Indian Philosophies](#)

Iran

- [Loghatnameh Dehkhoda](#): a fourteen volume [Persian](#) dictionary edited by [Dr. Ali Akbar Dehkhoda](#)
- [Encyclopaedia Islamica](#)

- [*Encyclopaedia of Shia*](#)
- [*Encyclopaedia of Imam Ali*](#)
- [*Encyclopaedia Iranica*](#): on [Iranian peoples](#) and [Iran](#) (Persia)
- [*Encyclopaedia of Iran and Islam*](#) published in [Persian](#) in [Tehran](#)
- [*Encyclopaedia of Persian Language and Literature*](#) published by the [Academy of Persian Language and Literature](#) in [Persian](#) in [Tehran](#)
- [*The Encyclopedia of Iranian Old Music*](#): Published in Tehran, 2000.

London

- [*The London Encyclopaedia*](#) 1007 page reference of the city of London, pub. 1983

Malaysian

- [*The Encyclopedia of Malaysia*](#), published from 1998 to 2007

New Zealand

- [*The Cyclopedia of New Zealand*](#) (1897–1908) unofficial, most subjects paid to have their articles appear, online at the [New Zealand Electronic Text Centre](#).
- [*An Encyclopaedia of New Zealand*](#) (1966) official.
- [*Te Ara Encyclopedia of New Zealand*](#) (2005–) official, incorporating the full text of *An Encyclopaedia of New Zealand*.

Pakistan

- [*Encyclopedia of Pakistan*](#), published in 2006 by Oxford University Press

Poland

- [*Encyklopedia Polski*](#) (translation: Encyclopedia of Poland).
- [*Encyklopedia Powszechna PWN*](#) (translation: PWN Universal Encyclopedia).

Slovenian

- [*Enciklopedija Slovenije*](#), published in 1987-2002

South Asian

- [*The Cambridge Encyclopedia of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives*](#): A concise encyclopedia on the [Indian subcontinent](#).
- [Banglapedia](#): The national encyclopedia of [Bangladesh](#) published by the [Bangladesh Asiatic Society](#).

Subject

Art and Architecture

- *Wasmuths Lexikon der Baukunst*, ed. by Günther Wasmuth, Berlin: Wasmuth, 1929-1937, 5 vls.
- [Grove Dictionary of Art](#) in 34-volumes (1996)
- *Encyclopedia of 20th-century architecture*, ed. by R. Stephen Sennott, New York [u.a.] : Fitzroy Dearborn, 2004, 3 vls.
- *The Grove encyclopedia of Islamic art and architecture*, ed. by Jonathan M. Bloom and Sheila S. Blair, Oxford [etc.] : Oxford Univ. Press, 2009, 3 vls.
- *Encyclopedia of World Art* in 16 volumes ed. by Bernard Samuel Myers (1954) published by McGraw Hill

Entertainment

- [Allgame](#): A comprehensive online guide to [computer and video games](#) created by [All Media Guide](#).
- [Allmovie](#): A comprehensive online guide to [movies](#) created by [All Media Guide](#).
- [Allmusic](#): A comprehensive online guide to music created by [All Media Guide](#).
- [Quasimodobell](#): Online Encyclopedia for music artists & bands

Environmental Science

- [Encyclopedia of Hydrological Science](#) John Wiley and Sons [www.wiley.co.uk/ehs]
- [Encyclopedia of Earth](#) (EoE) (an electronic reference about the Earth, its natural environments, and their interaction with society)

- [Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems](#) (EOLSS) -- sponsored by UNESCO—an interdisciplinary encyclopedia, inspired by the sustainable development movement
- [Ekopedia](#) -- a [wiki encyclopedia](#) about [environmental sustainability](#)

Fashion and dress

- *Encyclopedia of Clothing and Fashion*, ed. by [Valerie Steele](#), 3 vls., Detroit [etc.]: Thomson Gale, 2005
- [Berg Encyclopedia of World Dress and Fashion](#), ed. by Joanne B. Eicher, 10 vls., Oxford [etc.] : Berg, 2010 (also online)

Fiction (or fictional)

- [Celestial Emporium of Benevolent Knowledge](#), a fictional Chinese encyclopedia invented by [Jorge Luis Borges](#)
- [Encyclopedia Galactica](#) was created and referenced by [Isaac Asimov's Foundation series](#).
- [The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy](#) pays homage to the Encyclopedia Galactica, but is apparently better because it is slightly cheaper and has the words "Don't Panic" written on the cover.
- [The Rocklopedia Fakebandica](#) by T. Mike Childs, pub. 2004
- [The Star Trek Encyclopedia](#)

Film

- *International dictionary of films and filmmakers*, ed. by Tom Pendergast, 4 vls., Detroit [etc.]: St. James Press, 4th ed. 2000
- *Encyclopedia of the Documentary Film*, ed. by Ian Aitken, New York, New York [etc.]: Routledge, 2006

History and biography

- [Africana: The Encyclopedia of the African and African-American Experience](#)
- [African American National Biography](#)
- [American National Biography](#)
- [Appleton's Cyclopedia of American Biography](#): 19th century Americans

- [Children's Encyclopedia of American History](#)
- [An Encyclopedia of Battles](#): comprehensive accounting of battles and wars throughout history.
- [An Encyclopedia of World History](#): single-volume work. First Edition, 1940. Sixth Edition, 2001.
- [Encyklopedia Polski](#) (Encyclopedia of Poland).
- [Harper's Encyclopedia of United States History](#) *From 458 to 1905*: Harper & Brothers
- *Encyclopedia of U.S. labor and working-class history*, ed. by Eric Arnesen, New York, New York [etc.] : Routledge, 2007
- [Historical Dictionary of Switzerland](#), historical encyclopedia of Switzerland in German, French and Italian, (Print edition: 2002-).
- [Historisches Lexikon Bayerns](#) multimedia online encyclopedia of Bavarian history.
- [The Kingfisher History Encyclopedia](#)
- *The International Encyclopedia of Revolution and Protest: 1500 to the Present*, ed. by Immanuel Ness, Malden, Massachusetts [etc.]: Wiley & Sons, 2009, [ISBN 1-4051-8464-7](#)
- [Lexikon des Mittelalters](#) (German encyclopedia of medieval history; 1980ff.)
- [Oxford Classical Dictionary](#): Despite the name, a one-volume encyclopedia for antiquity.
- *Realencyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft*: [Pauly-Wissowa](#) (Eds.) (1894–1980; specialising in classical antiquity).
- *World War II Encyclopedia* (Time-Life Publications, 1976)
- [Encyclopedia Rizaliana](#): a one-volume encyclopedia about the life, works and influence of the Philippine patriot, Jose Protasio Rizal, published by [Lulu Press](#) in 2008 and edited by [Jose Fadul](#)

Language

- [Historisches Wörterbuch der Rhetorik](#)
- *Encyclopedia of language & linguistics*, ed. by Keith Brown, 14 vls., Amsterdam [etc.] : Elsevier, 2nd edition 2006
- *The international encyclopedia of communication*, 12 vls., Malden, Mass. [etc.] : Blackwell, 2008

Law

- [Arabic Legislations Encyclopedia](#)

- [American Jurisprudence](#)
- [Corpus Juris Secundum](#)
- [Halsbury's Laws of England](#)
- *Encyclopedia of the Supreme Court of the United States*, 5 vls., Detroit [etc.] : Macmillan Reference USA, 2008

International and comparative law

- [Encyclopedia of Public International Law](#)
- [Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law](#)
- [The Oxford international encyclopedia of legal history](#), Oxford University Press, 2009

Literature

- [Benet's Reader's Encyclopedia](#)
- [Benet's Reader's Encyclopedia of American Literature](#)
- [The Cambridge History of English and American Literature](#)
- [The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction](#), First edition 1979, second edition (April 1993), by [John Clute](#) and [Peter Nicholls](#)
- [Laffont-Bompiani. Dictionnaire universel des lettres](#) Publié sous la direction de Pierre Clarac Inspecteur général de l'Instruction publique, Société d'édition de dictionnaires et encyclopédies Paris VII, impr. Mame (1961), pp.952
- [The Literary Encyclopedia](#), online, started in 2000
- [The Penguin Encyclopedia of Horror and the Supernatural](#) (1986), edited by [Jack Sullivan](#)
- [The Poets' Encyclopedia](#) edited by [Michael Andre](#)

Mathematics

- [Klein's encyclopedia](#) (1898–1935)
- [Encyclopedic Dictionary of Mathematics](#) (EDM2), Second edition 1993, The Mathematical Society of Japan. The preferred reference of professionals.
- [Mathworld](#) online encyclopedia by [Eric Weisstein](#)
- [CRC Concise Encyclopedia of Mathematics](#), Second edition 2002, based on [Mathworld](#)
- [planetmath](#)

- [On-Line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences](#) (OEIS)
- [Encyclopaedia of Mathematics](#) Springer Verlag 2002
- [Encyclopedia of Cryptography and Security](#) Springer-Verlag 2005

Medicine

- [Medicalopaedia](#) encyclopaedia of [medicine](#) by [Burhan Ahmed](#)
- [Kitab al-Tasrif](#) (*The Method of Medicine*), by [Abu al-Qasim al-Zahrawi](#) (Abulcasis)
- [American Medical Association Complete Medical Encyclopedia](#)
- [Ayurvedic Encyclopedia](#),^[1]
- [The Canon of Medicine](#), by [Avicenna](#)
Cerrahiyyetu'l-Haniyye (*Imperial Surgery*), by [Şerafeddin Sabuncuoğlu](#)
- *The Comprehensive Book on Medicine*, by [Ibn al-Nafis](#)
- [Encyclopedia of Natural Medicine](#)
- [Encyclopedia of Public Health](#)
- *Firdous al-Hikmah* (*Paradise of Wisdom*), by [Ali ibn Sahl Rabban al-Tabari](#)
- [Medical Compendium in Seven Books](#) by [Paul of Aegina](#) in the 7th century CE; it was the most complete medical encyclopedia in its day
- [Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary](#)

Music

- [Enciclopedia della musica](#), 2001–2005, edited by Jean-Jacques Nattiez, in 5 volumes. Collection of in-depth essays rather than brief, dictionary-like entries.
- [The Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians](#)
- [Musik in Geschichte und Gegenwart](#)
- [Komponisten der Gegenwart](#)
- *Continuum Encyclopedia of Popular Music of the World*, ed. by David Shepard, London [etc.] 2003-

Philosophy

- [The Book of Healing](#), by [Avicenna](#).
- [Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#), edited by Paul Edwards.

- [*Encyclopédie philosophique universelle*](#), published by Presses Universitaires de France.
- [Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#)
- [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#) (ongoing since 1995)

Photography

- Hans-Michael Koetzle: *Das Lexikon der Fotografen: 1900 bis heute*, Munich: Knaur 2002, 512 p., [ISBN 3-426-66479-8](#)
- John Hannavy (ed.): *Encyclopedia of Nineteenth-Century Photography*, 1736 p., New York: Routledge 2005 [ISBN 978-0-415-97235-2](#)
- Lynne Warren (ed.): *Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century Photography*, 1719 p., New York, NY [etc] : Routledge, 2006

Psychoanalysis

- [International Dictionary of Psychoanalysis](#), ed. by Alain de Mijolla, 3 vls, Detroit [etc.]: Thomson/Gale, 2005 (MacMillan Reference Books)
- *The Edinburgh international encyclopaedia of psychoanalysis*, ed. by Ross M. Skelton, Edinburgh: Edinburgh Univ. Press, 2006

Science

- *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Space*, 1990 [ISBN 0-521-36426-4](#)
- [Encyclopedia Astronautica](#): a reference website maintained by [space-travel](#) enthusiast Mark Wade
- [Encyclopedia of Analytical Chemistry](#). Wiley, 2000, 15 volumes.
- *Encyclopedia of Biological Chemistry*. Elsevier, 2004.
- *Encyclopedia of Chemical Physics and Physical Chemistry*. [Knovel](#), 2001, 3 volumes.
- *Encyclopedia of Chemical Processing*. Dekker, 1976, 5 volumes.
- *Encyclopedia of Computational Chemistry*. Wiley, 1997, 5 volumes.
- [Encyclopedia of Genetics](#)
- *Encyclopedia of Inorganic Chemistry*. Wiley, 2005 (2nd ed), 10 volumes.
- [Encyclopedia of Life Sciences](#) (ELS) -- owned by [John Wiley & Sons](#) -- having both a 20-volume print edition and an online edition
- *Encyclopedia of Supramolecular Chemistry*. Dekker.

- [Grolier Popular Science](#)
- [The Illustrated Science and Invention Encyclopedia](#)
- *Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology*. Wiley, 26 volumes.
- [McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology](#): also comes in a one-volume edition.
- *Ullmann's Encyclopedia of Industrial Chemistry*. Wiley, 40 volumes.
- [The New Encyclopedia of Snakes](#)
- [Small Mining Encyclopedia](#)

Religion

General

- *Encyclopedia of religion*, 15 vls., ed. by Lindsay Jones, Detroit [etc.]: Macmillan Reference USA, 2nd edition 2005

Buddhism

- *Encyclopedia of Buddhism*, ed. by Damien Keown and Charles S. Prebish, London [etc.]: Routledge 2009, [ISBN 0-415-55624-4](#)

Christianity

- [The Catholic Encyclopedia](#). 1907–1912 (15 vls.)
- [New Catholic encyclopedia](#). 1967–1996 (15 vls. and 4 supplementary vls.). 2. ed. 2003 (15 vls.)
- [Encyclopédie des sciences ecclésiastiques](#)
- *Die Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart*. 1. ed. 1909–1913 (5 vls.), 4th ed. 1998–2005
- *Evangelisches Kirchenlexikon: internationale theologische Enzyklopädie*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Rupprecht, 1956–1961 (3 vls.). – 2nd ed. 1961–1962. – 3rd ed. 1986–1997 (5 vls.)
- [Lexikon für Theologie und Kirche](#). 1930–1938 (10 vls.)
- [Theologische Realenzyklopädie](#) (TRE) Hrsg. Gerhard Müller. 38 vls.. Berlin 1977–2007.
- [Encyclopædia Biblica](#)
- [Encyclopedia of Mormonism](#)

Islam

- [Encyclopaedia of Islam](#)
- [Encyclopaedia Islamica](#)
- [Encyclopaedia of Shia](#)
- [Encyclopaedia of Imam Ali](#)
- [The Hussaini Encyclopedia](#)
- The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Islamic World, ed. by John L. Esposito, Oxford UP, New edition 2009
- The Grove Encyclopedia of Islamic Art & Architecture, ed. by Jonathan Bloom and Sheila Blair, Oxford UP 2009
- Encyclopedia of Women & Islamic Cultures, ed. by Suad Joseph, Brill Academic Publishers, 2007

Judaism

- [Encyclopaedia Judaica](#): published 1972-1991, second edition 2006-
- [Jewish Encyclopedia](#): published 1901-1906. Original full 12 volumes.
- [Talmudic Encyclopedia](#) (cf. [Talk:List of encyclopedias](#)).
- [Jewish Virtual Library](#)
- [on the Web Shorter Jewish Encyclopedia in Russian](#): 11 volumes, published 1976-2005 in [Jerusalem](#) and.
- [online The Jewish encyclopedia: a descriptive record of the history, religion, literature, and customs of the Jewish people from the earliest times to the present day, hrg. von Cyrus Adler und Isidore Singer, 12 Bände, New York; London: Funk and Wagnalis, 1901–1906, auch](#)
- *The universal Jewish encyclopedia: an authoritative and popular presentation of Jews and Judaism since the earliest times*, ed. by Isaac Landman, 10 vls., New York, New York: Univ. Jewish Encyclopedia Co., 1948
- *Jüdisches Lexikon. Ein enzyklopädisches Handbuch des jüdischen Wissens*, Begründet von Georg Herlitz und Bruno Kirschner, 5 vls., Frankfurt am Main: Jüdischer Verlag, 1992
- *Encyclopedia of modern Jewish culture*, ed. by Glenda Abramson, London [etc.]: Routledge, 2005
- [The YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe](#), Yale UP, 2008

Social sciences

- [*International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*](#), ed. by David L. Sills, New York, New York [etc.]: Macmillan, 1968
- [*International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*](#), ed. by Neil Smelser and [Paul Baltes](#), 26 vls., Elsevier, 2001
- [*International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*](#), ed. by [William A. Darity, Jr.](#), Detroit [etc.]: Macmillan Reference USA, 2008

Economics

- [*The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics*](#) 2nd Edition (2008)

Sports

- [*The Baseball Encyclopedia: The Complete and Definitive Record of Major League Baseball*](#), 10th Edition, 1996 [ISBN 0-02-861435-6](#)
- [*Total Baseball, The Ultimate Baseball Encyclopedia*](#), 2004, by John Thorn et al.
- [*Total Tennis, The Ultimate Tennis Encyclopedia*](#), 2003, by Bud Collins
- [*The New Encyclopedia of Modern Bodybuilding*](#)
- [*The Sports Encyclopedia: Baseball 2004*](#), 2004, by David Neft et al.
- [*L'Encyclopédie des sports. Plus de 3000 sports et jeux du monde entier*](#), 2005, Grund
- [*World Sports Encyclopedia*](#), 2003, Atena/MBI

Martial Arts

- [*Bugei Ryuha Daijiten*](#), Japanese martial arts

Technology

- [*The Internet Encyclopedia*](#), 2003, Wiley

Theatre, Dance and Performance

- [Manfred Brauneck](#): *Die Welt als Bühne: Geschichte des europäischen Theaters*, Stuttgart [etc.] : Metzler, 1993-2007, [\[2\]](#)

- *International encyclopedia of dance*, ed. by [Selma Jeanne Cohen](#), New York: Oxford University Press, 1998, 6 vls., [ISBN 0-19-509462-X](#)
- *The world encyclopedia of contemporary theatre*, ed. by Don Rubin, London [etc.] : Routledge, 1994 - 2000, 6 vls.
- *The Oxford encyclopedia of theatre & performance*, ed. by Dennis Kennedy, Oxford [etc.] : Oxford Univ. Press, 2003, 2 vls.
- *Encyclopedia of Latin American theater*, ed. by Eladio Cortés. - Westport, Conn. [etc.] : Greenwood Press, 2003
- *Metzler Lexikon Theatertheorie*, ed. by Erika Fischer-Lichte, Doris Kolesch and Matthias Warstat, Stuttgart 2005
- *Encyclopedia of Asian theatre*, ed. by Samuel L. Leiter, Westport, Conn. [u.a.] : Greenwood Press, 2007, 2 vls.

Other

- [Above and Beyond: The Encyclopedia of Aviation and Space Sciences](#)
- [The American Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants](#): a comprehensive illustrated work on garden plants.
- [American Horticultural Society Encyclopedia of Plants and Flowers](#)
- [Animal Rights Encyclopedia](#)
- [Christie's World Encyclopedia of Champagne & Sparkling Wine](#)
- [The Complete Encyclopedia of World Aircraft](#): 1997, one large volume
- [Encyclopedia Brunoniana](#): An encyclopedia covering [Brown University](#)
- [Encyclopedia of Personal Finance](#); Comprehensive information about investing and personal finance
- [The Element Encyclopedia of 5000 Spells: The Ultimate Reference Book for the Magical Arts](#)
- [Encyclopedia of Counseling](#)
- [Encyclopedia of Marxism](#): an online encyclopedia released under the [GNU Free Documentation License](#), part of the [Marxist Internet Archive](#).
- [Encyclopedia of Nutritional Supplements](#)
- [An Encyclopaedia of Occultism](#): 1920 work on [occultism](#)
- [Encyclopedia Titanica](#); Exhaustive information about the sinking of [RMS Titanic](#)
- [three book volumes Encyclopedia of World Problems and Human Potential](#) published since 1972 by the [Union of International](#)

[Associations](#) (UIA). Previously published in and on [CD-ROM](#); now published and developed [online here](#).

- [watch-wiki](#) an online encyclopedia released under the [GNU Free Documentation License](#)
- [The Grocer's Encyclopedia](#)
- [Illustrated Encyclopedia of Aircraft](#)
- [Larousse Encyclopedia of Mythology](#)
- [Larousse Gastronomique](#), encyclopedia of food and cooking.
- [A Military Encyclopedia](#)
- [MusicBrainz](#): a project to create a free music encyclopedia, released under the [Open Content License](#). The first goal is to create a [database](#) similar to [CDDB](#).
- [Nazarian's Gun's Recognition Guide](#)
- [The Oxford Companion to Wine](#)
- [Perelman's Pocket Cyclopedia of Cigars](#) An encyclopedia and history of (Non-Cuban) cigars and their manufacturers (also [Perelman's Pocket Cyclopaedia of Havana Cigars](#))
- [The Sotheby's Wine Encyclopedia](#)
- [The Woman's Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets](#)
- *De Encyclopedie (The Encyclopedia)*, parody encyclopedia by Dutch author [Battus](#)
- [Watch Wiki](#), encyclopedia about mechanical watches
- [Encyclopedia of Associations](#): a printed directory of associations and nonprofit groups published by [Thomson Gale](#). Also available online as [Associations Unlimited](#).

References

1. [^ \[1\]](#)
2. [^](#) Strictly speaking a history and not a specialised encyclopedia, this huge German work is on a par with the big specialised english works of reference.

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Encyclopedias before 1700

- *Nine Books of Disciplines* by [Marcus Terentius Varro](#) (116 BC – 27 BC).
- [Pliny's Natural History](#) AD 77. Highly influential in the Middle Ages.

V century

- [Martianus Capella](#), *De nuptiis Mercurii et Philologiae*. Introduced the division in seven liberal arts.

VI century

- [Cassiodorus'](#) [Institutiones](#), AD 560. First Christian encyclopedia.

VII century

- [Yiwen Leiju](#) (622) [Tang dynasty](#), Chinese
- St. [Isidore of Seville's](#) [Etymologiae](#), AD 636. Christian encyclopedia, most influential encyclopedia of the early Middle Ages.
- [Fa yüan chu lin](#), AD 668, a Buddhist encyclopedia of 100 volumes, compiled by [Tao-shih](#)

VIII century

- Venerable [Beda](#), [De natura rerum](#)

IX century

- [Adab al-katib](#) (*The book of knowledge*) by [Ibn Qutayba](#) (828–889). Earliest Arabic work that could be called an Encyclopedia.
- [Bibliothèque](#) by Patriarch [Photius](#) (9th century). Earliest Byzantine work that could be called an Encyclopedia.
- [Hrabanus Maurus](#), 842. [De rerum naturis](#) (*On the nature of things*). Derived from Isidore's text.

X century

- [Suda](#) (10th century)
- [Four Great Books of Song](#) (Song Sida Shu)(10th to 11th century) [Song dynasty](#), Chinese

XII century

- [*Liber Floridus*](#), compiled in 1120 by [Lambert of St. Omer](#)
- [*Imago mundi*](#), treaty of [cosmography](#) and [history](#) by [Honorius Augustodunensis](#), about 1110.
- [*Didascalicon*](#) by [Hugues de Saint-Victor](#) (1096-1141) proposal of a new classification of sciences and a new method of lecture of the Bible.
- [*Hortus deliciarum*](#) written by [Herrade of Landsberg](#), the first women to write an encyclopedia, between 1159 and 1175.

XIII century

- [Guillaume d'Auvergne](#), *De universo creaturarum* 1231.
- [Gautier de Metz](#) *L'Image du monde* 1246. In Lorrain dialect, based on Honorius Augustodunensis.
- [Bartholomeus Anglicus](#), *De proprietatibus rerum*, 1240. The most widely read and quoted encyclopedia in the late-medieval period.
- [Thomas of Cantimpré](#), *Liber de natura rerum*, 1256.
- [Vincent of Beauvais](#), *Speculum Majus*, 1260. The most ambitious encyclopedia in the late-medieval period with over 3 million words.
- [Brunetto Latini](#), *Li Livres dou Trésor*. In French.

XV century

- [*Yongle Encyclopedia*](#) (1403–1408). [Ming Dynasty](#) Chinese encyclopedia.
- [*Fons memorabilium universi*](#) by [Domenico Bandini of Arezzo](#) (early 15th century)

XVI century

- [Giorgio Valla](#), *De expetendis et fugiendis rebus*, 1501
- [Domenico Nani Mirabelli](#), *Polyanthea nova*, 1503.
- [Gregor Reisch](#), *Margarita philosophica*, 1503.
- [Johannes Aventinus](#), *Encyclopedia orbisque doctrinarum, hoc est omnium artium, scientiarum, ipsius philosophiae index ac divisio*, 1517
- [Joachim Sterck van Ringelbergh](#), *Lucubrationes vel potius absolutissima kyklopaideia* (Basel) 1541.
- [Charles Estienne](#), *Dictionarium historicum, geographicum et poeticum*, 1553.
- [Paul Skalic](#), philosopher born in [Zagreb](#), first to use the term *encyclopedia* in the current sense. *Encyclopediae seu orbis disciplinarum tam sacrarum quam profanarum epistemon*, 1559 (Basel, Switzerland), 1571 (Köln, Germany).
- [Theodor Zwinger](#) (1533–1588), *Theatrum Vitae Humanae*, 1588.
- [Bencao Gangmu](#) (*Compendium of Materia Medica*) (1596) [Ming dynasty](#), Chinese

XVII century

- [Sancai Tuhui](#) (1609)
- [Johann Heinrich Alsted](#): *Encyclopaedia septem tomi distincta* 1630
- [Laurentius Beyerlinck](#), *Magnum Theatrum Vitae Humanae*, 1631.
- Sir [Thomas Browne](#): *Pseudodoxia Epidemica* 1646-1672

- [Louis Moréri](#) *Le grand Dictionnaire historique* (*The Great Historical Dictionary*), 1671.
- [Johann Jacob Hofmann](#), *Lexicon universale, historico-geographico-chronologico-poetico-phîlologicum*, Basel, 1677
- [Antoine Furetière](#), *Dictionnaire universel contenant généralement tous les mots françois, tant vieux que modernes, et les termes de toutes les sciences et des arts* 1690.
- [Pierre Bayle](#): *Dictionnaire Historique et Critique* (*Historical and Critical Dictionary*), 1695.

Encyclopedias published 1700–1800

American encyclopedias

- [Dobson's Encyclopædia](#) (1789–1798; largely a reprint of the *Britannica's* 3rd edition)

British encyclopedias

- [Lexicon Technicum](#) (1704)
- Chambers's [Cyclopaedia, or an Universal Dictionary of Arts and Sciences](#) (1728)
- [An Universal History of Arts and Sciences](#) (1745)
- [Encyclopædia Britannica](#) (1768, editions 2 and 3 by 1800)
- [Encyclopædia Perthensis](#) (1796–1806, ed 2 by 1816)

Chinese encyclopedias

- [Gujin Tushu Jicheng](#) (1725–26) [Qing dynasty](#)
- [Siku Quanshu](#) (1782) [Qing dynasty](#)

French encyclopedias

- [Encyclopédie](#), by [Diderot](#) and [D'Alembert](#), (1751–1772)
- [Encyclopédie ou dictionnaire universel raisonné des connaissances humaines](#), Yverdon, (1770–1780)
- [Encyclopédie Méthodique](#) by [Charles-Joseph Panckoucke](#), (1782–1832)

German encyclopedias

- [Allgemeines lexikon der Künste und Wissenschaften](#) by [Johann Theodor Jablonski](#) (1721)
- [Grosses vollständiges Universal-Lexicon](#) by [Johann Heinrich Zedler](#) (1751–1754)
- [Deutschen Encyclopädie](#) (1788)
- [Conversations-Lexikon mit vorzüglicher Rücksicht auf die gegenwärtigen Zeiten](#) (1796–1808; see [Brockhaus](#))

Italian encyclopedias

- [Vincenzo Coronelli](#) [Biblioteca Universale Sacro-Profana](#) (1701–1707)

- [Lorenzo Hervás y Panduro](#) *Idea dell'Universo* (1778-1792)

Japanese encyclopedias

- [Wakan Sansai Zue](#) (1712)

Polish encyclopedias

- [Nowe Ateny](#) (1745)
[Zbiór potrzebniejszych wiadomości](#) (1781)

Encyclopedias published 1800–1900

American encyclopedias

- [Encyclopaedia Americana](#) (1829–1833) 13 volumes, editor [Francis Lieber](#).
- [New American Cyclopaedia](#) (1857–1863) 16 volumes, editors [George Ripley](#) and [Charles A. Dana](#).
- [American Cyclopaedia](#) (1873–1876), the retitled [New American Cyclopaedia](#).
- [Johnson's New Universal Cyclopaedia](#) (1876–1878) 4 volumes. editors [Frederick Augustus Porter Barnard](#) and [Arnold Henry Guyot](#).
- [Cyclopedia of Universal History](#) (180-84), World History
- [Ridpath's Universal History](#) (1895), World History
- [Johnson's Universal Cyclopaedia](#) (1893–1897), the retitled [Johnson's New Universal Cyclopaedia](#), edited by [Charles Kendall Adams](#).
- Alden's [Library of Universal Knowledge](#) (1879), a reprint of [Chambers's Encyclopaedia](#) with American additions.
- [International Cyclopaedia](#) (1884), initially it was largely a reprint of Alden's [Library of Universal Knowledge](#), but later editions were improved by editors [Harry Thurston Peck](#), [Selim Peabody](#), [Frank Moore Colby](#), and [Daniel Coit Gilman](#).
- [People's Cyclopedia of Universal Knowledge](#) (1881) 4 volumes, editor W. H. De Puy. Contains much from [Chambers's Encyclopaedia](#). The 1898 title was *The New People's Cyclopedia of Universal Knowledge*.

British encyclopedias

- [Rees's Cyclopaedia](#) (1802–1819)
- [Encyclopædia Britannica](#) (eds 4–9 by 1889)
- [Edinburgh Encyclopaedia](#) (1808–1830)
- [British Encyclopaedia](#) (1809)
- [Encyclopaedia Londinensis](#) (1810)
- [Pantologia](#) (1813)
- [Encyclopaedia Metropolitana](#) (1822–1845)
- [Penny Cyclopaedia](#) (1833–1846)
- [English Encyclopaedia](#) (1854–1862, supp. 1869–1873)
- [Chambers's Encyclopaedia](#) (1860; no relation to Chambers's *Cyclopaedia* of the 18th century)
- [Pears Cyclopaedia](#) (1897), originally named *Pears' Shilling Cyclopaedia*
- [The People's Select Cyclopedia](#) (1897) by [Charles Nisbett](#)

Czech encyclopedias

- [*Otto's encyclopedia*](#) (28 volumes, 1888-1908)

Danish encyclopedias

- [*Salmonsens Konversationsleksikon*](#) (19 volumes, 1893-1911)

Dutch encyclopedias

See also: [Dutch encyclopedia](#)

- [*Winkler Prins Geïllustreerde Encyclopaedie*](#) (1870–1882; 2nd ed. 1884-1888)

French encyclopedias

- [Dictionnaires généraux, universels, encyclopédiques, et autres...](#) A bibliography of French encyclopedias up to Larousse.
- [*Encyclopédie Méthodique*](#) ([Panckoucke](#)) 1782–1832
- [*Encyclopédie nouvelle*](#) ([Pierre Leroux](#) and [Jean Reynaud](#)) 1839–1840
- [*Grand dictionnaire universel du XIXe siècle*](#) by [Pierre Larousse](#) (17 volumes 1866–1877) —really an encyclopedia despite its name
- [*La Grande Encyclopédie*](#), general secretaries of the editorial board: [Camille Dreyfus](#) and [André Berthelot](#) (31 volumes 1886–1902)

German encyclopedias

- [*Oekonomische Encyklopädie*](#) (*General System of State, City, Home and Agriculture*) Editor [Johann Georg Krünitz](#) (242 Volumes 1773–1858)
- [Brockhaus](#) (eds. 1–14 by 1900)
- [*Pierers Universal-Lexikon*](#) (1824–1836; 7th ed. 1888–1893)
- [*Meyers Konversations-Lexikon*](#) (1839–1855; 5th ed. 1893–1897)
- [*Herders Konversations-Lexikon*](#) (1854–1857; 2nd ed. 1875–1879)

Hungarian encyclopedias

- [*A Pallas Nagy Lexikona*](#) (1893–1897)

Romanian encyclopedias

[*Enciclopedia română*](#) (Editor: [Constantin Diaconovich](#), 3 volumes, 1896–1904)

Russian encyclopedias

- [*Plyushar's Encyclopedic Lexicon*](#) (17 volumes, 1834-1841)
- [*Military Encyclopedic Lexicon*](#) (15 volumes, 1837-1852)
- [*Encyclopedia of Military and Marine Sciences*](#) (8 volumes, 1883-1897)
- [*Brockhaus and Efron Encyclopedic Dictionary*](#) (86 volumes, 1890-1906)

- [*Granat Encyclopedic Dictionary*](#) (9 volumes, 1891-1903)

Swedish encyclopedias

- *Conversations-lexicon* (4 volumes, 1821-1826), a translation of Brockhaus 2nd edition
- *Svenskt konversationslexikon* (4 volumes, 1845-1851) by Per Gustaf Berg
- [*Nordisk familjebok*](#) (20 volumes, 1876–1899; 2nd ed. 1904–1926)

Spanish encyclopedias

- [*Enciclopedia moderna*](#) (1851), [Francisco de P. Mellado](#)

Specialist encyclopedias

- [*Engineer's and Mechanic's Encyclopaedia*](#) (1836/1837; 2nd ed. 1849; often cited as Hebert's *Encyclopaedia*)
- [*Cyclopaedia of Useful Arts and Manufactures*](#) (1852; often cited as Tomlinson's *Cyclopaedia*)
- [*A Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities*](#) (1842)
- [*Dictionary of Greek and Roman Biography and Mythology*](#) (1870)
- [*Cyclopaedia of Political Science - Cyclopaedia of Political Science, Political Economy, and the Political History of the United States by the Best American and European Writers*](#) (1881–1899) John J. Lalor. On [Econlib](#).
- [*The Cyclopedia of New Zealand*](#) (1897–1908 mainly [vanity press](#))

Turkish encyclopedias

- [*Kamus-ül-Ulûm ve'l-Maarif*] Editor Ali Suavi, 1870
- [*Lûgaat-i Tarihiye ve Coğrafiye*] Editor Ahmet Rıfat Efendi, 1881 (7 volumes)
- [*Sicil-i Osmani*] Editor Mehmet Süreyya Bey, 1890
- [*Kamus-ül-Alam*] Editor » : Şemsettin Sami, 1899 (6 volumes)^[1]

Religious encyclopedias

- [*Coptic Encyclopedia*](#) (1993)
- [*Jewish Encyclopedia*](#) (1901–1906)
- [*Encyclopaedia Judaica*](#)
- [*Catholic Encyclopedia*](#) (1913)
- [*Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*](#) (1914; [public domain](#) since 2004)
- [*St. Thomas Christian Encyclopaedia of India*](#) (1973,82,2010)
- [*Encyclopedia of Mormonism*](#) (1992)
- [*Orthodox Encyclopedia*](#) (Serbe)
- [*Encyclopaedia of Islam*](#)
- [*Hastings, James: Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics*](#) (1908–1926)
- Unitarian-Universalist Encyclopedia (<http://unitarian-universalist.wetpaint.com>)

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- [List of encyclopedias by branch of knowledge](#)
- [List of encyclopedias by language \(English\)](#)

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 - [11.2 Medicine and surgery](#)
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General reference

Site	Language	Description	Access
Archimedes-lab.org	English	Edutainment	Free
Baidu Baike	Chinese	Collaborative online encyclopedia hosted by the major Chinese search engine Baidu	Free
Banglapedia	Bengali , English	General interest	Free
The Canadian	English, French	General interest (original	Free

Site	Language	Description	Access
Encyclopedia		content of the hard copy (Canadian Encyclopedia)	
Citizendium	English	General interest, wiki	Free
Classify Everything	English	General interest list encyclopaedia, wiki	Free, copleft
Columbia Encyclopedia	English	General interest	Free
Compton's Encyclopedia	English	General interest	Free
Conservapedia	English	Semi-open wiki written from politically right-wing and its own re-translation of the Bible ^[1] perspectives	Free
Credo Reference	English	General interest and subject-specific encyclopedias	Subscription
Crnogorska Enciklopedija	Montenegrin	General interest (hopes to encourage a Montenegrin language Wikipedia)	Defunct
Den Store Danske Encyklopædi	Danish	General interest	Free
Deu Sözlük	Turkish	General interest	Free
Digital Universe	English	Collection of articles on educational, cultural, and scientific topics	Free
Diplopedia	English	US State Department internal encyclopedic wiki, available for diplomats and overseas US agents to use	Access only through the State Department
Doosan Encyclopedia	Korean	General interest	Free
EcuRed	Spanish	General interest. Cuban	Free
Ekşi Sözlük	Turkish	General interest	Free
Encarta	English	General interest	Defunct
Encyclopædia Britannica	English	General interest	Limited free access and features, subscription for full access
Encyclopædia Britannica –1911	English	General interest	Public domain:

Site	Language	Description	Access
Edition			completely free access from several online sources
Encyclopedia of China	Chinese	General interest	Subscription
Encyklopedia Internautica	Polish	General interest	Free
Enciclopedia Libre	Spanish	Fork of the Spanish Wikipedia, using wiki software, released under the GFDL	Free
Enciclopedia Treccani	Italian	General interest	Free
Encyclopædia Universalis	French	General interest encyclopedia published by Encyclopædia Britannica	Subscription
Everything2	English	General interest, users can submit articles on the topic of essentially anything	Free
FAQ	English	A collection of searchable FAQs	Free
GNUPedia	English	General interest articles are released under a GNU license	Free
Gran Enciclopèdia Catalana	Catalan	General interest	Free
Grand Larousse encyclopédique	French	General interest	Free
Great Soviet Encyclopedia	Russian, English	General interest, often from the former official Soviet viewpoint.	Free
Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia	English	Targeted at the younger researcher, it contains the text of the Academic American Encyclopedia	Subscription
Holocaust Encyclopedia	English, Arabic, Persian, French, Spanish	Holocaust-related articles	Free
Hudong	Chinese	General interest. China's largest wiki	Free

Site	Language	Description	Access
Hutchinson Encyclopedia	English	General interest	Free
Infoplease	English	General interest	Free
Internetowa encyklopedia PWN	Polish	General interest	Free
Interpedia	English	General interest, the first site to propose a free encyclopedia written by users	Defunct
Iron Chariots ^[2]	English	A semi-open counter-apologetics wiki, to provide thorough resource for responding to theistic arguments . ^{[3][4]}	Free
Enciklopedio Kalblanda	Esperanto	General interest. The first online Esperanto encyclopedia	Defunct
Kdo byl kdo	Czech	Biographies on notable Czech and Slovak people	Free
Keyinpedia	Chinese	General interest	Free
Knol	English	General interest	Free
Kussmaul Encyclopedia	English	General interest with emphasis on science and the arts. First commercial online encyclopedia (1981–93).	Subscription
Marefa	Arabic	General interest	Free
Metapedia	Hungarian, German, English, Spanish, Swedish, Romanian, Estonian, French, Slovenian, Czech, Portuguese, Norwegian, Croatian, Danish, Greek, Dutch	Far right-wing , white nationalist and neo nazi encyclopedia	Free
Meyers Konversations-Lexikon 4. ed. 1888 - 1892	German	General interest	Free
Nationalencyklopedin	Swedish	General interest, the most comprehensive contemporary Swedish	Subscription

Site	Language	Description	Access
		language encyclopedia	
New World Encyclopedia	English	General interest	Free
Nupedia	English	Combined with GNUMedia	Free
Open Site	English	Categorized community-built encyclopedia, inspired by the Open Directory Project	Free
Private Sözlük	Turkish	Collaborative hypertext Turkish dictionary and encyclopedia site that shares a similar concept with Everything2 or H2G2	Free
Probert Encyclopaedia	English	General interest	Free
Proleksis Encyclopedia	Croatian	General and national encyclopedia	Free with registration
Quid	French	General interest	Free
Sarvavijnanakosam	Malayalam	General interest	Free
Scholarpedia	English	Articles are written by scholars and peer-reviewed for accuracy	Free
Store norske leksikon	Norwegian (Bokmål)	General interest	Free
Superpedia	Bahasa Indonesia	Indonesian, based on MediaWiki	Free
Susning.nu	Swedish	A Swedish language wiki 2001–2009	Defunct
Từ điển Bách khoa toàn thư Việt Nam	Vietnamese	General interest. State-sponsored encyclopedia.	Free
Veropedia	English, Dutch, Spanish	Mirrors stable versions of selected English Wikipedia articles	Defunct
Vikidia	French, Spanish	Articles designed for children ages 8–13	Free
WIEM Encyklopedia	Polish	General interest	Free
Wikipedia	See list here	General interest wiki	Free, copyleft
Winkler Prins encyclopedie	Dutch	General interest, three different age levels	Subscription
World Book	English	General interest	Subscription

Site	Language	Description	Access
Encyclopedia			
Wikinfo	English	Holds multiple articles on subjects from different points of view	Free
Zuhlool	Arabic	An Arabic language wiki	Free
Tamil Encyclopedia	Tamil	General Interest	Free
Marathi Vishwakosh	Marathi	General Interest	Free

Biography

Site	Language	Description	Access
Australian Dictionary of Biography	English	Entries on notable Australians who have died	Free
Dictionary of Canadian Biography	English, French	Entries on notable Canadians	Free
Dictionary of Greek and Roman Biography and Mythology	English	Focuses on topics dealing with Greek and Roman mythology and people	Free
Oxford Dictionary of National Biography	English	Comprehensive 66-volume reference work on notable dead figures from British history in every profession from politics to art	Subscription
Dictionary of National Biography	English	The original 19th century version of the above. Available free in a variety of places, either as transcriptions or images of the printed volumes	Free (see left)
Dictionary of New Zealand Biography	English, Māori	Entries on notable New Zealanders who have died	Free
glbtq.com	English	Entries on notable homosexuals	Free
MacTutor History of Mathematics archive	English	Biographies of mathematicians	Free
MyWikiBiz	English	A wiki encyclopedia that allows people and enterprises to write about themselves	Free
Who's Who	English	General biographies, mainly of British people	Subscription

Antiquities, arts, and literature

Site	Language	Description	Access
A Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities	English	Incorporates text from the 19th century encyclopedia of the same name. Focuses on topics of cultural and historical Greek and Roman significance.	Free
Encyclopedia Mythica	English	Contains articles on mythology , folklore , and religion	Free
Grove Art Online	English	Visual art; formerly the "The Dictionary of Art" but usually known as The Grove Dictionary of Art, which had 34 printed volumes, published in 1996	Subscription
Harpers Dictionary of Classical Antiquities	English	Covers subjects of classical antiquity	Free
The Literary Encyclopedia	English	Literature related articles	Subscription
SIKART	English, German, French, Italian	Biographical dictionary and database of Swiss visual art	Free

Culture and country-specific

Site	Language	Description	Access
Aeiou Encyclopedia	German , English	Online database of Austrian culture	Free
Encyclopedia of Alabama	English	Articles on the state of Alabama	Free
Encyclopedia of Arkansas	English	A project of the Central Arkansas Library System and is the only U.S. state encyclopedia sponsored by a public library	Free
Dictionary of Greek and Roman Geography	English	Focuses on topic relating to Greek and Roman geography	Free
Encyclopædia	English, plans	Topics on the influence of the Iranian	Free

Iranica	for a future Persian version	peoples throughout history	
Encyclopedia of Korean Culture	Korean	Korea-related topics	Free
Enciclopedia României	Romanian	A MediaWiki based Romanian Language encyclopedia concerning Romania-related topics.	Free
Gazetteer for Scotland	English	Articles on the geography and locations of Scotland	Free
Jewish Encyclopedia	English	The state of Judaism and the Jews (as of 1901)	Free, Public domain
Jewish Virtual Library	English	Portals to essential Jewish topics	Free
Kodansha Encyclopedia of Japan	English	Comprehensive articles on Japanese arts and culture, history and politics, etc.	Subscription
Looklex Encyclopaedia (about)	English (based in Norway)	Middle East and North African topics (known as CiAS 1996-1999)	Free
New Georgia Encyclopedia	English	Articles on the U.S. state Georgia	Free
Oregon Blue Book	English	Articles pertaining to Oregon	Free
The Oregon Encyclopedia	English	Articles pertaining to Oregon	Free
Panyathai	Thai , limited English	General interest. Designed to honor the Thai king Bhumibol Adulyadej	Free
TAGIPEDIA	Arabic, English	Articles on Arab heritage and content	Free with registration
Te Ara: The Encyclopedia of New Zealand	English, Māori	The New Zealand government site with content on the country	Free
Encyclopedia of Ukraine	Ukrainian	Ukraine related articles	Free
Venciclopedia	Spanish	Articles on Venezuelan topics	Free
Encyclopedia Virginia	English	Articles on Virginia 's history and culture	Free
Wikanda	Spanish	Andalusian encyclopedia	Free

Pop culture and fiction

Site	Language	Description	Access
Don Markstein's Toonopedia	English	Focuses on articles pertaining to print and animated cartoons	Free
Fringeopedia	English	Contains articles pertaining to the American television drama Fringe .	Free
H2G2	English	Collection of sometimes humorous encyclopedia articles, based on Douglas Adams's <i>The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy</i> .	Free
Heroes Wiki	English, Dutch, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish	Contains articles pertaining to the American television drama Heroes .	Free
Lostpedia	English, German, Spanish, French, Italian, Japanese, Dutch, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Chinese	Contains articles pertaining to the hit drama Lost	Free
Memory Alpha	English, Bulgarian, Chinese, Czech, Dutch, Esperanto, French, German, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian, Spanish and Swedish	Articles about Star Trek	Free
The Rocklopedia Fakebandica	English	Articles on fake bands from popular entertainment	Free
TV Tropes	English, German, Esperanto, Spanish, French, Norwegian, Finnish, Swedish, Al Bhed, Quenya	Articles related to the devices and conventions that a fiction writer can reasonably rely on as being present in the audience members' minds and expectations	Free

Site	Language	Description	Access
Wookieepedia	English, German, Spanish, Bulgarian , Danish , Finnish , French, Croatian , Hungarian , Italian, Japanese, Dutch, Norwegian , Polish , Portuguese, Russian, Romanian , Slovak , Slovene , Swedish, Chinese	Star Wars -related articles	Free
WoWWiki	English, German, Spanish, French, Czech, Danish, Greek , Persian , Finnish, Hebrew , Hungarian, Icelandic , Italian, Lithuanian , Latvian , Dutch, Nynorsk , Bokmål , Polish, Portuguese, Brazilian Portuguese , Russian, Slovak , Korean, Japanese, Chinese	World of Warcraft -related articles	Free
Wowpedia	English, Spanish, French, Czech, Russian	World of Warcraft and Warcraft Universe -related articles	Free

Mathematics

Site	Language	Description	Access
Cut-the-knot	English	Mathematics related topics	Free
Encyclopedia of Mathematics	English	Encompasses articles on the topic of mathematics	Free
EqWorld	English, Russian	Articles on mathematical equations	Free
MathWorld	English	Articles on a wide variety of math related topics	Free
On-Line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences	English	Encyclopedia of number sequences (what is next term after 1,2,4,9,20,48,115, ..., say?)	Free
PlanetMath	English	Math related topics and articles	Free/GNU
The QED Project	English	A project to establish a "distributed, computerized repository that rigorously represents all important, established mathematical knowledge."	Free

Music

Site	Language	Description	Access
Allmusic	English	Music-related topics	Retail sites
Babyblaue Seiten	German	German encyclopedia of progressive rock with album reviews	Free
Discogs	English	Database of audio releases	Free
Encyclopaedia Metallum	English	Archives of heavy metal bands	Free
Grove Music Online	English	Mostly on historic and classical music worldwide; in print form is The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians , which has 20 printed volumes, and was first published in 1980	Subscription
LyricWiki	English	Encyclopedic database of song lyrics	Free
MetalBandWiki	English	Articles on all metal music, musicians, musical instruments used in metal, and articles related to those bands and musicians	Free
MOOMA	Hebrew	Articles on Israeli music and musical artists	Free
MusicBrainz	English	Database of audio albums	Free
MusicMight	English	Bio- and discographies of rock bands	Free
Prog Archives	English	Comprehensive community-created artist info and album reviews database especially of progressive rock music	Free
Rock in China	English	Encyclopedia on Chinese contemporary underground music (rock, punk, metal, jazz, hiphop, etc.)	Free

Philosophy

Site	Language	Description	Access
Encyclopedia of Marxism	multi-lingual	Topics related to the study of Marxism	Free
Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy	English	Philosophy related articles	Free
Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy	English	Philosophy articles	Subscription
Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy	English	Philosophy subjects	Free

Politics and history

Site	Language	Description	Access
Campaigns Wikia	English	Political issues and campaigns	Free
Congresspedia	English	Seeks to improve on public information through articles about US Congress specifics	Free
Cyclopaedia of Political Science	English	Articles pertaining to science , economics , and American authors. The 1899 edition is available online	Free
dKosopedia	English	A political encyclopedia written from a left/progressive/liberal/Democratic point of view	Free
Encyclopedia of World Problems and Human Potential	English	Presents articles on perceived human problems	Free
HistoryLink	English	Articles on the history of Washington State	Free
JurisPedia	Arabic , English, Chinese, French, German, Spanish, Dutch	An academic encyclopedia on the concepts of law	Free

Religion and theology

Site	Language	Description	Access
Boston Collaborative Encyclopedia of Western Theology	English	Articles on Western Christian theology	Free, Public domain
Catholic Encyclopedia	English	Topics relating to Catholicism	Free, Public domain
Christian Cyclopedia	English	A collection of historical and theological information	Free
Easton's Bible Dictionary	English	Articles on Christianity and theology	Free, Public Domain
Encyclopaedia Biblica	English	Contains articles pertaining to "the	Free

Site	Language	Description	Access
		Literary, Political and Religious History, the Archaeology, Geography, and Natural History of the Bible" ^[5]	
Encyclopedia of Mormonism	English	Articles by Mormon academics on history and doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon or LDS Church).	Free
Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online	English	Topics relating to Anabaptism and Mennonites	Free
Jewish Encyclopedia	English	Topics relating to Judaism	Free
New Advent	English	Articles on Catholicism and apologetics	Free

Science

Site	Language	Description	Access
APpedia	Chinese	Contains articles on the subject of general animal protection	Free
Encyclopedia Astronautica	English	Contains articles on the subject of space exploration and astronomy	Free
Encyclopedia of Earth	English	Articles on the Earth and its ecosystems	Free
Javapedia	English	Coverage of all topics related to the Java platform	Free
ScienceWorld	English	Covers astronomy, scientific biography, chemistry, and physics. Like MathWorld , it is edited by Eric Weisstein.	Free

Biology-Life science

Site	Language	Description	Access
Animal Diversity Web	English	Student wiki-type database at the University of Michigan of animal natural history, distribution, classification, and conservation biology.	Free
ARKive	English	Visual and audio recordings of the world's species	Free

Site	Language	Description	Access
Encyclopedia of Life	English, French	Seeks to categorize all 1.8 million known species on the planet	Free
Encyclopedia of Life Sciences	English	Biology related articles	Subscription
Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems	English	Articles about the natural and social sciences	Subscription
Erowid	English	Information about psychoactive substances	Free
FishBase	English, Spanish, Portuguese , French, German, Italian , Dutch, Chinese (Simplified Han) , Chinese (Traditional Han) , Bahasa Malay , Indonesian , Greek , Swedish , Russian , Persian , Vietnamese , Thai , Lao , Hindi , Bengali	Articles on fish species	Free
Flora Europaea	English	Covers different plant species	Free
Macroscopic Observatory	English	Covers Flora and Fauna	Free
Palaeos	English	Covers palaeontology	Free
The Plant List	English	Covers Flora	Free
Wikispecies	English	Seeks to create a catalogue of all living things	Free

Medicine and surgery

At least 70 [online medical wiki encyclopedias](#) has been created.^[6] Some include:

Site	Language	Description	Access
Ganfyd	English	Medical content	Free
Medcyclopaedia	English	Articles on medical imaging used in radiology and radiography	Free
Medpedia	English	Medical content	Free
Radiopaedia	English	Articles on medical imaging used in radiology and radiography	Free
WikiSurgery	English	Surgical content	Free

See also

- [List of academic databases and search engines](#)
- [List of blogs](#)
- [List of encyclopedias by branch of knowledge](#)
- [List of online databases](#)
- [List of online dictionaries](#)
- [List of wikis](#)
- [List of Danish online encyclopedic resources](#)

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2. [^ http://atheism.about.com/b/2011/02/11/vote-agnosticism-atheism-2011-readers-choice-award-for-best-atheist-site-of-2010.htm](#)
3. [^ http://wiki.ironchariots.org/index.php?title=Main_Page](#)
4. [^ http://www.secularthinker.com/2009/08/iron-chariots-wiki.html](#)
5. [^ Encyclopaedia Biblica](#)
6. [^](#) Heilman JM, Kemmann E, Bonert M, *et al.* (2011). "[Wikipedia: a key tool for global public health promotion](#)". *J. Med. Internet Res.* **13** (1): e14. DOI:[10.2196/jmir.1589](#). PMC [3221335](#). PMID [21282098](#).

External links

- ["Encyclopedic Knowledge, Then vs. Now", *The New York Times*, May 3, 2009](#)

Digital Domain

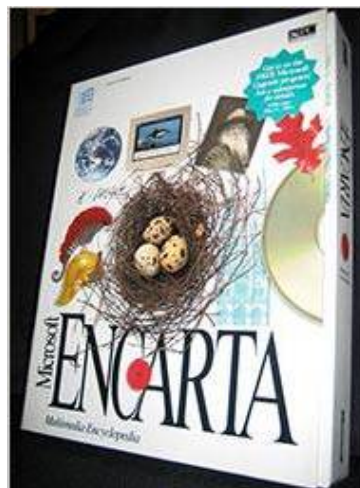
ENCYCLOPEDIC KNOWLEDGE, THEN VS. NOW

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By RANDALL STROSS
Published: May 2, 2009

THIS is the end of the line for Encarta, the encyclopedia that [Microsoft](#) introduced in 1993 and still describes boastfully on its Web site as “the No. 1 best-selling encyclopedia software brand for the past eight years.” Microsoft recently announced that sales would soon cease and that the [Encarta Web site](#), supported by advertising, would be shut down later this year.



Microsoft says sales of Encarta, its encyclopedia, will soon cease. Above is a 1993 version.

It's hard to look at the end of the Encarta experiment without the free and much larger [Wikipedia](#) springing immediately to mind. But Encarta arguably would have failed even without that competition. The [Google](#)-indexed Web forms a virtual encyclopedia that Encarta never had a chance of competing against.

Encarta was conceived pre-Web and had a long gestation. In 1985, [Bill Gates](#) envisioned a CD-ROM encyclopedia as a "high-price, high-demand" product with the potential of becoming as profitable to Microsoft as Word or Excel. Microsoft tried unsuccessfully to license rights to Encyclopedia Britannica's text, then World Book's. It finally found a willing licensor in Funk & Wagnalls.

Microsoft's Encarta team concentrated on developing nontext supplements that would make it a multimedia extravaganza. The team developed illustrations and maps, a timeline and an atlas, assembled and wrote captions for 11,000 photographs and digitized eight hours of sound clips.

Early in the project's history, a focus group of prospective customers was convened, and participants said they would happily pay \$1,000 to \$2,000 for a multimedia encyclopedia on CD-ROM. But at the time, no one foresaw the collapse of prices in the information economy. When Encarta was finally ready, Microsoft set its price at \$395, the same price as other CD-ROM encyclopedias that had beaten it to the market.

Encarta sold poorly, gaining only 3 percent of the market six months after its release, according to Microsoft. But the leader was Compton's, which sold its CD-ROM Interactive Encyclopedia, nominally priced at \$395, for just \$129 to any customer who claimed to own a competing product. Retailers did not ask to see proof, and the boxes flew off the shelf.

Microsoft's sales managers were frantic, begging the team to give them a "\$99 Encarta." The Encarta team relented, but said it was to be only a temporary reduction for the 1993 holiday sales season. Martin Leahy, a Microsoft sales manager, told any colleague who would listen, "You realize, don't you, the price is never going up again, right?" It never did.

The \$99 Encarta was a smashing success: it quickly sold 350,000 units, making it the best-selling CD-ROM encyclopedia by the end of 1993. Its sales passed a million units the next year.

In 2000, a free Web version, which included less than half the full version, was introduced; to get online access to the complete encyclopedia, one had to buy Encarta on CD-ROM or DVD. Online-only subscription plans came later.

Over time, the price of the product fell even more. Earlier this year, Microsoft sold Encarta as a downloadable product for \$29.95; most recently, it was marked down to \$22.95.

I contacted some of the people who worked on Encarta during its early days to collect their reflections. Gary Alt, who joined Microsoft in 1995 after working as an editor at World Book and at Encyclopedia Britannica, spoke with pride of the editorial work that he and his Encarta team had done. Fifty people — editors, fact-checkers and indexers — were on the team in 2000, at the peak of Microsoft's editorial investment in Encarta, he said.

That investment, however, seems to have gone unnoticed by Encarta's users. Tom Corddry, a senior manager at Microsoft from 1989 to 1996 who headed up its multimedia publishing unit, said, "The editors overestimated the way students would say, 'This has been carefully edited! And is very authoritative!'"

Encarta would have been discontinued long before now if it hadn't extended its natural life span by finding a market in international spots beyond the reach of the Internet, Mr. Corddry said. "That bought Encarta some time," he added.

Encarta could not compete, however, against the Web and Google. The Google search engine is an automated, continuously updated, always-expanding guide to information that is completely free. Authority now comes not from a small group of encyclopedia editors and famous contributors but from Google's algorithms, which analyze links that point to Web pages elsewhere and other clues to make an educated guess about trustworthiness.

Google has effectively enlisted millions of Web page authors, whose links serve as recommendations for the largest editorial board ever assembled. Many Google search results lead off with a pointer to Wikipedia. The crowd-curated Web may have been what Microsoft had in mind when it vaguely explained Encarta's closing this way: "People today seek and consume information in considerably different ways than in years past."

IN 1985, when Microsoft was turned down by Britannica, the conventional wisdom in the encyclopedia business held that a sales force that knocked on doors was indispensable, that encyclopedias were "sold, not bought." Encarta showed that with a low-enough price — it was selling for \$99 when Britannica introduced its own CD-ROM encyclopedia in 1994 for \$995 — it could become the best-selling encyclopedia.

But the triumph was short-lived. Microsoft soon learned that the public would no longer pay for information once it was available free. Other information businesses, of course, are now confronting the same fact, but without the Windows and Office franchises to fall back upon.

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INTERNET ENCYCLOPEDIA

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
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An **Internet encyclopedia** is an [encyclopedia](#) accessible via the World Wide Web. The idea to build a free encyclopedia using the [Internet](#) can be traced at least to the 1993 [Interpedia](#) proposal; it was planned as an encyclopedia on the Internet to which everyone could contribute materials. The project never left the planning stage and it was overtaken by a key branch of old printed encyclopedias.

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Digitization of old content

In January 1995, [Project Gutenberg](#) started to publish the [ASCII](#) text of the *[Encyclopædia Britannica](#)*, 11th edition (1911), but disagreement about the method halted the work after the first volume. For trademark reasons this has been published as the Gutenberg Encyclopedia. In 2002, ASCII text of and 48 sounds of music was published on <http://1911encyclopedia.org/> by source; a copyright claim was added to the materials, but it probably has no legal validity^{[\[original research?](#)}. Project Gutenberg has restarted work on digitising and proofreading this encyclopedia; as of June 2005 it had not yet been published. Meanwhile, in the face of competition from rivals such as [Encarta](#), the latest *Britannica* was digitized by its publishers, and sold first as a CD-ROM and later as an online service. Other digitization projects have made progress in other titles. One example is *[Easton's Bible Dictionary \(1897\)](#)* digitized by the [Christian Classics Ethereal Library](#). Probably the most important and successful digitization of an encyclopedia was the [Bartleby Project](#)'s online adaptation of the Columbia Encyclopedia, tenth Edition, <http://www.bartleby.com/65/> in early 2000 and is updated periodically.

Creation of new content

Another related branch of activity is the creation of new, free contents on a volunteer basis. In 1991, the participants of the [Usenet](#) newsgroup [alt.fan.douglas-adams](#) [1] started a project to produce a real version of [The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy](#), a fictional encyclopedia used in the works of [Douglas Adams](#). It became known as Project Galactic Guide. Although it originally aimed to contain only real, factual articles, policy was changed to allow and encourage semi-real and unreal articles as well. Project Galactic Guide contains over 1700 articles, but no new articles have been added since 2000; this is probably partly due to the founding of [h2g2](#), a more official project along similar lines.

Encyclopedias that are no longer online

- [Interpedia](#), 1993
- [Nupedia](#), a slow-moving project to produce a free peer reviewed encyclopedia. Nupedia shut down on September 26, 2003, and much of its content has since been assimilated by Wikipedia.
- [GNE](#), an initiative which did not come to fruition. GNE was abandoned in favour of [Nupedia](#) once Nupedia adopted the [GNU Free Documentation License](#).^[1]

Current online encyclopedias

Main article: [List of online encyclopedias](#)

- [Baidu Baike](#) – a Chinese collaborative online encyclopedia hosted by the major Chinese search engine [Baidu](#)
- [Citizendium](#) – a project opened in March 2007 by [Larry Sanger](#)
- [Conservapedia](#) – a project to create an encyclopedia written from a viewpoint supportive of [Conservative Christianity](#) and [Young Earth creationism](#)
- [Enciclopedia Libre](#) – a [Spanish](#) fork of the Spanish Wikipedia, using [wiki](#) software, released under the [GFDL](#).
- [Everything2](#) – has a wider range and does not exclusively focus on building an encyclopedia; its contents are not available under a [copyleft](#) license
- [h2g2](#) – a collection of sometimes humorous encyclopedia articles, based on an idea from Douglas Adams's *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Articles are not freely redistributable.
- [Hudong](#) – remains to be the largest single-language encyclopedia in the world As of June 2009 with 3,142,395 articles. Uses its own HDWiki software.
- [Cathopedia](#) / [Kathpedia](#) – a Catholic Wiki which relies on the Bible as the guiding principle; German and Italian.
- [Metapedia](#) – a [white nationalist](#) encyclopedia; multiple languages
- [New World Encyclopedia](#), sponsored by the [Unification Church](#)
- [Open Site](#) – Internet encyclopedia founded in an effort to build a free categorized community-built encyclopedia, inspired by the [Open Directory Project](#).

- [OrthodoxWiki](#) – a wiki for Orthodox Christianity; multiple languages
- [Project Galactic Guide](#) – inspired by *[The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy](#)*, was one of the first Internet encyclopedia projects
- [Scholarpedia](#) – an English-language encyclopedia written by academics
- [Te Ara](#) – the online encyclopedia of New Zealand
- [Theopedia](#) – an encyclopedia of Biblical Christianity; English and Spanish
- [Wikipedia](#) – the largest encyclopedia (in overall number of articles written in different languages), and the largest in English
- [WikiPilipinas](#) – a take on the Wikipedia model from the [Philippine](#) point-of-view

Limited scope

- [SourceWatch](#) (formerly [Disinfopedia](#)) – a project to expose [propaganda](#) and paid spin doctors
- [Laptopspedia](#) – a [laptops](#) encyclopedia. Contains articles on the subject of [technology](#) and [laptops](#).

Several online encyclopedias focus on mathematics:

- [MathWorld](#) — a proprietary system hosted at Wolfram Research.
- [PlanetMath](#) — a free Wiki-style mathematical encyclopedia which was originally built to replace [MathWorld](#), a proprietary system hosted at Wolfram Research which was down for some time due to legal difficulties. Since MathWorld has returned, PlanetMath has still thrived.
- [The QED Project](#) — was a project to establish a "distributed, computerized repository that rigorously represents all important, established mathematical knowledge."

See also

- [Digital library](#)
- [List of encyclopedias](#)
- [List of online encyclopedias](#)
- [Reference software](#)

References

1. [^ The Free Encyclopedia Project](#) gnu.org

External links

- [NeoDex](#)
- [Bulbapedia](#)
- [L'encyclopédie de Diderot et d'Alembert](#)
- [Ecured](#)

Dictionary

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

(Redirected from [List of English dictionaries](#))

Jump to: [navigation](#), [search](#)

For other uses, see [Dictionary \(disambiguation\)](#).



A multi-volume Latin dictionary by [Egidio Forcellini](#).

A **dictionary** (also called a **wordbook**, **lexicon** or **vocabulary**) is a collection of [words](#) in one or more specific languages, often listed [alphabetically](#), with usage information, [definitions](#), etymologies, phonetics, pronunciations, and other information;^[1] or a book of words in one language with their equivalents in another, also known as a [lexicon](#).^[1] According to [Nielsen](#) (2008) a dictionary may be regarded as a [lexicographical](#) product that is characterised by three significant features: (1) it has been prepared for one or more functions; (2) it contains data that have been selected for the purpose of fulfilling those functions; and (3) its lexicographic structures link and establish relationships between the data so that they can meet the needs of users and fulfill the functions of the dictionary.

A broad distinction is made between general and [specialized dictionaries](#). Specialized dictionaries do not contain information about words that are used in language for general purposes—words used by ordinary people in everyday situations. Lexical items that describe concepts in specific fields are usually called terms instead of words, although there is no consensus whether [lexicology](#) and [terminology](#) are two different fields of study. In theory, general dictionaries are supposed to be [semasiological](#), mapping word to [definition](#), while specialized dictionaries are supposed to be [onomasiological](#), first identifying [concepts](#) and then establishing the terms used to designate them. In practice, the two approaches are used for both types.^[2] There are other types of dictionaries that don't fit neatly in the above distinction, for instance [bilingual \(translation\) dictionaries](#), dictionaries of [synonyms](#) ([thesauri](#)), or [rhyming](#) dictionaries. The word dictionary

(unqualified) is usually understood to refer to a monolingual general-purpose dictionary.^[3]

A different dimension on which dictionaries (usually just general-purpose ones) are sometimes distinguished is whether they are *prescriptive or descriptive*, the latter being in theory largely based on *linguistic corpus* studies—this is the case of most modern dictionaries. However, this distinction cannot be upheld in the strictest sense. The choice of *headwords* is considered itself of prescriptive nature; for instance, dictionaries avoid having too many taboo words in that position. Stylistic indications (e.g. ‘informal’ or ‘vulgar’) present in many modern dictionaries is considered less than objectively descriptive as well.^[4]

Although the first recorded dictionaries date back to Sumerian times (these were bilingual dictionaries), the systematic study of dictionaries as objects of scientific interest themselves is a 20th century enterprise, called *lexicography*, and largely initiated by *Ladislav Zgusta*.^[3] The birth of the new discipline was not without controversy, the practical dictionary-makers being sometimes accused of "astonishing" lack of method and critical-self reflection.^[5]

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History

The oldest known dictionaries were *Akkadian Empire* cuneiform tablets with bilingual *Sumerian–Akkadian* wordlists, discovered in *Ebla* (modern *Syria*) and dated roughly 2300 *BCE*.^[6] The early 2nd millennium BCE *Urra=hubullu* glossary is the canonical

[Babylonian](#) version of such bilingual Sumerian wordlists. A [Chinese dictionary](#), the ca. 3rd century BCE [Erya](#), was the earliest surviving monolingual dictionary; although some sources cite the ca. 800 BCE [Shizhoupan](#) as a "dictionary", modern scholarship considers it a calligraphic compendium of [Chinese characters](#) from [Zhou dynasty](#) bronzes. [Philitas of Cos](#) (fl. 4th century BCE) wrote a pioneering vocabulary *Disorderly Words* ([Ἀτακτοὶ γλῶσσαι](#), *Átaktoi glôssai*) which explained the meanings of rare [Homeric](#) and other literary words, words from local dialects, and technical terms.^[7] [Apollonius the Sophist](#) (fl. 1st century CE) wrote the oldest surviving Homeric lexicon.^[6] The first [Sanskrit](#) dictionary, the [Amarakośa](#), was written by [Amara Sinha](#) ca. 4th century CE. Written in verse, it listed around 10,000 words. According to the [Nihon Shoki](#), the first [Japanese dictionary](#) was the long-lost 682 CE *Niina* glossary of Chinese characters. The oldest existing Japanese dictionary, the ca. 835 CE [Tenrei Banshō Meigi](#), was also a glossary of written Chinese.

[Arabic](#) dictionaries were compiled between the 8th and 14th centuries CE, organizing words in rhyme order (by the last syllable), by alphabetical order of the [radicals](#), or according to the alphabetical order of the first letter (the system used in modern European language dictionaries). The modern system was mainly used in specialist dictionaries, such as those of terms from the [Qur'an](#) and [hadith](#), while most general use dictionaries, such as the *Lisan al-`Arab* (13th c., still the best-known large-scale dictionary of Arabic) and *al-Qamus al-Muhit* (14th c.) listed words in the alphabetical order of the radicals. The *Qamus al-Muhit* is the first handy dictionary in Arabic, which includes only words and their definitions, eliminating the supporting examples used in such dictionaries as the *Lisan* and the [Oxford English Dictionary](#).^[8]

The earliest modern European dictionaries were bilingual dictionaries. In 1502 appeared the *Cornucopia* of [Ambrogio Calepino](#), which in fact was a multilingual glossary. In 1532 [Robert Estienne](#) published the *Thesaurus linguae latinae* and in 1572 his son [Henri Estienne](#) published the *Thesaurus linguae graecae*, which served up to the nineteenth century as the basis of Greek [lexicography](#). In 1612 was published the first edition of the *Vocabolario dell'Accademia della Crusca*, for [Italian](#), which also served as the model for similar works in French, Spanish and English. In 1690 in [Rotterdam](#) was published, posthumously, the *Dictionnaire Universel* by [Antoine Furetière](#) for [French](#). In 1694 appeared the first edition of the *Dictionnaire de l'Académie française*. Between 1712 and 1721 was published the *Vocabulario portughez e latino* written by [Raphael Bluteau](#). The [Real Academia Espanola](#) published the first edition of the *Diccionario de la lengua espanola* in 1780. The *Totius Latinitatis lexicon* by [Egidio Forcellini](#) was firstly published in 1777, it has formed the basis of all similar works that have since been published.

The first edition of *A Greek-English Lexicon* by [Henry George Liddell](#) and [Robert Scott](#) appeared in 1843; this work remained the basic dictionary of Greek until the end of the XX century. And in 1858 was published the first volume of the *Deutsches Wörterbuch* by the [Brothers Grimm](#); the work was completed in 1961. Between 1861 and 1874 was published the *Dizionario della lingua italiana* by [Niccolò Tommaseo](#). [Émile Littré](#) published the *Dictionnaire de la langue française* between 1863 and 1872. In the same

year 1863 appeared the first volume of the [Woordenboek der Nederlandsche Taal](#) which was completed in 1998. Also in 1863 [Vladimir Ivanovich Dahl](#) published the [Explanatory Dictionary of the Living Great Russian Language](#). The [Duden](#) dictionary dates back to 1880, and is currently the [prescriptive](#) source for the spelling of German. In 1898 was printed the first volume of the [Svenska Akademiens ordbok](#), whose publication is still in progress.

English Dictionaries

See also: [The Earliest English Dictionaries](#)

The earliest dictionaries in the English language were glossaries of French, Italian or Latin words along with definitions of the foreign words in English. An early non-alphabetical list of 8000 English words was the *Elementarie* created by [Richard Mulcaster](#) in 1592.^{[9][10]}

The first purely English alphabetical dictionary was [A Table Alphabeticall](#), written by English schoolteacher [Robert Cawdrey](#) in 1604. The only surviving copy is found at the [Bodleian Library](#) in [Oxford](#). Yet this early effort, as well as the many imitators which followed it, was seen as unreliable and nowhere near definitive. [Philip Stanhope, 4th Earl of Chesterfield](#) was still lamenting in 1754, 150 years after Cawdrey's publication, that it is "a sort of disgrace to our nation, that hitherto we have had no... standard of our language; our dictionaries at present being more properly what our neighbors the Dutch and the Germans call theirs, word-books, than dictionaries in the superior sense of that title."^[11]

It was not until [Samuel Johnson's](#) [A Dictionary of the English Language](#) (1755) that a truly noteworthy, reliable English Dictionary was deemed to have been produced, and the fact that today many people still mistakenly believe Johnson to have written the first English Dictionary is a testimony to this legacy.^[12] By this stage, dictionaries had evolved to contain textual references for most words, and were arranged alphabetically, rather than by topic (a previously popular form of arrangement, which meant all animals would be grouped together, etc.). Johnson's masterwork could be judged as the first to bring all these elements together, creating the first 'modern' dictionary.^[12]

Johnson's *Dictionary* remained the English-language standard for over 150 years, until the [Oxford University Press](#) began writing and releasing the [Oxford English Dictionary](#) in short [fascicles](#) from 1884 onwards. It took nearly 50 years to finally complete the huge work, and they finally released the complete *OED* in twelve volumes in 1928. It remains the most comprehensive and trusted English language dictionary to this day, with revisions and updates added by a dedicated team every three months. One of the main contributors to this modern day dictionary was an ex-army surgeon, [William Chester Minor](#), a convicted murderer who was confined to an asylum for the criminally insane.^[13]

American Dictionaries

In 1806, American [Noah Webster](#) published his first dictionary, [A Compendious Dictionary of the English Language](#). In 1807 Webster began compiling an expanded and fully comprehensive dictionary, *An American Dictionary of the English Language*; it took twenty-seven years to complete. To evaluate the etymology of words, Webster learned twenty-six languages, including [Old English](#) (Anglo-Saxon), German, Greek, Latin, Italian, Spanish, French, Hebrew, Arabic, and [Sanskrit](#).

Webster completed his dictionary during his year abroad in 1825 in Paris, France, and at the [University of Cambridge](#). His book contained seventy thousand words, of which twelve thousand had never appeared in a published dictionary before. As a [spelling reformer](#), Webster believed that English spelling rules were unnecessarily complex, so his dictionary introduced [American English](#) spellings, replacing "colour" with "color", substituting "wagon" for "waggon", and printing "center" instead of "centre". He also added American words, like "skunk" and "squash", that did not appear in British dictionaries. At the age of seventy, Webster published his dictionary in 1828; it sold 2500 copies. In 1840, the second edition was published in two volumes.

Austin (2005) explores the intersection of lexicographical and poetic practices in American literature, and attempts to map out a "lexical poetics" using Webster's definitions as his base. He explores how American poets used Webster's dictionaries, often drawing upon his lexicography in order to express their word play. Austin explicates key definitions from both the *Compendious* (1806) and *American* (1828) dictionaries, and brings into its discourse a range of concerns, including the politics of American English, the question of national identity and culture in the early moments of American independence, and the poetics of citation and of definition. Austin concludes that Webster's dictionaries helped redefine Americanism in an era of an emergent and unstable American political and cultural identity. Webster himself saw the dictionaries as a nationalizing device to separate America from Britain, calling his project a "federal language", with competing forces towards regularity on the one hand and innovation on the other. Austin suggests that the contradictions of Webster's lexicography were part of a larger play between liberty and order within American intellectual discourse, with some pulled toward Europe and the past, and others pulled toward America and the new future.^[14]

For an international appreciation of the importance of Webster's dictionaries in setting the norms of the English language, see Forque (1982).^[15]

General dictionaries

In a general dictionary, each word may have multiple meanings. Some dictionaries include each separate meaning in the order of most common usage while others list definitions in historical order, with the oldest usage first.^[16]

In many languages, words can appear in many different forms, but only the [undeclined or unconjugated](#) form appears as the [headword](#) in most dictionaries. Dictionaries are most commonly found in the form of a book, but some newer dictionaries, like [StarDict](#) and the [New Oxford American Dictionary](#) are dictionary software running on [PDAs](#) or [computers](#). There are also many online dictionaries accessible via the [Internet](#).

Specialized dictionaries

According to the *Manual of Specialized Lexicographies* a [specialized dictionary](#) (also referred to as a technical dictionary) is a lexicon that focuses upon a specific subject field. Following the description in *The Bilingual LSP Dictionary* [lexicographers](#) categorize specialized dictionaries into three types. A [multi-field dictionary](#) broadly covers several subject fields (e.g., a [business dictionary](#)), a [single-field dictionary](#) narrowly covers one particular subject field (e.g., law), and a [sub-field dictionary](#) covers a singular field (e.g., constitutional law). For example, the 23-language [Inter-Active Terminology for Europe](#) is a multi-field dictionary, the [American National Biography](#) is a single-field, and the [African American National Biography Project](#) is a sub-field dictionary. In terms of the above coverage distinction between "minimizing dictionaries" and "maximizing dictionaries", multi-field dictionaries tend to minimize coverage across subject fields (for instance, [Oxford Dictionary of World Religions](#)) whereas single-field and sub-field dictionaries tend to maximize coverage within a limited subject field ([The Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology](#)). See also [LSP dictionary](#)

Glossaries

Another variant is the [glossary](#), an alphabetical list of defined terms in a specialised field, such as medicine or science. The simplest dictionary, a [defining dictionary](#), provides a [core glossary](#) of the simplest meanings of the simplest concepts. From these, other concepts can be explained and defined, in particular for those who are first learning a language. In English, the commercial defining dictionaries typically include only one or two meanings of under 2000 words. With these, the rest of English, and even the 4000 most common English [idioms](#) and [metaphors](#), can be defined.

Pronunciation

Main articles: [IPA chart for English dialects](#) and [Pronunciation respelling for English](#)

Dictionaries for languages for which the pronunciation of words is not apparent from their spelling, such as the English language, usually provide the pronunciation, often using the [International Phonetic Alphabet](#). For example, the definition for the word *dictionary* might be followed by the phonemic spelling [/ˈdɪkʃənəri/](#). American dictionaries, however, often use their own [pronunciation spelling](#) systems, for example *dictionary* [dɪkˈʃə-nār-ē](#), while the IPA is more commonly used within the British Commonwealth countries. Yet others use a respelling system; for example, *dictionary*

may respelled [*DIK-shə-nair-ee*](#). Some on-line or electronic dictionaries provide recordings of words being spoken.

🧩 This section requires [expansion](#). (June 2008)

Variations between dictionaries



This section **does not** [cite](#) any [references or sources](#). (December 2009)

Prescription and description



A dictionary open at the word "[Internet](#)", viewed through a [lens](#)

Lexicographers apply two basic philosophies to the defining of words: [prescriptive or descriptive](#). [Noah Webster](#), intent on forging a distinct identity for the American language, altered spellings and accentuated differences in meaning and pronunciation of some words. This is why [American English](#) now uses the spelling *color* while the rest of the English-speaking world prefers *colour*. (Similarly, [British English](#) subsequently underwent a few spelling changes that did not affect American English; see further at [American and British English spelling differences](#).)

Large 20th-century dictionaries such as the [Oxford English Dictionary](#) (OED) and [Webster's Third](#) are descriptive, and attempt to describe the actual use of words. Most dictionaries of English now apply the descriptive method to a word's definition, and then, outside of the definition itself, add information alerting readers to attitudes which may influence their choices on words often considered vulgar, offensive, erroneous, or easily confused. [Merriam-Webster](#) is subtle, only adding italicized notations such as, *sometimes offensive* or *nonstand* (nonstandard.) [American Heritage](#) goes further, discussing issues separately in numerous "usage notes." [Encarta](#) provides similar notes, but is more prescriptive, offering warnings and admonitions against the use of certain words considered by many to be offensive or illiterate, such as, "an offensive term for..." or "a taboo term meaning..."

Because of the widespread use of dictionaries in schools, and their acceptance by many as language authorities, their treatment of the language does affect usage to some degree, with even the most descriptive dictionaries providing conservative continuity. In the long run, however, the meanings of words in English are primarily determined by usage, and the language is being changed and created every day.^[17] As [Jorge Luis Borges](#) says in the prologue to "El otro, el mismo": *"It is often forgotten that (dictionaries) are artificial repositories, put together well after the languages they define. The roots of language are irrational and of a magical nature."*

Major English dictionaries

- [A Dictionary of the English Language](#) by [Samuel Johnson](#) (prescriptive)
- [The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language](#)
- [Black's Law Dictionary](#), a [law dictionary](#)
- [Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable](#)
- [Canadian Oxford Dictionary](#)
- [Century Dictionary](#)
- [Chambers Dictionary](#)
- [Collins English Dictionary](#)
- [Concise Oxford English Dictionary](#)
- [Longman](#)
- [Macquarie Dictionary](#), a dictionary of [Australian English](#)
- [Merriam-Webster](#)
- [New Oxford Dictionary of English](#)
- [Oxford Dictionary of English](#)
- [Oxford English Dictionary](#) (descriptive)
- [Random House Dictionary of the English Language](#)
- [Noah Webster's An American Dictionary of the English Language](#) (prescriptive)
- [Webster's Dictionary](#) (descriptive)
- [Webster's New World Dictionary](#)

Dictionaries of other languages

Histories and descriptions of the dictionaries of other languages include:

- [Chinese dictionaries](#)
- [Dutch dictionaries](#)
- [French dictionaries](#)
- [German dictionaries](#)
- [Japanese dictionaries](#)
- [Scottish Gaelic dictionaries](#)
- [Scottish Language Dictionaries](#)

Dictionaries for Natural Language Processing

On the contrary of traditional dictionaries which are designed to be used by human beings, dictionaries for [Natural Language Processing](#) are built to be used by computer programs. The final user is a human being but the direct user is a program. Such a dictionary does not need to be able to be printed on paper. The structure of the content is not linear, ordered entry by entry but has the form of a complex graph. Because most of these dictionaries are used to control [machine translations](#) or [CLIR](#) (cross-lingual information retrieval) the content is usually multilingual and usually of huge size. In order to allow formalized exchange and merging of dictionaries, an ISO standard called [LMF](#) has been defined and used among the industrial and academic community.

Online dictionaries

There exist a number of websites which operate as online dictionaries, usually with a specialized focus. Some of them have exclusively user driven content, often consisting of [neologisms](#). Some of the more notable examples include:

- [Double-Tongued Dictionary](#) (user generated content)
- [Free On-line Dictionary of Computing](#)
- [LEO \(website\)](#)
- [Logos Dictionary](#)
- [Pictual \(website\)](#)
- [Pseudodictionary](#) (exclusively user-defined neologisms, with humorous intent)
- [Reference.com](#)
- [Urban Dictionary](#) (much of the content ephemeral slang terminology, some with sources)
- [Wiktionary](#) (multilingual dictionary, a [Wikipedia](#) project)
- [WWWDIC](#) (online Japanese dictionary)

See also

- [Artistic dictionary](#)
- [Advanced learner's dictionary](#)
- [Bilingual dictionary](#)
- [Centre for Lexicography](#)
- [COBUILD](#), a large [corpus](#) of English text
- [Comparison of English dictionaries](#)
- [Corpus linguistics](#)
- [DICT](#), the dictionary server protocol
- [Dictionary Society of North America](#)
- [DictionaryForMids](#)
- [Electronic dictionary](#)
- [Encyclopedia](#)
- [Encyclopedic dictionary](#)

- [Fictitious entry](#)
- [Foreign language writing aid](#)
- [Lexical Markup Framework](#)
- [Lexicographic error](#)



[Books portal](#)

- [Lexicography](#)
- [Lexigraf](#)
- [List of online dictionaries](#)
- [Machine-readable dictionary](#)
- [Medical dictionary](#)
- [Monolingual learners' dictionaries](#)
- [Phonetic dictionary](#)
- [Reverse dictionary](#)
- [Rhyming dictionary](#)
- [Thesaurus](#)
- [Visual dictionary](#)
- [WordNet](#)

Notes

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3. ^{a b} Sterkenburg 2003, pp. 3–4
4. [^] Sterkenburg 2003, p. 7
5. [^] R. R. K. Hartmann (2003). *Lexicography: Dictionaries, compilers, critics, and users*. Routledge. p. 21. ISBN 978-0-415-25366-6.
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15. [^](#) Guy Jean Forgue, "The Norm in American English," *Revue Francaise d'Etudes Americaines*, Nov 1983, Vol. 8 Issue 18, pp 451–461
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17. [^](#) Ned Halley, *The Wordsworth Dictionary of Modern English Grammar* (2005) p. 84

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External links

 Look up [dictionary](#) or [wordbook](#) in Wiktionary, the free dictionary.

- [Dictionary](#) at the [Open Directory Project](#)
- [Glossary of dictionary terms](#) by the [Oxford University Press](#)
-  Texts on Wikisource:
 - "[Dictionary](#)". *Collier's New Encyclopedia*. 1921.
 - Chisholm, Hugh, ed. (1911). "[Dictionary](#)". *Encyclopædia Britannica* (11th ed.). Cambridge University Press.
 - "[Dictionary](#)". *New International Encyclopedia*. 1905.
 - [Wikisource:Languages](#) (directory of language-related works on Wikisource – includes dictionaries)

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Lexicography

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Dictionaries of [English](#)

DIGITAL LIBRARY

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This article **needs additional citations for verification**. Relevant discussion may be found on the [talk page](#). Please help [improve this article](#) by adding citations to [reliable sources](#). Unsourced material may be [challenged](#) and [removed](#). (March 2012)

A **digital library** is a [library](#) in which collections are stored in digital formats (as opposed to print, [microform](#), or other media) and accessible by computers.^{[1]^[not in citation given]} The digital content may be stored locally, or accessed remotely via computer networks. A digital library is a type of [information retrieval](#) system.

In the context of the [DELOS](#), a Network of Excellence on Digital Libraries, and [DL.org](#), a Coordination Action on *Digital Library Interoperability, Best Practices and Modelling Foundations*, Digital Library researchers and practitioners produced a **Digital Library Reference Model**^{[2]^[3]} which defines a digital library as: "A potentially virtual organisation, that comprehensively collects, manages and preserves for the long depth of time rich digital content, and offers to its targeted user communities specialised functionality on that content, of defined quality and according to comprehensive codified policies."^[4]

The first use of the term *digital library* in print may have been in a 1988 report to the [Corporation for National Research Initiatives](#)^{[5]^[not in citation given]} The term *digital libraries* was first popularized by the [NSF/DARPA/NASA](#) Digital Libraries Initiative in 1994.^[6] These draw heavily on [As We May Think](#) by [Vannevar Bush](#) in 1945, which set out a vision not in terms of technology, but user experience.^[7] The term *virtual library* was initially used interchangeably with *digital library*, but is now primarily used for libraries that are virtual in other senses (such as libraries which aggregate distributed content).

A distinction is often made between content that was created in a digital format, known as [born-digital](#), and information that has been converted from a physical medium, e.g. paper, by [digitizing](#). The term [hybrid library](#) is sometimes used for libraries that have both physical collections and digital collections. For example, [American Memory](#) is a digital library within the [Library of Congress](#). Some important digital libraries also serve as long term archives, such as [arXiv](#) and the [Internet Archive](#).

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Academic repositories

Many academic libraries are actively involved in building [institutional repositories](#) of the institution's books, papers, theses, and other works which can be digitized or were 'born digital'. Many of these repositories are made available to the general public with few restrictions, in accordance with the goals of [open access](#), in contrast to the publication of research in commercial journals, where the publishers often limit access rights. Institutional, truly free, and corporate repositories are sometimes referred to as digital libraries.

Digital archives

Physical [archives](#) differ from physical libraries in several ways. Traditionally, archives are defined as:

1. Containing [primary sources](#) of information (typically letters and papers directly produced by an individual or organization) rather than the secondary sources found in a library (books, periodicals, etc.).
2. Having their contents organized in groups rather than individual items.
3. Having unique contents.

The technology used to create digital libraries is even more revolutionary for archives since it breaks down the second and third of these general rules. In other words, "digital archives" or "online archives" will still generally contain primary sources, but they are

likely to be described individually rather than (or in addition to) in groups or collections. Further, because they are digital their contents are easily reproducible and may indeed have been reproduced from elsewhere. The [Oxford Text Archive](#) is generally considered to be the oldest digital archive of academic physical primary source materials.

The future

Large scale digitization projects are underway at [Google](#), the [Million Book Project](#), and [Internet Archive](#). With continued improvements in book handling and presentation technologies such as [optical character recognition](#) and [ebooks](#), and development of alternative depositories and business models, digital libraries are rapidly growing in popularity. Just as libraries have ventured into audio and video collections, so have digital libraries such as the [Internet Archive](#).

According to Larry Lannom, Director of Information Management Technology at the nonprofit Corporation should be for National Research Initiatives, "all the problems associated with digital libraries are wrapped up in archiving." He goes on to state, "If in 100 years people can still read your article, we'll have solved the problem." Daniel Akst, author of *The Webster Chronicle*, proposes that "the future of libraries — and of information — is digital." Peter Lyman and Hal Varian, information scientists at the [University of California, Berkeley](#), estimate that "the world's total yearly production of print, film, optical, and magnetic content would require roughly 1.5 billion gigabytes of storage." Therefore, they believe that "soon it will be technologically possible for an average person to access virtually all recorded information."^[8]

Searching

Most digital libraries provide a search interface which allows resources to be found. These resources are typically [deep web](#) (or invisible web) resources since they frequently cannot be located by [search engine crawlers](#). Some digital libraries create special pages or [sitemaps](#) to allow search engines to find all their resources. Digital libraries frequently use the [Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting](#) (OAI-PMH) to expose their metadata to other digital libraries, and search engines like [Google Scholar](#), [Yahoo!](#) and [Scirus](#) can also use OAI-PMH to find these deep web resources.^[9]

There are two general strategies for searching a *federation* of digital libraries:

1. distributed searching, and
2. searching previously harvested [metadata](#).

Distributed searching typically involves a client sending multiple search requests in parallel to a number of servers in the federation. The results are gathered, duplicates are eliminated or clustered, and the remaining items are sorted and presented back to the client. Protocols like [Z39.50](#) are frequently used in distributed searching. A benefit to this approach is that the resource-intensive tasks of indexing and storage are left to the respective servers in the

federation. A drawback to this approach is that the search mechanism is limited by the different indexing and ranking capabilities of each database, making it difficult to assemble a combined result consisting of the most relevant found items.

Searching over previously harvested metadata involves searching a locally stored [index](#) of information that has previously been collected from the libraries in the federation. When a search is performed, the search mechanism does not need to make connections with the digital libraries it is searching - it already has a local representation of the information. This approach requires the creation of an indexing and harvesting mechanism which operates regularly, connecting to all the digital libraries and querying the whole collection in order to discover new and updated resources. [OAI-PMH](#) is frequently used by digital libraries for allowing metadata to be harvested. A benefit to this approach is that the search mechanism has full control over indexing and ranking algorithms, possibly allowing more consistent results. A drawback is that harvesting and indexing systems are more resource-intensive and therefore expensive.

Frameworks

The formal reference models include the DELOS Digital Library Reference Model (Agosti, et al., 2006)^[10] and the Streams, Structures, Spaces, Scenarios, Societies (5S) formal framework.^[11] The Reference Model for an Open Archival Information System ([OAIS](#)) provides a framework to address [digital preservation](#).^[12]

Construction and organization

See also [Digital Collections Selection Criteria](#).

Software

There are a number of software packages for use in general digital libraries, for notable ones see [Digital library software](#). Institutional repository software, which focuses primarily on ingest, preservation and access of locally produced documents, particularly locally produced academic outputs, can be found in [Institutional repository software](#).

Digitization

In the past few years, procedures for [digitizing](#) books at high speed and comparatively low cost have improved considerably with the result that it is now possible to digitize millions of books per year.^[13]

Advantages

The advantages of digital libraries as a means of easily and rapidly accessing books, archives and images of various types are now widely recognized by commercial interests and public bodies alike.^[14]

Traditional libraries are limited by storage space; digital libraries have the potential to store much more information, simply because digital information requires very little physical space to contain it. As such, the cost of maintaining a digital library can be much lower than that of a traditional library. A physical library must spend large sums of money paying for staff, book maintenance, rent, and additional books. Digital libraries may reduce or, in some instances, do away with these fees. Both types of library require cataloguing input to allow users to locate and retrieve material. Digital libraries may be more willing to adopt innovations in technology providing users with improvements in electronic and audio book technology as well as presenting new forms of communication such as wikis and blogs; conventional libraries may consider that providing online access to their OPAC catalogue is sufficient. An important advantage to digital conversion is increased accessibility to users. They also increase availability to individuals who may not be traditional patrons of a library, due to geographic location or organizational affiliation.

- **No physical boundary.** The user of a digital library need not to go to the library physically; people from all over the world can gain access to the same information, as long as an Internet connection is available.
- **Round the clock availability** A major advantage of digital libraries is that people can gain access 24/7 to the information.
- **Multiple access.** The same resources can be used simultaneously by a number of institutions and patrons. This may not be the case for copyrighted material: a library may have a license for "lending out" only one copy at a time; this is achieved with a system of [digital rights management](#) where a resource can become inaccessible after expiration of the lending period or after the lender chooses to make it inaccessible (equivalent to returning the resource).
- **Information retrieval.** The user is able to use any search term (word, phrase, title, name, subject) to search the entire collection. Digital libraries can provide very user-friendly interfaces, giving clickable access to its resources.
- **Preservation and conservation.** Digitization is not a long-term preservation solution for physical collections, but does succeed in providing access copies for materials that would otherwise fall to degradation from repeated use. Digitized collections and born-digital objects pose many preservation and conservation concerns that analog materials do not. Please see the following "Problems" section of this page for examples.
- **Space.** Whereas traditional libraries are limited by storage space, digital libraries have the potential to store much more information, simply because digital information requires very little physical space to contain them and media storage technologies are more affordable than ever before.
- **Added value.** Certain characteristics of objects, primarily the quality of images, may be improved. Digitization can enhance legibility and remove visible flaws such as stains and discoloration.^[15]
- **Easily accessible.**

Challenges



This article's **[tone](#) or style may not reflect the encyclopedic tone used on Wikipedia**. See Wikipedia's [guide to writing better articles](#) for suggestions. *(May 2008)*

Digital preservation

Main article: [Digital preservation](#)

Digital preservation aims to ensure that digital media and information systems are still interpretable into the indefinite future. Each necessary component of this must be migrated, preserved or [emulated](#).^[16] Typically lower levels of systems ([floppy disks](#) for example) are emulated, bit-streams (the actual files stored in the disks) are preserved and operating systems are emulated as a [virtual machine](#). Only where the meaning and content of digital media and information systems are well understood is migration possible, as is the case for office documents.^{[16][17][18]} However, at least one organization, the [WiderNet Project](#), has created an offline digital library, the [eGranary](#), by reproducing materials on a 4 [TB hard drive](#). Instead of a bit-stream environment, the digital library contains a built-in [proxy server](#) and [search engine](#) so the digital materials can be accessed using an [Internet browser](#).^[19] Also, the materials are not preserved for the future. The eGranary is intended for use in places or situations where Internet connectivity is very slow, non-existent, unreliable, unsuitable or too expensive.

Copyright and licensing

Digital libraries are hampered by [copyright](#) law because, unlike with traditional libraries, digital libraries do not have access to works from every time period. The republication of material on the web by libraries may require permission from rights holders, and there is a conflict of interest between libraries and the publishers who may wish to create online versions of their acquired content for commercial purposes. In the year 2010 it was estimated that twenty-three percent of books in existence were created before 1923 and thus out of copyright. Of those printed after this date, only five percent were still in print as of 2010. Thus, approximately seventy-two percent of books were not available to the public.^[20]

There is a dilution of responsibility that occurs as a result of the distributed nature of digital resources. Complex intellectual property matters may become involved since digital material is not always owned by a library.^[21] The content is, in many cases, [public domain](#) or self-generated content only. Some digital libraries, such as [Project Gutenberg](#), work to digitize out-of-copyright works and make them freely available to the public. An estimate of the number of distinct books still existent in library catalogues from 2000 BC to 1960, has been made.^{[22][23]}

The [Fair Use](#) Provisions ([17 USC § 107](#)) under the [Copyright Act of 1976](#) provide specific guidelines under which circumstances libraries are allowed to copy digital resources. Four factors that constitute fair use are "Purpose of the use, Nature of the work, Amount or substantiality used and Market impact."^[24]

Some digital libraries acquire a license to lend their resources. This may involve the restriction of lending out only one copy at a time for each license, and applying a system of [digital rights management](#) for this purpose (see also above).

The [Digital Millennium Copyright Act](#) of 1998 was an act created in the United States to attempt to deal with the introduction of digital works. This Act incorporates two treaties from the year 1996. It criminalizes the attempt to circumvent measures which limit access to copyrighted materials. It also criminalizes the act of attempting to circumvent access control.^[25] This act provides an exemption for nonprofit libraries and archives which allows up to three copies to be made, one of which may be digital. This may not be made public or distributed on the web, however. Further, it allows libraries and archives to copy a work if its format becomes obsolete.^[26]

Copyright issues persist. As such, proposals have been put forward suggesting that digital libraries be exempt from copyright law. Although this would be very beneficial to the public, it may have a negative economic effect and authors may be less inclined to create new works.^[27]

Metadata creation

In traditional libraries, the ability to find works of interest was directly related to how well they were catalogued. While cataloguing electronic works digitized from a library's existing holding may be as simple as copying or moving a record from the print to the electronic form, complex and born-digital works require substantially more effort. To handle the growing volume of electronic publications, new tools and technologies have to be designed to allow effective automated semantic classification and searching. While [full text search](#) can be used for some searches, there are many common catalog searches which cannot be performed using full text, including:

- finding texts which are translations of other texts
- linking texts published under pseudonyms to the real authors ([Samuel Clemens](#) and [Mark Twain](#), for example)
- differentiating non-fiction from parody ([The Onion](#) from [The New York Times](#), for example)

See also



Wikiversity has learning materials about [Curriculum on Digital Libraries](#)

- [List of digital library projects](#)
- [List of online encyclopedias](#)
- [Category:Digital library software](#)
- [Category:Institutional repository software](#)
- [Digital library](#) article at [LISWiki](#), a [Library science wiki](#)
- [Libraries in Second Life](#)

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External links

- [CNRI-DARPA: D-Lib Magazine](#) Electronic publication that primarily focuses on digital library research and development

Conferences

- [TPDL](#) - International Conference on Theory and Practice of Digital Libraries
- [ECDL](#) - European Conference on Digital Libraries
- [ICADL](#) - International Conference on Asian Digital Libraries
- [JCDL](#) - ACM and IEEE Joint Conference on Digital Libraries
- [ICSD](#) - International Conference for Digital Libraries and the Semantic Web

LIST OF DIGITAL LIBRARY PROJECTS

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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This is a **list of [digital library](#) projects**.

- For [bibliographic databases](#) consisting primarily of [magazines](#), [journals](#) and other [periodicals](#), see [List of academic databases and search engines](#).
- For individual [online exhibitions](#) from primarily physical collections, search Wikipedia for the name of the sponsoring [institution](#).

Name	Subject(s)	Volumes	Description	Provider(s)
Ahlul Bayt Digital Islamic Library Project (Ahlul Bayt DILP)	Islam		Digitizes and presents resources related to history, law, and society of the Islamic religion and its personalities with particular emphasis on the Twelver Shi'ah Islamic school of thought.	Ahlul Bayt Digital Islamic Library Project ^[1]
Aozora Bunko	Japanese language		Digitized Japanese language texts.	Aozora Bunko ^[2]
Arnetminer	Computer science & Information science		A free online service used to index and search academic social networks, hosted at Department of Computer Science and Technology of Tsinghua University	Arnetminer ^[3]
Arts and Humanities Data Service	Arts & Humanities		Images, texts and datasets largely collected from UK	King's College London ^[4]

Name	Subject(s)	Volumes	Description	Provider(s)
			universities. Ceased operation in 2008. Website is still active.	
ArXiv	Science		Preprints in mathematics , physics , computer science , quantitative biology and statistics .	Cornell University ^[5]
L'Association des Bibliophiles Universels	French literature		Digitizes French texts in the public domain .	Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers ^[6]
Ludwig von Mises Institute: Literature	Libertarianism & Economics		Libertarian and Austrian School economics resources	Ludwig von Mises Institute ^[7]
Avalon Project	Legal studies & History		Documents in Law, History and Diplomacy	Yale Law School ^[8]
Baen Free Library	Science Fiction & Fantasy		Science fiction and fantasy from publishing house Baen Books.	Baen Books ^[9]
Bookshare	General		A library serving accessible books (DAISY and BRF) to people with print disabilities. Currently over 42,000 popular and educational books in the collection	Benetech ^[10]
British History Online	History		Core printed primary and secondary sources for the medieval and modern history of the British Isles.	Institute of Historical Research , the History of Parliament Trust , and the University of London ^[11]
British Library: Online Gallery	General		The British Library's Online Gallery provides online access to a wide variety of its materials.	British Library ^[12]
California Digital Library				
Carrie			An early full text electronic library	
Center for Research Libraries	General		(CRL): Edward Hunter (1902–1978) collection	
Chinese Text	Chinese classic		Electronic library of	Chinese Text

Name	Subject(s)	Volumes	Description	Provider(s)
Project	texts		early Chinese texts.	Project^[13]
Christian Classics Ethereal Library				
Choral Public Domain Library				
CiteSeerX	Computer science & Information science		A Scientific Literature Digital Library and Search Engine hosted at Information Sciences and Technology at the Pennsylvania State University	Pennsylvania State University
Civil Rights Litigation Clearinghouse	Civil Rights			
The Collection of Computer Science Bibliographies				
The Complete Works of Charles Darwin Online	Biology			
Cornell University Library <i>Windows on the Past</i>				
Digital Accounting Collection	Accounting			
Digital Bibliography and Library Project				
Digital Himalaya	Himalayas			
Digital library for Dutch literature			Government-funded digital library project.	
Digital Library of Georgia	General			
Digital Library		325,473		

Name	Subject(s)	Volumes	Description	Provider(s)
of India				
Digital Media Repository	Arts & Humanities, Middletown studies			Ball State University ^[14]
Digital Public Library of America	General			
Directory of Open Access Journals	General			
Domínio Público				
EEBO - Early English Books Online				
eGranary Digital Library	Educational resources from over 2,000 Web sites and hundreds of CD-ROMs.	An off-line digital library for communities with inadequate Internet bandwidth, i.e. developing countries, rural schools, prisons.	Over 30 million resources in every format: books, journals, Web sites, video, audio, software, multimedia... Includes tools for patrons to create, upload, share, and archive their own content. Has built-in search tools and Web 2.0 services like Moodle , WordPress and Drupal .	The WiderNet Project , a service program of the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Iowa .
EuroDocs: Online Sources for European History				
Europeana		10,000,000+ digital objects	Linking archives, libraries, museums and audio-visual material from across Europe.	
The European Library	General			
European NAvigator			First Digital Library on the history of a united Europe.	
Gallica			French digital library	
Greenpilot	Nutrition ,		A digital library	German National

Name	Subject(s)	Volumes	Description	Provider(s)
	Environment, Agriculture		focusing on Nutritional, Environmental and Agricultural Sciences. Targeting both scientific researchers and the interested public it aims to provide the user with relevant scientific literature which is both easy to access and of high quality.	Library of Medicine, ZB MED
Greenstone (software)	General			
Google Books	General	12,000,000+		
Harvard University Library digital collections	General		Links to digitized collections from the University's libraries, museums, archives and special collections, covering subjects such as art, architecture, religion, history, culture, botany, biology, landscape design, music, politics, law, and advertising. Projects involved digitizing of analog collections (including images, text, audio files, and music scores), georeferencing maps, or harvesting web resources.	Harvard University ^{[15][16][17]}
HathiTrust	General	10,000,000+		
Humanities Text Collection	Humanities			University of Michigan ^[18]
Humbul			Humanities hub	
Hungarian Electronic Library	Hungarian literature			
Ibiblio	General			
International Dunhuang Project	Manuscripts		International collaborative effort to conserve, catalogue and digitise manuscripts, printed texts, paintings,	British Library and twenty other institutions

Name	Subject(s)	Volumes	Description	Provider(s)
			textiles and artifacts from Dunhuang and other archaeological sites at the eastern end of the Silk Road .	
International Music Score Library Project				
Internet Archive	General	3,100,000+		
Internet memory	General		Internet Memory Foundation is a non-profit institution. It actively supports the preservation of Internet as a new media for heritage and cultural purpose.	
Internet History Sourcebooks Project				
Internet library sub-saharan Africa (ilissAfrica)				
Internet Sacred Text Archive				
JournalServer	Academic journals		An international initiative to create a free digital library of academic journals	
JSTOR	General		Subscription required. Page image archive of important scholarly journals, with searchable OCR text.	
The Kurdish Digital Library	General		The Digital Library consists of writings about the Kurds and Kurdistan . Its aim is to make the Kurdish cultural heritage available as digital data. Page image archive of important scholarly journals, with searchable	Kurdish Institute of Paris

Name	Subject(s)	Volumes	Description	Provider(s)
			OCR text.	
Kujawsko-Pomorska Digital Library	General			
LacusCurtius	Classical studies			Ancient Rome texts and Archaeology
The Latin Library				
Library of Congress Digital Library project	General			
Library of Economics and Liberty				Liberty Fund
Librivox	Public Domain books in the United States		An online digital library of free public domain audiobooks, read by volunteers. Around ninety percent of the collection is in English.	
Literary Kicks				
Making of America collections	General			
Marefa	Arabic literature		Digitizes Arabic classics and classics of other languages that are written in Arabic script.	[19]
Marx and Engels Internet Archive				
Marxists Internet Archive				
Maryland Digital Cultural Heritage	General			
Michael: Multilingual Inventory of Cultural Heritage in Europe	General		A project funded by the European Commission to give access to digital collections in European archives, museums and libraries.	
Michigan	General			

Name	Subject(s)	Volumes	Description	Provider(s)
Digitization Project				
Miguel de Cervantes Virtual Library	General			
The Muslim Philanthropy Digital Library			MPDL covers material from 1900 to the present. It encompasses the diverse cultural, political and social factors influencing the practice of philanthropy as well as the significant contributions from across Muslim-majority countries to contemporary global philanthropic practice.	The Muslim Philanthropy Digital Library ^[20]
Mutopia project				
NALANDA				
National Academies Press	General	3,600+		
National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program	General			
National Library for the Blind	General			
New York Public Library NYPL Digital Gallery	General			
New Zealand Electronic Text Centre				
OSU Library Electronic Publishing Center	General			
Online Books Page	General		Provides an extensive list of digital book	

Name	Subject(s)	Volumes	Description	Provider(s)
			available online.	
Online Text Library of the University of Texas at Austin	General			
On This Day				
Open Content Alliance	General			
Open Library	General	1,000,000+		
Open University Library	General		The online Library from the Open University is a gateway to a wide range of online information resources. The Library website provides access to a world-class collection of resources that enhance the learning experience of students and support the learning, teaching, research and personal development of members of staff.	Open University Library
Oxford Text Archive	AHDS Literature, Languages and Linguistics			
Pandora Archive	General			
Panjab Digital Library	General		A NGO digitizing and preserving cultural heritage of Punjab. There are many historically significant documents stored and made available online. Its scope covers Sikh and Punjabi culture. The library funded by The Nanakshahi Trust was launched online in August 2009. It is located at Chandigarh.	
Perseus Project	General			
Project Diana			Online Human rights	

Name	Subject(s)	Volumes	Description	Provider(s)
			library	
Project Gutenberg	General	38,000+	Founded in 1971, was the first project to create a library of freely available online texts.	
Project Gutenberg Australia	General		Providing texts under Australian copyright law .	
Project Laurens Janszoon Coster	Dutch literature		A collection of Dutch high literature; no longer maintained since 2001.	
Project Madurai	Tamil literature		A collection of Tamil literature.	
Project Noolaham	General			
Project Rastko	Serbian literature		Publishes Serbian and Serbian-related digital material, both in public domain and copyrighted .	
Project Runeberg	Nordic literature			
Project Sugita Genpaku			Translating any text without permission, if there is no copyright trouble. Commercial use of texts is also allowed.	
Projekt Gutenberg-DE				
Questia Online Library	General			
Rare Book Room	General			
Rubicon Research Repository	Environmental physiology			
Runivers	Russian literature		Website devoted to Russian culture and history.	
SciElo				
Sophie				
South Asian American Digital Archive	South Asian Americans		Documents, preserves and provides access to the material history of the South Asian	

Name	Subject(s)	Volumes	Description	Provider(s)
			American community.	
Texas Digital Library	General			
Text Creation Partnership	General		Three collections (EEBO/TCP, ECCO/TCP, Evans/TCP)	
TITUS - Thesaurus of Indo-European Texts and Language Materials database			Aims to prepare all textual material relevant for Indo-European Studies (including Middle Iranian, Tocharian etc.) in electronic form for analysis	Goethe University Frankfurt^[21]
Traditional Knowledge Digital Library	Indian literature		Repository of the traditional knowledge of India, setup to protect the ancient and traditional knowledge of the country from exploitation such as Unethical patents and monopolization	
UK Web Archiving Consortium (UKWAC)	General			
United States National Agricultural Library	Agriculture			
US National Library of Medicine				
Universal Digital Library	General	1,500,000+	A book digitization project, led by Carnegie Mellon University School of Computer Science and University Libraries. ^[22] Working with government and research partners in India (Digital Library of India) and China , the project is scanning	

Name	Subject(s)	Volumes	Description	Provider(s)
			books in many languages, using OCR to enable full text searching, and providing free-to-read access to the books on the web.	
University of Michigan Library Digital Library Production Service	General			
University of Wisconsin Digital Collections	General			University of Wisconsin–Madison^[23]
Vascoda	General		German internet-portal for scientific and scholarly information, offering interdisciplinary and subject-specific search	
Virtually Missouri	General		Digital collections from Missouri libraries, museums, and cultural institutions	
Welsh Journals Online	General			National Library of Wales
Wordtheque			Word by word multilingual library	
World Wide Web Virtual Library	General			
Wikibooks	General		A digital library of new books edited in a similar way to Wikipedia.	
Wikisource			A digital library of out of copyright books edited in a similar way to Wikipedia.	
Wired for Books			A project of the WOUB Center for Public Media at Ohio University.	
Wisconsin Heritage Online			A collaborative statewide portal to	

Name	Subject(s)	Volumes	Description	Provider(s)
			Wisconsin's history.	
Wisconsin Historical Society Digital Collection	History		Wisconsin state, regional, and local history books, journals, and museum collections	Wisconsin Historical Society ^[24]
World Digital Library	General			Library of Congress
Zeno.org				

See also

- [List of online databases](#)
 - [List of academic databases and search engines](#)
- [List of open-access journals](#)
- [List of online encyclopedias](#)
- [List of internet search engines](#)

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5. [^](#) [ArXiv](#)
6. [^](#) [ABU: l'Association des Bibliophiles Universels](#)
7. [^](#) [\[1\]](#)
8. [^](#) [Avalon Project: Documents in Law, History and Diplomacy](#)
9. [^](#) [Baen Free Library](#)
10. [^](#) [Bookshare - Accessible Books for Individuals with Print Disabilities](#)
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18. [^](#) [Humanities Text Collection](#)
19. [^](#) [Marefa](#)
20. [^](#) [\[2\]](#)

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22. [^ "ULIB \[About Us\]"](#). Carnegie Mellon University.
23. [^ University of Wisconsin Digital Collections](#)
24. [^ Wisconsin Historical Society Digital Collection4](#)

LIST OF WIKIS

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- [2 See also](#)
- [3 References](#)
- [4 External links](#)

Table

Name	Focus	Notes	Articles	License
A Million Penguins	Fiction—collaboratively-written novel		491 ^[1]	Copyrighted
AboutUs.org	Internet directory	Initially pre-populated with information about many different websites. Uses MediaWiki software, but now largely with Ruby on Rails	17,611,146	GFDL and CC-BY-SA
Appropedia	English, French, German, Spanish	Sustainable development , including appropriate	4,934 ^[2]	CC-BY-SA 3.0

Name	Focus	Notes	Articles	License
		technology merging with several other wikis		
Baidu Baike	Encyclopedic /Chinese	A Chinese encyclopedia	2,878,123 ^[3]	Copyrighted
Ballotpedia	Informative	An interactive almanac of state politics.	192,927 ^[4]	GFDL
Biographicon	Misc— Biographies of people	A directory of personal profiles		Unknown
Catawiki	Catalogues	Originally in Dutch, with English version. Collectors specific for comics, coins, stamps, trading cards, board games, model cars, model trains, bank notes, books, watches, Disney memorabilia, clocks and other.	200,000	
Citizendium	Encyclopedic	Requires real names; guided by expert input while allowing edits from the general public	15,308 ^[5]	CC-by-sa 3.0
CoalSwarm	Anti-coal information clearinghouse	Joint project of SourceWatch and Center for Media and Democracy	4,000 ^[6]	
Congresspedia	Government— United States Congress	A separately branded sub-section of SourceWatch .		CC-BY-SA 3.0

Name	Focus	Notes	Articles	License
		since moved to OpenCongress		
Conservapedia	Encyclopedia	Information and articles are written from a conservative Christian viewpoint aimed at correcting the alleged liberal bias of Wikipedia.	33,100 ^[7]	Copyrighted (free use)
CPDL.org (ChoralWiki)	Music	A wiki library of free typeset musical scores	15,382 ^[8]	Public Domain, CPDL Licence, C.C. Licences, Copyrighted (free use)
DavisWiki	Place— Davis, California	A city wiki dedicated solely to Davis; at one point the largest city wiki	15,593 ^[3]	CC-by 3.0
Diplopedia	Government— Diplomacy	Encyclopedia of the U.S. Department of State collecting items related to international relations and diplomacy		
EcuRed	A Cuban perspective on global issues, in Spanish	Run by Cuba's Youth Computer Club, an affiliate of the Communist Youth Union	19,482	Compatible with the copyleft license Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported ^[9]
Ekopedia	Multilingual— Encyclopedic	Environmental sustainability merging with Appropedia.		CC-BY-SA 3.0
Enciclopedia Libre	Encyclopedic /Spanish	A Spanish language fork of	47,281 ^[10]	CC-BY-SA 3.0

Name	Focus	Notes	Articles	License
Universal en Español		Wikipedia		
Encyclopedia Dramatica	Satire of Internet memes	A satirical wiki	7,400 ^[11]	Fair use
English Wikipedia	Encyclopedic	Public access, most prominent English wiki	3,889,237 ^[12]	CC-BY-SA
Everything2	Personal essays	A wiki-like project for essays	361,878 ^[13]	Copyrighted
Foodista.com	Reference—Food and Cooking	A Creative Commons structured wiki about foods, recipes, and other culinary information.		CC-BY
Fringepedia	Fiction— Fringe			
Galaxiki	Fictional galaxy	Dedicated to the creation of a fictional galaxy		GFDL ^[14]
GCPEDIA	Government	Internal Government of Canada Wiki		
GeoNames	Places	A geographical database that links specific names with unique features		
Geo-wiki	Global land cover maps	The Geo-Wiki Project is to help improve the quality of global land cover maps.		
Heroes Wiki	Fiction— Heroes			CC-NC-ND
Hudong (互动百科)	Encyclopedic	Largest Chinese wiki. Social Networking features. Chinese language only	3,920,000 ^[15]	Copyrighted

Name	Focus	Notes	Articles	License
Intellipedia	Government— Intelligence	Three non-accessible wikis running on networks that link the U.S. intelligence community		
International Music Score Library Project	Music	A wiki library of public domain musical scores	14,800 ^[16]	GFDL
IMFDB	Firearm usage in Film, Television and Videogames	Runs on MediaWiki	144,339 ^[17]	
Javapedia	Computers— Java	An online encyclopedia for developing Java	790 ^[18]	Creative Commons
Judgepedia	Informative	An interactive encyclopedia of courts and judges.	131,112 ^[19]	GFDL
JurisPedia	Government— Law	A multi-lingual academic encyclopedia, including Arabic , Chinese , English , French , German and Spanish		CC-NC
Knol	General purpose	A wiki-like technology from Google	100,000 ^[20]	CC-by 3.0
Lostpedia	Fiction— Lost	Articles about episodes, characters, themes, etc. in the television show.	7,248 ^[21]	CC BY-NC-ND
LyricWiki	Music— Lyrics	A listing of lyrics by album	1,147,000 ^[22]	Mostly copyrighted. CC-BY-SA for

Name	Focus	Notes	Articles	License
				minority of content.
Medpedia	Encyclopedic Medical/health	Requires real names; guided by medical expert input while allowing edits from the general public		CC-BY-SA
Men of War - Wiki	Free encyclopedia about Men of War	Information about the series, missions and units	1,675	CC BY-SA
MeatballWiki	Communities— Online communities		4,900 ^[23]	Copyrighted
Memory Alpha	Fiction— Star Trek	Contains canon-only material	34,331 ^[24]	CC-NC 2.5
MetaBase	database of biological databases	1000 biological databases and over 800 'web services', more than 50 'user-contributed' databases	1,800	BioLicense and MetaBase:Copyrights
Metapedia	Encyclopedia	A white nationalist and extreme right-wing online encyclopedia.	87,521 ^[24] (Hungarian Language version)	unknown
MyWikiBiz	Misc—Business directory	Allows people and enterprises to write about themselves	11,475 ^[25]	GFDL and other ^[26]
NotePub	General purpose	An online notepad that allows for both public and private content.		
OpenStreetMap	Places— Maps	Uses GPS , aerial photography and other free sources of		CC-BY-SA 2.0

Name	Focus	Notes	Articles	License
		images to create a map of the world		
OpenWetWare	Science— Biology	Promotes sharing and dissemination of knowledge related to biological research		CC-BY-SA
Orcz.com Wiki	Free encyclopedia about Video Games	Information about video games, as well as strategy guides, walkthroughs, and more.		CC-BY-NC-SA
PlanetMath	Misc— Mathematics	Free wiki-style mathematical encyclopedia		
Pornopedia	Sexuality	Multilingual encyclopedia about pornography and sexuality ^[27]	15,447 ^[28] (German version)	Copyrighted
Quora	General Knowledge	A question-and-answer (Q&A) site , similar to Yahoo Answers .		Revocable no-derivatives license ^[29]
riscos.info	Computers— RISC OS	Hosts C programming resources and projects	197 ^[30]	cc-by 2.5
Scholarpedia	Encyclopedic	Written exclusively by professionals focusing on their field of expertise; subject to peer review	1,619 ^[31]	Copyrighted
Sensei's	Misc— Go (game)		18,200	OPL

Name	Focus	Notes	Articles	License
Library				
ShopWiki	Misc— Products	A shopping wiki and product comparison search engine featuring buying guides and shopping resources		
SKYbrary	Aviation safety information			
SNPedia	Science—Biology	A database of research and information about single-nucleotide polymorphisms , including medical consequences for people who have DNA info about themselves	3,500 ^[32]	CC-by-nc-sa 3.0
SourceWatch	Social— Propaganda	Formerly Disinfopedia, discusses propaganda and includes organizations that seek to influence public opinion		GFDL
Stadtwiki Karlsruhe	Encyclopedic	Multilingual city wiki for Karlsruhe	21,157 ^[33]	CC-BY-NC-SA
Susning.nu	Encyclopedic /Swedish	A Swedish language encyclopedia, which competes with Swedish Wikipedia		Copyrighted
SWiK	Computers— Open			

Name	Focus	Notes	Articles	License
	source software			
TermWiki	Words in different languages	A social learning network built around terms and questions in 75 languages.	1,417,806 ^[34]	
The Student Room	Place—UK University and student life	Offers UK university guides, revision notes, examples of university personal statements and information on student life and university courses		
Thomas & Friends Wiki	Fiction— Thomas and Friends/The Railway Series	Articles on Characters, Locations, Books from The Railway Series and Episodes from Thomas and Friends .	3,629 ^[35]	CC-BY-SA
Travellerspoint	Places— Travel	A social networking site dedicated to sharing stories and recommendations about travel	2,400 ^[36]	CC-BY-SA 3.0
TV Tropes	Encyclopedic	Focuses on documenting tropes in various media	163841	CC-BY-SA 3.0
Uncyclopedia	Satire— Parody	A satirical encyclopedia dedicated to parody	29,548 ^[37]	CC-by-nc-sa 2.0
Vikidia	Encyclopedic /Spanish and French	A Spanish and French language		GFDL/CC-BY-SA

Name	Focus	Notes	Articles	License
		encyclopedia for children ages 8–13		
Wikia	A hosting service for wikis: Wiki farm	Focus on entertainment and gaming wikis.	9,722,480 ^[38]	
WikiAnswers	General knowledge	Compiles answers to questions posed	11,265,000 ^[39]	Copyrighted
Wikibooks	General— textbooks	A wikimedia project	115,200 ^[40]	CC-BY-SA/other
WikiCandidate	Fictional presidential campaign	A virtual campaign for a fictional U.S. presidential candidate. A project of Cornell University .		
Wikicollecting	Encyclopedia	A free to join community to create an up-to-date and reliable guide to the world of collecting, covering all areas from action figures to wine.	2,000	Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0
WikiEducator	Open educational resources	Open educational resources which anyone may use, adapt, and share	110,872 ^[41]	CC-BY-SA, and CC-BY
wikiHow	General instruction	A how-to manual	133,000 ^[42]	CC-by-nc-sa 2.5
WikiMapia	Places—On-line map	Combines Google Maps with a wiki	13,300,000	CC by-nc-sa ^[43]

Name	Focus	Notes	Articles	License
		system for polygonally defined areas; currently supports 35 languages		
Wikimedia Commons	Misc— Electronic media	A repository of free electronic media; a wikimedia project		CC-BY-SA and other
Wikinews	General— News	Collaborative news service, a wikimedia project		CC-BY
Wikipedia	Encyclopedic	Multilingual MediaWiki project	18,000,000	CC-BY-SA
Wikiquote	Reference— Quotations	A quote repository , a wikimedia project	143,302 ^[44]	CC-BY-SA
Wikisource	Reference— Primary sources	Dedicated to use on Wikipedia ; a wikimedia project	586,400 ^[45]	CC-BY-SA
Wikispecies	Science— Biology	A directory of species ; wikimedia project	248,844	GFDL/CC-BY-SA
Wikitravel	Places— Travel	A travel guide using wikimedia's software, but otherwise unconnected to the Wikimedia Foundation. 20 supported languages	62,345 ^[46]	CC-BY-SA 1.0
Wikiversity	General—Self-directed learning	Supports free learning		CC-BY-SA 3.0

Name	Focus	Notes	Articles	License
		communities, projects, materials, and learners; a wikimedia project		
WikiWikiWeb	Computer programming , specifically design patterns	World's oldest wiki (began circa 1995)	34,997 ^[3]	GPL
Wiktionary	Multilingual dictionary			
Whole Wheat Radio	Music— Indie music	An online community radio station featuring independent music		
Wookieepedia	Fiction— Star Wars	Science fiction encyclopedia	94,123 ^[47]	CC-BY-SA
WoWWiki	Gaming— Warcraft	Contains in-universe material; migrated to Wowpedia in 2010	95,426 ^[48] (WoWWiki) ; 100,143 ^[49] (Wowpedia)	CC-BY-SA 3.0
ZineWiki	Social— Independent media	A zine encyclopedia		

See also

 Meta has related information at: [List of largest wikis](#)

- [History of wikis](#)
- [List of biological wikis](#)
- [List of online encyclopedias](#)
- [List of wiki software](#)
- [Nupedia](#), a defunct, expert-based precursor to Wikipedia
- [UseModWiki](#)

- [Wiki farm](#)
- [Wiki software](#)

References



This article uses **[bare URLs](#)** for **[citations](#)**. Please consider adding [full citations](#) so that the article remains [verifiable](#). Several [templates](#) and the [Reflinks tool](#) are available to assist in formatting. ([Reflinks documentation](#)) (July 2011)

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External links

- [Open content encyclopedias](#) at the [Open Directory Project](#)
- [meta:Interwiki map](#)
- [meta:List of largest wikis](#)

- [WikiIndex](#)—wikis ranked by size, popularity, usage
- [A complete list of Wikia community sites](#)
- [A wiki search engine.](#)
- [WikiPapers](#) (a wiki about publications about wikis)
- [WikiTeam](#), volunteers group to preserve wikis

[hide]

- [v](#)
- [t](#)
- [e](#)

Wikis

Types	• Personal • Semantic • Wiki farm
Components	• Software • Markup • Interwiki links
Lists	• Wikis • Software • Markups and parsers
Comparisons	• Software • Wiki farms

YouTube

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Jump to: [navigation](#), [search](#)

YouTube, LLC



Type	Subsidiary of Google , limited liability company
Founded	February 14, 2005
Headquarters	901 Cherry Ave, San Bruno , California, United States
Area served	Worldwide
Founder(s)	Steve Chen , Chad Hurley , Jawed Karim
Key people	Salar Kamangar (CEO) Chad Hurley (Advisor)
Industry	Internet
Parent	Independent (2005–2006) Google (2006–present)
Slogan	Broadcast Yourself
Website	YouTube.com (see list of localized domain names)
Alexa rank	 3 (July 2012) ^[1]
Type of site	Video hosting service
Advertising	Google AdSense
Registration	Optional (Only required for certain tasks such as viewing flagged videos, viewing flagged comments and uploading videos)
Available in	54 language versions available through user interface ^[2]
Launched	February 14, 2005
Current status	Active
[show] Screenshot	

YouTube is a [video-sharing](#) website, created by three former [PayPal](#) employees in February 2005, on which users can upload, view and share videos.^[3] The company is based in [San Bruno](#), California, and uses [Adobe Flash Video](#) and [HTML5](#) technology to display a wide variety of [user-generated](#) video content, including movie [clips](#), TV clips, and music videos, as well as amateur content such as [video blogging](#) and short original videos.

Most of the content on YouTube has been uploaded by individuals, although media corporations including [CBS](#), the [BBC](#), [VEVO](#), [Hulu](#), and other organizations offer some of their material via the site, as part of the YouTube partnership program.^[4] Unregistered users can watch videos, while registered users can upload an unlimited number of videos. Videos considered to contain potentially offensive content are available only to registered users at least 18 years old. In November 2006, YouTube, LLC was bought by [Google](#) for US\$1.65 billion, and now operates as a subsidiary of Google.

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Company history

Main article: [History of YouTube](#)



From left to right: [Chad Hurley](#), [Steve Chen](#), and [Jawed Karim](#)

YouTube was founded by [Chad Hurley](#), [Steve Chen](#), and [Jawed Karim](#), who were all early employees of [PayPal](#).^[5] Hurley had studied design at [Indiana University of Pennsylvania](#), while Chen and Karim studied [computer science](#) together at the [University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign](#).^[6]

According to a story that has often been repeated in the media, Hurley and Chen developed the idea for YouTube during the early months of 2005, after they had experienced difficulty sharing videos that had been shot at a dinner party at Chen's apartment in San Francisco. Karim did not attend the party and denied that it had occurred, while Chen commented that the idea that YouTube was founded after a dinner party "was probably very strengthened by marketing ideas around creating a story that was very digestible".^[7]

YouTube began as a venture-funded technology startup, primarily from a \$11.5 million investment by [Sequoia Capital](#) between November 2005 and April 2006.^[8] YouTube's early headquarters were situated above a pizzeria and Japanese restaurant in [San Mateo](#), California.^[9] The [domain name](#) [www.youtube.com](#) was activated on February 14, 2005, and the website was developed over the subsequent months.^[10]

The first YouTube video was entitled [Me at the zoo](#), and shows co-founder Jawed Karim at the [San Diego Zoo](#).^[11] The video was uploaded on April 23, 2005, and can still be viewed on the site.^[12]

YouTube offered the public a [beta test](#) of the site in May 2005, six months before the official launch in November 2005. The site grew rapidly, and in July 2006 the company announced that more than 65,000 new videos were being uploaded every day, and that the site was receiving 100 million video views per day.^[13] According to data published by [market research](#) company [comScore](#), YouTube is the dominant provider of online video in the United States, with a [market share](#) of around 43 percent and more than 14 billion videos viewed in May 2010.^[14] YouTube says that roughly 60 hours of new videos are uploaded to the site every minute, and that around three quarters of the material comes

from outside the U.S.^{[15][16][17]} The site has eight hundred million unique users a month.^[18] It is estimated that in 2007 YouTube consumed as much [bandwidth](#) as the entire Internet in 2000.^[19] [Alexa](#) ranks YouTube as the third most visited website on the Internet, behind [Google](#) and Facebook.^[20]

The choice of the name [www.youtube.com](#) led to problems for a similarly named website, [www.utube.com](#). The owner of the site, [Universal Tube & Rollform Equipment](#), filed a lawsuit against YouTube in November 2006 after being overloaded on a regular basis by people looking for YouTube. Universal Tube has since changed the name of its website to [www.utubeonline.com](#).^{[21][22]} In October 2006, [Google Inc.](#) announced that it had acquired YouTube for \$1.65 billion in Google [stock](#), and the deal was finalized on November 13, 2006.^[23] Google does not provide detailed figures for YouTube's running costs, and YouTube's revenues in 2007 were noted as "[not material](#)" in a regulatory filing.^[24] In June 2008, a [Forbes](#) magazine article projected the 2008 revenue at \$200 million, noting progress in advertising sales.^[25] Visitors to YouTube spend an average of fifteen minutes a day on the site, in contrast to the four or five hours a day spent by a typical U.S. citizen watching television.^[18]

YouTube entered into a marketing and advertising partnership with [NBC](#) in June 2006.^[26] In November 2008, YouTube reached an agreement with [MGM](#), [Lions Gate Entertainment](#), and [CBS](#), allowing the companies to post full-length films and television episodes on the site, accompanied by advertisements in a section for US viewers called "Shows". The move was intended to create competition with websites such as [Hulu](#), which features material from [NBC](#), [Fox](#), and [Disney](#).^{[27][28]} In November 2009, YouTube launched a version of "Shows" available to UK viewers, offering around 4,000 full-length shows from more than 60 partners.^[29] In January 2010, YouTube introduced an online film rentals service,^[30] which is currently available only to users in the US, Canada and the UK.^{[31][32]} The service offers over 6,000 films.^[33]



YouTube's current headquarters in [San Bruno](#), California

In March 2010, YouTube began free streaming of certain content, including 60 cricket matches of the [Indian Premier League](#). According to YouTube, this was the first worldwide free online broadcast of a major sporting event.^[34]

On March 31, 2010, the YouTube website launched a new design, with the aim of simplifying the interface and increasing the time users spend on the site. Google product manager Shiva Rajaraman commented: "We really felt like we needed to step back and remove the clutter."^[35] In May 2010, it was reported that YouTube was serving more than two billion videos a day, which it described as "nearly double the prime-time audience of all three major US television networks combined".^[36] In May 2011, YouTube reported in its company blog that the site was receiving more than three billion views per day.^[16] In January 2012, YouTube stated that the figure had increased to four billion videos streamed per day.^[15]

In October 2010, Hurley announced that he would be stepping down as chief executive officer of YouTube to take an advisory role, and that [Salar Kamangar](#) would take over as head of the company.^[37]

In April 2011, James Zern, a YouTube software engineer, revealed that 30 percent of videos accounted for 99 percent of views on the site.^[38]

In November 2011, the [Google+](#) social networking site was integrated directly with YouTube and the [Chrome](#) web browser, allowing YouTube videos to be viewed from within the Google+ interface.^[39] In December 2011, YouTube launched a new version of the site interface, with the video channels displayed in a central column on the home page, similar to the news feeds of [social networking](#) sites.^[40] At the same time, a new version of the YouTube logo was introduced with a darker shade of red, the first change in design since October 2006.^[41]

Features

Video technology

Playback

Viewing YouTube videos on a personal computer requires the [Adobe Flash Player plug-in](#) to be installed on the [browser](#). The Adobe Flash Player plug-in is one of the most common pieces of software installed on personal computers and accounts for almost 75% of online video material.^[42]

In January 2010, YouTube launched an experimental version of the site that uses the built-in multimedia capabilities of web browsers supporting the [HTML5](#) standard.^[43] This allows videos to be viewed without requiring [Adobe Flash Player](#) or any other plug-in to be installed.^{[44][45]} The YouTube site has a page that allows supported browsers to opt in to the HTML5 trial. Only browsers that support HTML5 Video using the [H.264](#) or [WebM](#) formats can play the videos, and not all videos on the site are available.^{[46][47]}

Uploading

All YouTube users can upload videos up to 15 minutes each in duration. Users who have a good track record of complying with the site's Community Guidelines may be offered the ability to upload videos up to 12 hours in length, which requires verifying the account, normally through a mobile phone.^[48] When YouTube was launched in 2005, it was possible to upload long videos, but a ten-minute limit was introduced in March 2006 after YouTube found that the majority of videos exceeding this length were unauthorized uploads of television shows and films.^{[49][50]} The 10-minute limit was increased to 15 minutes in July 2010.^[51] File size is limited to 2 GB for uploads from the YouTube web page, or 20 GB if up-to-date browser versions are used.^[52]

YouTube accepts videos uploaded in most [container formats](#), including [.AVI](#), [.MKV](#), [.MOV](#), [.MP4](#), [DivX](#), [.FLV](#), and [.ogg](#) and [.ogv](#). These include video formats such as [MPEG-4](#), [MPEG](#), [VOB](#), and [.WMV](#). It also supports [3GP](#), allowing videos to be uploaded from mobile phones.^[53] Videos with [progressive scanning](#) or interlaced scanning can be uploaded, but for the best video quality, YouTube suggests interlaced videos are [deinterlaced](#) prior to uploading. All the video formats on YouTube use progressive scanning.^[54]

Quality and codecs

YouTube originally offered videos at only one quality level, displayed at a resolution of 320x240 [pixels](#) using the [Sorenson Spark](#) codec (a variant of [H.263](#)),^{[55][56]} with mono MP3 audio.^[57] In June 2007, YouTube added an option to watch videos in [3GP](#) format on mobile phones.^[58] In March 2008, a high quality mode was added, which increased the resolution to 480x360 pixels.^[59] In November 2008, [720p HD](#) support was added. At the time of the 720p launch, the YouTube player was changed from a [4:3 aspect ratio](#) to a [widescreen 16:9](#).^[60] With this new feature, YouTube began a switchover to [H.264/MPEG-4 AVC](#) as its default video compression format. In November 2009, [1080p](#) HD support was added. In July 2010, YouTube announced that it had launched a range of videos in [4K](#) format, which allows a resolution of up to 4096x3072 pixels.^{[61][62]}

YouTube videos are available in a range of quality levels. The former names of standard quality (SQ), high quality (HQ) and high definition (HD) have been replaced by numerical values representing the vertical resolution of the video. The default video stream is encoded in [H.264/MPEG-4 AVC](#) format, with stereo [AAC](#) audio.^[63]

Comparison of YouTube media encoding options							
itag value ^[1]	Default container	Video resolution	Video encoding	Video profile	Video bitrate (Mbit/s) ^[2]	Audio encoding	Audio bitrate (kbit/s) ^[2]
5	FLV	240p	Sorenson H.263	N/A	0.25	MP3	64
6	FLV	270p	Sorenson	N/A	0.8	MP3	64

Comparison of YouTube media encoding options							
itag value ^[1]	Default container	Video resolution	Video encoding	Video profile	Video bitrate (Mbit/s) ^[2]	Audio encoding	Audio bitrate (kbit/s) ^[2]
			H.263				
13	3GP	N/A	MPEG-4 Visual	N/A	0.5	AAC	N/A
17	3GP	144p	MPEG-4 Visual	Simple	0.05	AAC	24
18	MP4	360p	H.264	Baseline	0.5	AAC	96
22	MP4	720p	H.264	High	2-2.9	AAC	152
34	FLV	360p	H.264	Main	0.5	AAC	128
35	FLV	480p	H.264	Main	0.8-1	AAC	128
36	3GP	240p	MPEG-4 Visual	Simple	0.17	AAC	38
37	MP4	1080p	H.264	High	3-4.3	AAC	152
38	MP4	3072p	H.264	High	3.5-5	AAC	152
43	WebM	360p	VP8	N/A	0.5	Vorbis	128
44	WebM	480p	VP8	N/A	1	Vorbis	128
45	WebM	720p	VP8	N/A	2	Vorbis	192
46	WebM	1080p	VP8	N/A	N/A	Vorbis	192
82	MP4	360p	H.264	3D	0.5	AAC	96
83	MP4	240p	H.264	3D	0.5	AAC	96
84	MP4	720p	H.264	3D	2-2.9	AAC	152
85	MP4	520p	H.264	3D	2-2.9	AAC	152
100	WebM	360p	VP8	3D	N/A	Vorbis	128
101	WebM	360p	VP8	3D	N/A	Vorbis	192
102	WebM	720p	VP8	3D	N/A	Vorbis	192

[^] 1 *itag* is an undocumented parameter used internally by YouTube to differentiate between quality profiles. Until December 2010, there was also a URL parameter known as *fmt* that allowed a user to force a profile using *itag* codes.

[^] 2 Approximate values based on statistical data; actual bitrate can be higher or lower due to variable encoding rate.^{[64][65][66][67]}

3D videos

In a video posted on July 21, 2009,^[68] YouTube software engineer Peter Bradshaw announced that YouTube users can now upload [3D videos](#). The videos can be viewed in

several different ways, including the common [anaglyph](#) (cyan/red lens) method which utilizes glasses worn by the viewer to achieve the 3D effect.^{[69][70][71]} The YouTube [Flash](#) player can display stereoscopic content interleaved in rows, columns or a checkerboard pattern, side-by-side or [anaglyph](#) using a red/cyan, green/magenta or blue/yellow combination. In May 2011, an [HTML5](#) version of the YouTube player began supporting side-by-side 3D footage that is compatible with [Nvidia 3D Vision](#).^[72]

Content accessibility

YouTube offers users the ability to view its videos on web pages outside their website. Each YouTube video is accompanied by a piece of [HTML](#), which can be used to embed it on any page on the Web. This functionality is often used to embed YouTube videos in [social networking](#) pages and blogs.^[73] Embedding, as well as ranking and commenting, can be disabled by the video owner.

YouTube does not usually offer a download link for its videos, and intends for them to be viewed through its website interface.^[74] A small number of videos, such as the weekly addresses by President [Barack Obama](#), can be downloaded as [MP4](#) files.^[75] Numerous third-party web sites, applications and browser [plug-ins](#) allow users to download YouTube videos.^[76] In February 2009, YouTube announced a test service, allowing some partners to offer video downloads for free or for a fee paid through [Google Checkout](#).^[77]

Platforms

Some [smartphones](#) are capable of accessing YouTube videos, dependent on the provider and the data plan. YouTube Mobile was launched in June 2007, using [RTSP](#) streaming for the video.^[78] Not all of YouTube's videos are available on the mobile version of the site.^[79]

Since June 2007, YouTube's videos have been available for viewing on a range of [Apple](#) products. This required YouTube's content to be transcoded into Apple's preferred video standard, [H.264](#), a process that took several months. YouTube videos can be viewed on devices including [Apple TV](#), [iPod Touch](#) and the [iPhone](#).^[80] In July 2010, the mobile version of the site was relaunched based on [HTML5](#), avoiding the need to use [Adobe Flash Player](#) and optimized for use with touch screen controls.^[81] The mobile version is also available as an [app](#) for the [Android](#) platform.^{[82][83]}

A [TiVo](#) service update in July 2008 allowed the system to search and play YouTube videos.^[84] In January 2009, YouTube launched "YouTube for TV", a version of the website tailored for set-top boxes and other TV-based media devices with web browsers, initially allowing its videos to be viewed on the [PlayStation 3](#) and [Wii video game consoles](#).^{[85][86]} In June 2009, YouTube XL was introduced, which has a simplified interface designed for viewing on a standard television screen.^[87] YouTube is also available for the [Xbox Live](#).^[88]

Localization

On June 19, 2007, Google CEO [Eric Schmidt](#) was in Paris to launch the new [localization](#) system.^[89] The interface of the website is available with localized versions in 42 countries, one territory (Hong Kong) and a worldwide version.^{[90][91]}

Country	Language	Launch date
 USA (and worldwide launch)	English (American)	February 15, 2005 ^[89]
 Brazil	Portuguese (Brazil)	June 19, 2007 ^[89]
 France	French	June 19, 2007 ^[89]
 Ireland	English (Ireland)	June 19, 2007 ^[89]
 Italy	Italian	June 19, 2007 ^[89]
 Japan	Japanese	June 19, 2007 ^[89]
 Netherlands	Dutch	June 19, 2007 ^[89]
 Poland	Polish	June 19, 2007 ^[89]
 Spain	Spanish and Catalan	June 19, 2007 ^[89]
 United Kingdom	English (United Kingdom)	June 19, 2007 ^[89]
 Mexico	Spanish (Mexico)	October 11, 2007 ^[92]
 Hong Kong	English and Chinese (Traditional)	October 17, 2007 ^[93]
 Taiwan	Chinese (Traditional)	October 18, 2007 ^[94]
 Australia	English (Australia)	October 22, 2007 ^[95]
 New Zealand	English (New Zealand)	October 22, 2007 ^[95]
 Canada	English (Canada) and French (Canada)	November 6, 2007 ^[96]
 Germany	German	November 8, 2007 ^[97]
 Russia	Russian	November 13, 2007 ^[98]
 Korea, South	Korean	January 23, 2008 ^[99]
 Israel	Hebrew	September 16, 2008
 India	English (India) and Hindi	May 7, 2008 ^[100]
 Czech Republic	Czech	October 9, 2008 ^[101]
 Sweden	Swedish	October 22, 2008
 South Africa	English (South African)	May 17, 2010 ^[89]
 Argentina	Spanish (Argentina)	September 8, 2010 ^[90]
 Algeria	Arabic	March 9, 2011 ^[102]
 Egypt	Arabic	March 9, 2011 ^[102]
 Saudi Arabia	Arabic	March 9, 2011 ^[102]

Country	Language	Launch date
 Tunisia	Arabic	March 9, 2011 ^[102]
 Jordan	Arabic	March 9, 2011 ^[102]
 Morocco	Arabic	March 9, 2011 ^[102]
 Yemen	Arabic	March 9, 2011 ^[102]
 Kenya	English (Kenya) and Swahili	October 5, 2011 ^[103]
 Philippines	English (official) and Filipino	October 13, 2011 ^[104]
 Singapore	English (Singapore)	October 20, 2011 ^[105]
 Belgium	French (Belgian) , and Dutch (Belgian)	November 16, 2011
 Colombia	Spanish (Colombia)	November 30, 2011 ^[106]
 Uganda	English (Ugandan)	December 2, 2011 ^[107]
 Nigeria	English (Nigerian)	December 7, 2011 ^[108]
 Chile	Spanish (Chile)	January 20, 2012 ^[109]
 Hungary	Hungarian	February 29, 2012 ^[110]
 Malaysia	English (Malaysian) and Malay	March 22, 2012 ^[111]
 Peru	Spanish (Peru)	March 25, 2012 ^[112]
 United Arab Emirates	Arabic and English (UAE)	March 29, 2012 ^[102]
 Indonesia	English (Indonesian) and Indonesian	June 14, 2012 ^[113]
 Ghana	English (Ghanaian)	June 21, 2012 ^[114]
 Senegal	English (Senegalese)	July 12, 2012 ^[115]

The YouTube interface suggests which local version should be chosen on the basis of the [IP address](#) of the user. In some cases, the message "This video is not available in your country" may appear because of copyright restrictions or inappropriate content.^[116]

The interface of the YouTube website is available in 51 different language versions, including Catalan, Danish, Finnish, Greek, Hungarian, Norwegian and [Slovene](#), which do not have local channel versions.^[2]

Plans for YouTube to create a local version in Turkey have run into problems, since the Turkish authorities asked YouTube to set up an office in Turkey, which would be subject to Turkish law. YouTube says that it has no intention of doing this, and that its videos are

not subject to Turkish law. Turkish authorities have expressed concerns that YouTube has been used to post videos insulting to [Mustafa Kemal Atatürk](#) and some material offensive to Muslims.^{[117][118]}

In March 2009, a dispute between YouTube and the British [royalty](#) collection agency [PRS for Music](#) led to premium music videos being blocked for YouTube users in the United Kingdom. The removal of videos posted by the major record companies occurred after failure to reach agreement on a licensing deal. The dispute was resolved in September 2009.^[119] In April 2009, a similar dispute led to the removal of premium music videos for users in Germany.^[120]

April Fools

YouTube has featured an [April Fools](#) prank on the site on April 1 of every year since 2008:

- **2008:** All the links to the videos on the main page were redirected to [Rick Astley](#)'s music video "[Never Gonna Give You Up](#)", a prank known as "[Rickrolling](#)".^{[121][122]}
- **2009:** When clicking on a video on the main page, the whole page turned upside down. YouTube claimed that this was a new layout.^[123]
- **2010:** YouTube temporarily released a "TEXTp" mode, which translated the colors in the videos to random upper case letters. YouTube claimed in a message that this was done in order to reduce bandwidth costs by \$1 per second.^[124]
- **2011:** The site celebrated its "100th anniversary" with a "1911 button" and a range of [sepia-toned](#) silent, early 1900s-style films, including "Flugelhorn Feline", a parody of [Keyboard Cat](#).^[125]
- **2012:** Clicking on the image of a DVD next to the site logo led to a video about "The YouTube Collection", an option to order every YouTube video for home delivery on [DVD](#). The spoof promotional video promised "It's the complete YouTube experience completely offline."^[126]

Censorship and filtering

Main article: [Censorship of YouTube](#)

Several countries have blocked access to YouTube, including:

- YouTube has been blocked in China.^{[127][128]}
- Morocco shut down access to YouTube in 2008.^[129]
- Thailand blocked YouTube between 2006 and 2007 due to offensive videos relating to King [Bhumibol Adulyadej](#).^{[130][131]}
- Turkey blocked access to YouTube between 2008 and 2010 after controversy over videos deemed insulting to [Mustafa Kemal Atatürk](#).^{[132][133][134]} The block was lifted briefly but reimposed in November 2010.^[135]

- On December 3, 2006, Iran temporarily blocked access to YouTube, along with several other sites, after declaring them as violating social and moral codes of conduct. The YouTube block came after a video was posted online that appeared to show an Iranian soap opera star having sex.^[136] The block was later lifted and then reinstated after [Iran's 2009 presidential election](#).^[137]
- On February 23, 2008, Pakistan blocked YouTube because of "offensive material" towards the Islamic faith, including display of the [Danish cartoons](#) of the prophet [Muhammad](#).^[138] This led to a near global blackout of the YouTube site for around two hours, as the Pakistani block was inadvertently transferred to other countries. Pakistan lifted its block on February 26, 2008.^[139] Many Pakistanis circumvented the three-day block by using [virtual private network](#) software.^[140] In May 2010, following the [Everybody Draw Mohammed Day](#), Pakistan again blocked access to YouTube, citing "growing sacrilegious content".^[141]
- On January 24, 2010, Libya blocked access to YouTube after it featured videos of demonstrations in the Libyan city of [Benghazi](#) by families of detainees who were killed in [Abu Salim prison](#) in 1996, and videos of family members of Libyan leader [Muammar Gaddafi](#) at parties. The blocking was criticized by [Human Rights Watch](#).^[142]

Education authorities in some regions have blocked student access to YouTube, with some state education departments in Australia citing the inability to determine what sort of video material might be accessed.^[143]

YouTube was awarded a 2008 [Peabody Award](#) and cited for being "a 'Speakers' Corner' that both embodies and promotes democracy".^{[144][145]}

Social impact

Main article: [Social impact of YouTube](#)



[Charlie Bit My Finger](#) is YouTube's most-viewed user-generated video, as of 2012

While other [video hosting](#) websites had been launched before YouTube in 2005 (including [Metacafe](#) in 2003 and [Vimeo](#) in 2004), YouTube was conceived to be, in the words of [Jawed Karim](#), a video version of the [rating site Hot or Not](#). Karim commented

that Hot or Not was a site "where anyone could upload content that everyone else could view. That was a new concept because up until that point, it was always the people who owned the website who would provide the content." In December 2006, [Time](#) magazine wrote: "YouTube is to video browsing what a [Wal-Mart](#) Supercenter is to shopping: everything is there, and all you have to do is walk in the door."^[17]

An early example of the social impact of YouTube was the success of [The Bus Uncle](#) video in 2006. It shows a heated conversation between a youth and an older man on a bus in Hong Kong, and was discussed widely in the mainstream media.^[146] Another YouTube video to receive extensive coverage is [guitar](#),^[147] which features a performance of [Pachelbel's Canon](#) on an electric guitar. The name of the performer is not given in the video. After it received millions of views [The New York Times](#) revealed the identity of the guitarist as [Lim Jeong-hyun](#), a 23-year-old from South Korea who had recorded the track in his bedroom.^[148] This video has since been removed from YouTube.^[149]

[Charlie Bit My Finger](#), which was uploaded on May 22, 2007, is a [viral video](#) that has received the most views of any user-generated YouTube video, with over 450 million views.^{[150][151][152]} The clip features two English brothers, with one-year-old Charlie biting the finger of his brother Harry, aged three.^[153] In [Time](#)'s list of YouTube's 50 greatest viral videos of all time, "Charlie Bit My Finger" was ranked at number one.^[154]

[Entertainment Weekly](#) placed YouTube on its end-of-the-decade "best-of" list, describing it as: "Providing a safe home for piano-playing cats, celeb goof-ups, and overzealous lip-synchers since 2005."^[155]

Community policy

YouTube has a set of community guidelines aimed to reduce abuse of the site's features. Generally prohibited material includes sexually explicit content, videos of animal abuse, [shock videos](#), content uploaded without the [copyright](#) holder's consent, hate speech, spam, and predatory behaviour.^[156] Despite the guidelines, YouTube has faced criticism from news sources for content in violation of these guidelines.

Copyrighted material

At the time of uploading a video, YouTube users are shown a screen with the message "Do not upload any TV shows, music videos, music concerts or advertisements without permission, unless they consist entirely of content that you created yourself".^[157] Despite this advice, there are still many unauthorized clips of copyrighted material on YouTube. YouTube does not view videos before they are posted online, and it is left to copyright holders to issue a [takedown notice](#) pursuant to the terms of the [Digital Millennium Copyright Act](#). Three successful complaints for [copyright infringement](#) against a user account will result in the account and all of its uploaded videos being deleted.^{[158][159]}

Organizations including [Viacom](#), [Mediaset](#), and the English [Premier League](#) have filed lawsuits against YouTube, claiming that it has done too little to prevent the uploading of

copyrighted material.^{[160][161][162]} Viacom, demanding \$1 billion in damages, said that it had found more than 150,000 unauthorized clips of its material on YouTube that had been viewed "an astounding 1.5 billion times". YouTube responded by stating that it "goes far beyond its legal obligations in assisting content owners to protect their works".^[163] During the same court battle, Viacom won a court ruling requiring YouTube to hand over 12 [terabytes](#) of data detailing the viewing habits of every user who has watched videos on the site. The decision was criticized by the [Electronic Frontier Foundation](#), which called the court ruling "a setback to privacy rights".^{[164][165]} In June 2010, Viacom's lawsuit against Google was rejected in a [summary judgment](#), with U.S. federal Judge [Louis L. Stanton](#) stating that Google was protected by provisions of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. Viacom announced its intention to appeal the ruling.^[166]

On April 5, 2012, the [United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit](#) reinstated the case, allowing Viacom's lawsuit against Google to be heard in court again.^[167]

In August 2008, a US court ruled in [Lenz v. Universal Music Corp.](#) that copyright holders cannot order the removal of an online file without first determining whether the posting reflected [fair use](#) of the material. The case involved Stephanie Lenz from [Gallitzin, Pennsylvania](#), who had made a home video of her 13-month-old son dancing to [Prince's](#) song "[Let's Go Crazy](#)", and posted the 29-second video on YouTube.^[168]

In the case of [Smith v. Summit Entertainment LLC](#), Matt Smith sued Summit Entertainment for the wrongful use of copyright takedown notice on YouTube. He asserted seven [causes of action](#), and four were ruled in Smith's favor.^[169]

In April 2012, a court in [Hamburg](#) ruled that YouTube could be held responsible for copyrighted material posted by its users. The performance rights organization [GEMA](#) argued that YouTube had not done enough to prevent the uploading of German copyrighted music. YouTube responded by stating: "We remain committed to finding a solution to the music licensing issue in Germany that will benefit artists, composers, authors, publishers and record labels, as well as the wider YouTube community".^[170]

Content ID

In June 2007, YouTube began trials of a system for automatic detection of uploaded videos that infringe [copyright](#). The system was regarded by Google CEO [Eric Schmidt](#) as necessary for resolving lawsuits such as the one from [Viacom](#), which alleged that YouTube profited from pirated content.^[171] The system, which became known as Content ID, creates a ID File for copyrighted audio and video material, and stores it in a database. When a video is uploaded, it is checked against the database, and flags the video as a copyright violation if a match is found. When this occurs, the content owner has the choice of blocking the video to make it unviewable, tracking the viewing statistics of the video, or adding advertisements to the video. YouTube describes Content ID as "very accurate in finding uploads that look similar to reference files that are of sufficient length

and quality to generate an effective ID File".^[172] Content ID accounts for over a third of the monetized views on YouTube.^[173]

An independent test in 2009 uploaded multiple versions of the same song to YouTube, and concluded that while the system was "surprisingly resilient" in finding copyright violations in the audio tracks of videos, it was not infallible.^[174] The use of Content ID to remove material automatically has led to controversy in some cases, as the videos have not been checked by a human for [fair use](#).^[175] If a YouTube user disagrees with a decision by Content ID, it is possible to fill in a form disputing the decision.^[176] YouTube has cited the effectiveness of Content ID as one of the reasons why the site's rules were modified in December 2010 to allow some users to upload videos of unlimited length.^[177]

Controversial content

YouTube has also faced criticism over the offensive content in some of its videos. The uploading of videos containing [defamation](#), pornography, and material encouraging criminal conduct is prohibited by YouTube's [terms of service](#).^[156] Controversial areas have included [Holocaust denial](#) and the [Hillsborough disaster](#), in which 96 football fans from Liverpool were crushed to death in 1989.^{[178][179]}

YouTube relies on its users to flag the content of videos as inappropriate, and a YouTube employee will view a flagged video to determine whether it violates the site's terms of service.^[156] In July 2008, the Culture and Media Committee of the [House of Commons of the United Kingdom](#) stated that it was "unimpressed" with YouTube's system for policing its videos, and argued that "proactive review of content should be standard practice for sites hosting [user-generated content](#)". YouTube responded by stating:

We have strict rules on what's allowed, and a system that enables anyone who sees inappropriate content to report it to our 24/7 review team and have it dealt with promptly. We educate our community on the rules and include a direct link from every YouTube page to make this process as easy as possible for our users. Given the volume of content uploaded on our site, we think this is by far the most effective way to make sure that the tiny minority of videos that break the rules come down quickly.^[180]

In October 2010, U.S. Congressman [Anthony Weiner](#) urged YouTube to take down from its website videos of imam [Anwar al-Awlaki](#), saying that by hosting al-Awlaki's messages, "We are facilitating the recruitment of homegrown terror".^[181] British security minister [Pauline Neville-Jones](#) commented: "These Web sites would categorically not be allowed in the U.K. They incite cold-blooded murder, and as such are surely contrary to the public good." In November 2010, YouTube removed from its site some of the hundreds of videos featuring al-Awlaki's calls to [jihad](#). It stated that it had removed videos that violated the site's guidelines prohibiting "dangerous or illegal activities such as bomb-making, hate speech and incitement to commit violent acts", or came from accounts "registered by a member of a designated [foreign terrorist organization](#)".^[182] In December 2010, YouTube added "promotes terrorism" to the list of reasons that users can give when flagging a video as inappropriate.^[183]

User comments

Most videos enable users to leave comments, and these have attracted attention for the negative aspects of both their form and content. When *Time* in 2006 praised *Web 2.0* for enabling "community and collaboration on a scale never seen before", it added that YouTube "harnesses the stupidity of crowds as well as its wisdom. Some of the comments on YouTube make you weep for the future of humanity just for the spelling alone, never mind the obscenity and the naked hatred".^[184] *The Guardian* in 2009 described users' comments on YouTube as follows:

Juvenile, aggressive, misspelled, sexist, homophobic, swinging from raging at the contents of a video to providing a pointlessly detailed description followed by a LOL, YouTube comments are a hotbed of infantile debate and unashamed ignorance – with the occasional burst of wit shining through.^[185]

In September 2008, *The Daily Telegraph* commented that YouTube was "notorious" for "some of the most confrontational and ill-formed comment exchanges on the internet", and reported on YouTube Comment Snob, "a new piece of software that blocks rude and illiterate posts".^[186] *The Huffington Post* noted in April 2012 that finding comments on YouTube that appear "offensive, stupid and crass" to the "vast majority" of the people is hardly difficult.^[187]

See also

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- [Ouellette v. Viacom International Inc.](#)

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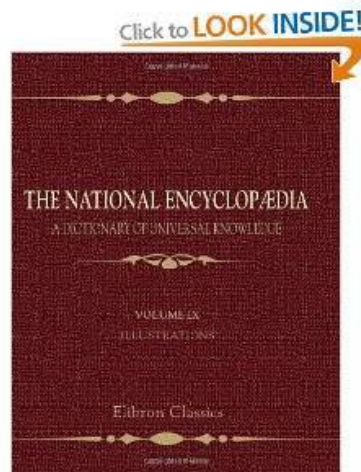
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The National Encyclopedia: A Dictionary of Universal Knowledge published by William Mackenzie, London, first edition published in 1881. A 13 volume set



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NEWe're happy to announce that the Swedish Encyclopedia Nationalencyklopedin is launching Twingly on their site NE.se today! From now on blogs can link to their content and get links back, which we think are a great way to get the Encyclopedias content to live longer, get relevant comments and to embrace their situation as a trustworthy reference also in the era of social media.

Collier's Encyclopedia

Collier's Encyclopedia (full title *Collier's Encyclopedia with Bibliography and Index*) was a United States-based general [encyclopedia](#) published by [Crowell, Collier and Macmillan](#). Self-described in its preface as "a scholarly, systematic, continuously revised summary of the knowledge that is most significant to mankind", it was long considered one of the three major contemporary English-language general encyclopedias, together with [Encyclopedia Americana](#) and [Encyclopædia Britannica](#): the three were sometimes collectively called "[the ABCs](#)".

[P.F. Collier & Son Company](#) published *Collier's New Encyclopedia* from 1902–1929, initially in 16 volumes and later in 10 volumes.

Collier's 11 volume *National Encyclopedia* (1932–1950) replaced *Collier's New Encyclopedia*.

In 1949 the entirely new 20 volume *Collier's Encyclopedia* replaced the *National Encyclopedia*.

After [Robert Collier's](#) death in 1918, P.F. Collier & Son Company was bought by Crowell Publishing Company (later the Crowell-Collier Publishing Company). In 1950 [Crowell, Collier and Macmillan](#) published the 20 volume *Collier's Encyclopedia* (full title *Collier's Encyclopedia with Bibliography and Index*). It was expanded to 24 volumes in 1962. Until its print edition ceased in 1998, *Collier's Encyclopedia* was sold almost exclusively door-to-door, one of the last big-ticket items of that nature in the United States.

The 1997 edition has 23,000 entries with few short entries, as related subjects are usually consolidated into longer articles. A high percentage of the illustrations are in color, and more full-color illustrations had been added in recent years resulting in pictorial matter accounting for about two-fifths of the pages. Bibliographies are found in the last volume which also contains the 450,000 entry essential index. An annual *Collier's Year Book* was also published.

In 1998 [Microsoft](#) bought the rights to Collier's electronic version and incorporated it into its [Encarta](#) electronic encyclopedia. Atlas Editions (formerly Collier Newfield) retained the rights to publish the encyclopedia in book form, though since then, Collier's has ceased to be in print.

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[Australia portal](#)

Pages in category "Australian encyclopaedias"

The following 2 pages are in this category, out of 2 total. This list may not reflect recent changes ([learn more](#)).

A

- [Australian Encyclopaedia](#)

The ***Australian Encyclopedia*** is an encyclopedia focused on [Australia](#). In addition to biographies of notable Australians the coverage includes the [geology](#), [flora](#), [fauna](#) as well as the history of the continent. It was first published by [Angus and Robertson](#) in two volumes, one each in 1925 and 1926. The current edition, the sixth, is of eight volumes published in 1996.

History

The encyclopedia was initiated in 1912 as a historical and biographical record under the directorship of Charles H. Bertie, municipal librarian of [Sydney](#). The outbreak of [World War I](#) in 1914 temporarily halted its progress.

In 1917, work resumed and it was decided that the book should also include scientific subjects. Herbert J. Carter, later to be president of the [Linnean Society of New South Wales](#) (1925-26) recruited other Australian scientists to work on the encyclopedia. Their contributions were, in many instances, the first summaries of scientific knowledge published in a general reference work in Australia. In 1920 Captain [Arthur Jose](#) was released from the Australian Navy and became the general editor. He found that, since significant time had elapsed since the project started and newer sources of information were available, it had become necessary to re-write much of the historical and biographical information.

[Richard Appleton](#) became editor-in-chief in 1977 and oversaw the fourth and fifth editions.

Editions

- 1st Edition, 1925-26, two volumes
- 2nd Edition, 1958, ten volumes (several reprintings)
- 3rd Edition, 1977, six volumes
- 4th Edition, 1983, twelve volumes
- 5th Edition, 1988, nine volumes
- 6th Edition, 1996, eight volumes^[1]

The 3rd and 4th editions were published by the [Grolier Society of Australia](#). The 5th and 6th editions were published by the [Australian Geographic Society](#)

E

- [Encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia](#)

Category: British encyclopedias

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[United Kingdom portal](#)



[Books portal](#)

[British](#) encyclopedias.

Subcategories

This category has only the following subcategory.

- [Scottish encyclopedias](#) (1 C, 10 P)

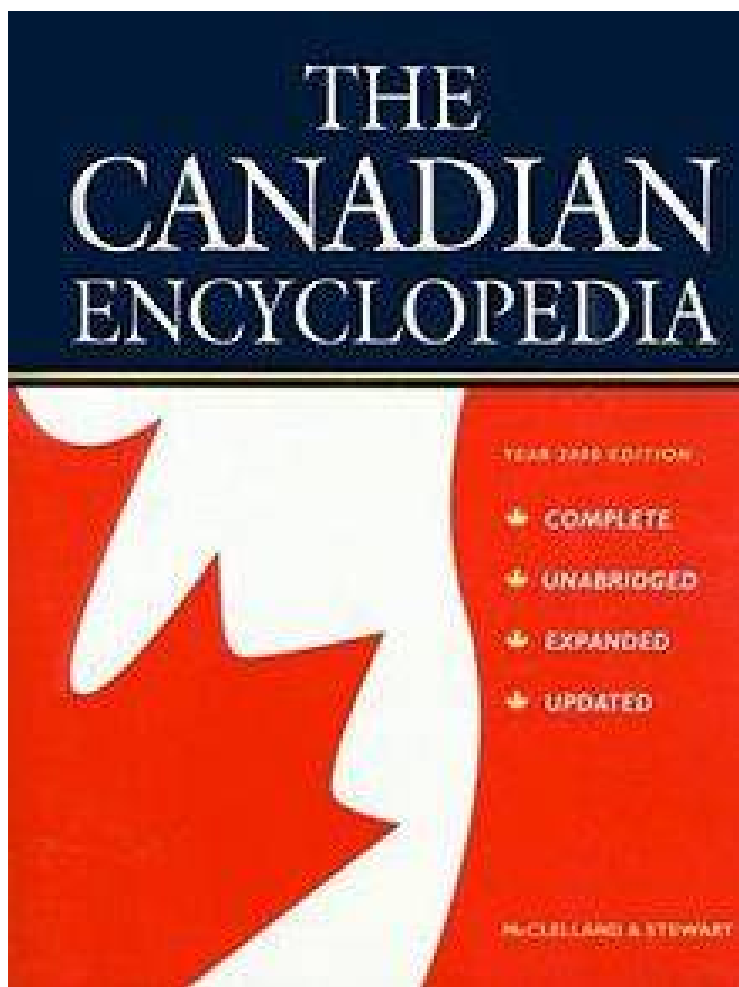
Pages in category "British encyclopedias"

The following 22 pages are in this category, out of 22 total. This list may not reflect recent changes ([learn more](#)).

B	E cont.	P
British Encyclopaedia	Everyman's Encyclopaedia	Pantologia Pears Cyclopaedia Penny Cyclopaedia Popular Encyclopedia or Conversations Lexicon
C	H	
The Children's Encyclopædia Cyclopaedia, or an Universal Dictionary of Arts and Sciences	Halsbury's Laws of England	
	I	R
	Illustrated Encyclopedia of Aircraft	Rees's Cyclopædia
E	L	T
The Encyclopaedia of Oxford Encyclopaedia of Wales Encyclopædia Britannica Ultimate Reference Suite Encyclopædia Metropolitana English Cyclopaedia	Lexicon Technicum List of Rees's Cyclopædia articles The London Encyclopaedia	Tomlinson's Cyclopaedia of Useful Arts
	N	
	The Nuttall Encyclopædia	
	O	
	Oxford Encyclopedia of Maritime History	

The Canadian Encyclopedia

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Cover of 2000 edition

The Canadian Encyclopedia is a source of information on [Canada](#). It is available online, at no cost. The Canadian Encyclopedia is available in both English and French and includes some 14,000 articles in each language on a wide variety of subjects including history, popular culture, events, people, places, politics, arts, First Nations, sports and science.

The website also provides access to the Encyclopedia of Music in Canada, The Canadian Encyclopedia Junior Edition, [Maclean's](#) articles and Timelines of Canadian history.

History

Canada had been without a national [encyclopedia](#) since the 1957 [Encyclopedia Canadiana](#).

In response, in the 1980s the [Canadian nationalist Mel Hurtig](#) launched a project to create a wholly new Canadian encyclopedia with support from Alberta Premier [Peter Lougheed](#).^[1] The Editor in chief [James Harley Marsh](#) recruited more than 3,000 authors to write for it.

The first edition of *The Canadian Encyclopedia* was published in three volumes in 1985 ([ISBN 0-88830-269-X](#)) and was a Canadian bestseller (150,000 sets sold in six months), and a revised and expanded edition was released in 1988 ([ISBN 0-88830-326-2](#)). In September 1990, Hurtig published the five-volume *Junior Encyclopedia of Canada* ([ISBN 0-88830-334-3](#)), the first encyclopedia for young Canadians.

Hurtig sold his publishing company to McClelland & Stewart in May 1991 and with it the encyclopedia.^[2] In 1995, McClelland & Stewart published the first digital [CD-ROM](#) edition ([ISBN 0-7710-2041-4](#)). Today, [The Historica Dominion Institute](#), a not-for-profit foundation, publishes the encyclopedia for free online.

Japanese encyclopedias

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For a general history of the encyclopedia, see [Encyclopedia](#).

In [Japanese](#), encyclopedias are known as *hyakka jiten* (百科事典), which literally means "book of a hundred subjects," and can trace their origins to the early [Heian period](#), in the ninth century. Encyclopedic works were published in Japan for well over a thousand years before Japan's first modern encyclopedias were published after Japan's opening to the West, during the [Meiji Period](#) (1868–1912). Several encyclopedias have been published in Japan since World War II, including several children's encyclopedias, and two major titles are currently available: the [Encyclopedia Nipponica](#), published by

[Shogakukan](#), and the [Sekai Dai-Hyakka Jiten](#), compiled by the [Heibonsha](#) publishing company. A Japanese *Wikipedia* is also available.

Contents

- [1 The History of Japanese Encyclopedias](#)
- [2 Major Currently Available Japanese Print Encyclopedias](#)
 - [2.1 Encyclopedia Nipponica](#)
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- [4 Other Japan Related Encyclopedias](#)
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The History of Japanese Encyclopedias

The antecedents of the modern Japanese encyclopedia date from the ancient period and the Middle Ages. Encyclopedic books were imported from China from an early date, but the first proto-encyclopedia produced in Japan was the 1000-scroll *Hifuryaku* (秘府略), compiled in 831 upon the emperor's orders by Shigeno no Sadanushi () and others, only fragments of which survive today. The first truly Japanese-style encyclopedia is said to be [Minamoto no Shitagō's](#) 10-scroll work, *Wamyō Ruijushō*, which was written in the ancient Japanese syllabary system of *man'yōgana* and contained entries arranged by category. During the 13th century, an 11-scroll book appeared on the origins of things, *Chiribukuro* (塵袋) (literally, “rubbish bag”), and its innovative question-and-answer format was much imitated throughout the medieval period.

In the 17th century, the [Sancai Tuhui](#) (三才図会; [Sansai Zue](#) in Japanese) (literally, “illustrated book of the 'Three Powers,' i.e., heaven, earth, and man”), a 14-part, 106-scroll illustrated encyclopedia published in [Ming](#) China in 1609, entered Japan. In 1712, emulating the *Sancai Tuhui*, Terajima Ryōan published the [Wakan Sansai Zue](#) (和漢三才図会) (“illustrated book of the three powers in Japan and China”), the first Japanese illustrated encyclopedia. Written in [classical Chinese](#) (the language of scholarship throughout East Asia at the time), the book reflected the outlook of its day with such fantastical entries as “The Country of the Immortals” (不死国 *fushi koku*?) and “The Land of the Long-Legged People” (長脚国 *naga-ashi koku*?). Its logical presentation, topical divisions, and discussion of alternative explanations for the same phenomena, however, anticipated the modern encyclopedia.

During Japan's [Civilization and Enlightenment Movement](#) (文明開化 *bunmei kaika*?) at the time of the [Meiji Period](#), the westernizer [Nishi Amane](#) (西周) compiled Japan's first modern encyclopedia, the *Hyakugaku renwa* (百学連環). Beginning in 1873, the [Ministry of Education](#) sponsored the translation of Chambers' *Information for the People* into Japanese under the name *Hyakka Zensho* (百科全書, the "Comprehensive Encyclopedia"), which was completed in the 1880s. Later, the [Ministry of Temples and Shrines](#) sponsored the compilation by Nishimura Shigeki (西村茂樹) and others of another encyclopedic work, the *Koji ruien* (古事類苑), which was finally completed in 1914. The publishing house Sanseido published its 10-volume encyclopedia, the *Nihon Hyakka Daijiten* (日本百科大辞典, the "Great Japan Encyclopedia"), between 1908 and 1919, and Heibonsha published a 28-volume work, the *Dai-Hyakka Jiten* (大百科事典, the "Great Encyclopedia"), between 1931 and 1934. The *Dai-Hyakka Jiten* was the first publication to use the characters 事典 (*jiten*) rather than 辞典 (*jiten*) to represent the word "encyclopedia," starting the convention whereby 事典 is used to mean "encyclopedia" and 辞典 is used to mean "dictionary."

After World War II, Heibonsha responded to Japan's new internationalization by publishing the *Sekai Dai-Hyakka Jiten* (世界大百科事典, the "Great World Encyclopedia") in 32 volumes, between 1955 and 1959. Shogakukan then published the 19-volume *Encyclopedia Japonica*, Japan's first full-color reference work, between 1967 and 1972. Between 1970 and 1974, Gakushu Kenkyusha published a 21-volume encyclopedia, the *Gurando Gendai Hyakka Jiten* (グランド現代百科事典, the "Great Modern Encyclopedia"). In 1974 and 1975, a 30-volume Japanese version of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, the *Buritanica Kokusai Hyakka Jiten* (ブリタニカ国際百科事典, the "Britannica International Encyclopedia"), was also published in Japan. In 1984, Heibonsha returned with a 16-volume compilation, the *Dai-Hyakka Jiten* (大百科事典, the "Great Encyclopedia"), and Shogakukan began publishing a 25-volume encyclopedia, the *Nihon Dai-Hyakka Zensho* (日本大百科全書, literally, the "Japan Comprehensive Encyclopedia," but officially known by the English title, *Encyclopedia Nipponica*) the same year, finishing in 1989. A second edition was published in 1994. Various children's encyclopedias were also published in the 1950s and 1960s.

Major Currently Available Japanese Print Encyclopedias

Encyclopedia Nipponica

Main article: [Encyclopedia Nipponica](#)

Encyclopedia Nipponica (日本大百科全書 *Nihon Dai-Hyakka Zensho*?, literally the "Japan Comprehensive Encyclopedia") is an encyclopedia published by Shogakukan in Japan. It is published in 5 formats: traditional book form, CDROM, e-book, Internet, and as an i-Mode service. Both the Internet and i-Mode versions require payment to use.

Sekai Dai-Hyakka Jiten

Main article: [Heibonsha World Encyclopedia](#)

The *Sekai Dai-Hyakka Jiten* (世界大百科事典, literally the "World Comprehensive Encyclopedia") is an encyclopedia compiled by the Japanese publisher Heibonsha. It is published in three formats: traditional book form, CDROM, and Internet. The online version is known as the *Network Encyclopedia* (ネットで百科 *Netto-de Hyakka*?).

Heibonsha has also compiled a smaller encyclopedia called the *Mypedia* (マイペディア *Maipedia*?), published in 5 formats: a single-volume book form, CDROM, [electronic dictionary](#), memory card for PDA's, and Internet.

Digital and online encyclopedias

The advent of personal computers and the Internet has brought encyclopedias into the digital age. In addition to the Japanese version of Wikipedia, [Japanese Wikipedia](#), which has over 780,000 articles (as of December 2011), the [Encyclopædia Britannica](#) and Microsoft's [Encarta](#) both appear on CDROM in Japanese versions.

Other Japan Related Encyclopedias

Main article: [Kodansha Encyclopedia of Japan](#)

Though not technically a Japanese encyclopedia because it is not written in Japanese, the Kodansha Encyclopedia of Japan is an English-language encyclopedia on Japan, first published by [Kodansha](#) in 1983 and supplemented in 1986. An online version of this encyclopedia also exists at <http://www.ency-japan.com>.

Sources

This article relies on articles from *Encyclopedia Nipponica* (1994 ed.) and the Japanese Wikipedia.

Great Russian Encyclopedia

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The ***Great Russian Encyclopedia*** ([Russian](#): Большая российская энциклопедия, or **БРЭ**; [translit.](#) *Bolšaja rossijskaja enciklopedija*) is a new universal [Russian encyclopedia](#) in 30 volumes, published since 2004 by Bolšaja Rossijskaja Enciklopedija publisher. It is released under the auspices of the [Russian Academy of Sciences](#) (RAS) after 2002 [Vladimir Putin's presidential decree](#) №1156.^[1]

The chief editor of GRE is the RAS President [Yury Osipov](#). Editorial board features 80 RAS members, including [Nobel Prize](#) laureates [Zhores Alferov](#) and [Vitaly Ginzburg](#).^[1]

The first, introductory volume, released in 2004 is dedicated to [Russia](#), it is planned to re-release each five years. There were 18 volumes released between 2005 and 2011, covering the range from "A" to "Манизер" ([Manizer](#)).^[1]

Great Soviet Encyclopedia

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Title page of the 3rd ed. (in Russian), 1st vol.

The **Great Soviet Encyclopedia** ([Russian](#): Большая советская энциклопедия, or **БСЭ**; [transliterated](#) *Bolshaya sovetskaya entsiklopediya*) is one of the largest and most comprehensive Russian [encyclopedias](#) in the world,^[1] issued by the [Soviet state](#) from 1926 to 1990, and again since 2002 (under the name *Bolshaya Rossiyskaya entsiklopediya* or "[Great Russian Encyclopedia](#)").

Contents

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Editions

There were three editions. The first edition of 65 volumes (65,000 entries, plus a supplementary volume about the [Soviet Union](#)) was published during 1926–1947, the chief editor being [Otto Schmidt](#) (until 1941). The second edition of 50 volumes (100,000 entries, plus a supplementary volume) was published in 1950–1958; chief editors: [Sergei Vavilov](#) (until 1951) and [Boris Vvedenskii](#) (until 1969); two index volumes to this edition were published in 1960. The third edition of 1969–1978 contains 30 volumes (100,000 entries, plus an index volume issued in 1981). Volume 24 is in two books, one of them being a full-sized book about the USSR) – all with about 21 million words,^[2] and the chief editor being [Alexander Prokhorov](#) (since 1969).

From 1957 to 1990 each year the *Yearbook of the Great Soviet Encyclopedia* was released, with up-to-date articles about the Soviet Union and all countries of the world.

The first online edition, an exact replica of text and graphics of the third (so-called Red) edition, was published by Rubricon.com in 2000.

Editors

Editors and contributors to the GSE included a number of leading Soviet scientists and politicians: [Hamid Alimjan](#), [Viktor Ambartsumian](#), [Nikolai Baibakov](#), [Mykola Bazhan](#), [Maia Berzina](#), [Nikolay Bogolyubov](#), [Andrei Bubnov](#), [Nikolai Bukharin](#), [Nikolai Burdenko](#), [Mikhail Frunze](#), [Victor Glushkov](#), [Igor Grabar](#), [Pavel Lebedev-Polianskii](#), [Veniamin Kagan](#), [Ivan Knunyants](#), [Andrei Kolmogorov](#), [Valerian Kuybyshev](#), [Anatoly Lunacharsky](#), [Vladimir Obruchev](#), [Aleksandr Oparin](#), [Yuri Prokhorov](#), [Karl Radek](#), [Nikolai Semashko](#), and [Kliment Voroshilov](#).

Role and purpose in Soviet society

The foreword to the first volume of the GSE (2nd ed.) proclaims "The Soviet Union has become the center of the civilized world."^[3] The GSE, along with all other books and other media and communications with the public, was directed toward the "furtherance of the aims of the party and the state."^[3] The 1949 decree issued for the production of the second edition of the GSE directed:

The second edition of the *Great Soviet Encyclopedia* should elucidate widely the world-historical victories of socialism in our country, which have been attained in the U.S.S.R. in the provinces of economics, science, culture, and art. ... With exhaustive completeness it must show the superiority of socialist culture over the culture of the capitalist world. Operating on [Marxist-Leninist](#) theory, the encyclopedia should give a party criticism of contemporary bourgeois tendencies in various provinces of science and technics.^[3]

The foreword to the GSE (3rd ed.) expanded on that mission, paying particular attention to developments in science and technology: [nuclear engineering](#), [space technology](#), [atomic physics](#), [polymer chemistry](#), and [radio electronics](#); also the detailing the history and activities of the [Russian revolutionary movement](#), the development of the [labor movement](#) worldwide and summarizing Marxist scholarship on [political economy](#), sociology, and political science.^[4] In support of that mission, the GSE (2nd ed.) described as the role of education:

"To develop in children's minds the Communist morality, ideology, and Soviet patriotism; to inspire unshakable love toward the Soviet fatherland, the Communist party, and its leaders; to propagate Bolshevik vigilance; to put and emphasis on internationalist education; to strengthen Bolshevik willpower and character, as well as courage, capacity for resisting adversity and conquering obstacles; to develop self-discipline; and to encourage physical and aesthetic culture."^[3]

The third edition of the GSE subsequently expanded on the role of education:

"Education is essential to preparing for life and work. It is the basic means by which people come to know and acquire culture, and it is the foundation of culture's development...The Soviet education rests on the principles of the unity of education and communist upbringing; cooperation among the school, the family, and the society in bringing up young people; and the linkage of education and training to life and the practical experience of building communism. The underlying principles of the Soviet system of public education include a scientific approach to and continual improvement of education on the basis of the latest achievements in science, technology and culture; a humanistic and highly moral orientation in education and upbringing; and co-education of both sexes, secular education which excludes the influence of religion. " ^[5]

Based on his extensive talks with the editors of the GSE, to whom he was granted unprecedented access, [William Benton](#), publisher of the [Encyclopædia Britannica](#), wrote the following in observation of the GSE's chief editor B. A. Vvedenskii stating their compliance with the 1949 decree of the Council of Ministers:

"It is just this simple for the Soviet board of editors. They are working under a government directive that orders them to orient their encyclopedia as sharply as a political tract. The encyclopedia was thus planned to provide the intellectual underpinning for the Soviet world offensive in the duel for men's minds. The Soviet government ordered it as a fighting propaganda weapon. And the government attaches

such importance to its *political role* that its board of editors is chosen by and is responsible only to the high Council of Ministers itself."^[3]

Translations

English



Great Soviet Encyclopedia in English in a library

The third edition was translated and published into English in 31 volumes between 1974 and 1983 by [Macmillan Publishers](#). Each volume was translated separately, requiring use of the [index](#) found at the front of each volume to locate specific items; knowledge of Russian can be helpful to find the right volume the first time. Not all entries were translated into English; these are indicated in the index. Overall, some entries indicate an anti-American bias,^{[[citation needed](#)]} reflecting the [international tensions and ideological conflict](#) between the United States and the USSR at the time.

Greek

The third edition has also been translated and published into Greek in 34 volumes between 1977 and 1983. All articles that were related to [Greece](#) or Greek history, culture and society were expanded and hundreds of new ones were written especially for the Greek edition. Thus the encyclopaedia contains, for example, both the Russian entry on [Greece](#) as well as a much larger one prepared by Greek contributors.

Finally, a supplementary volume covering the 1980s was published in 1989. It contains translated and original Greek articles which, sometimes, do not exist in the 34-volume set.

Other Soviet encyclopedias

Original title	Transliteration (if applicable)	English title	Volumes	Dates
Українська радянська енциклопедія	<i>Ukrains'ka radyans'ka enstiklopediya</i>	Ukrainian Soviet Encyclopedia	17	1959– 1965
Беларуская савецкая энцыклапедыя	<i>Belaruskaya savietskaya entsyklapedyya</i>	Byelorussian Soviet Encyclopedia	12	1969– 1975
Ўзбек совет энциклопедияси	<i>Uzbek soviet entsiklopediyasi</i>	Uzbek Soviet Encyclopedia	14	1971– 1980
Қазақ кенес энциклопедиясы	<i>Qazaq keñes enciklopediýası</i>	Kazakh Soviet Encyclopedia	10	1972– 1978
ქართული საბჭოთა ენციკლოპედია	<i>kartuli sabch'ota encik'lop'edia</i>	Georgian Soviet Encyclopedia	12	1965– 1987
Азәрбајҹан Совет Енстиклопедијасы	<i>Azərbaycan Sovet Ensiklopediyası</i>	Azerbaijani Soviet Encyclopedia	10	1976– 1987
Lietuviškoji tarybinė enciklopedija	—	Lithuanian Soviet Encyclopedia	10	1976– 1985
Енциклопедия советикэ молдовеняскэ	<i>Enciclopedia sovietică moldovenească</i>	Moldavian Soviet Encyclopedia	8	1970– 1981
Latvijas padomju enciklopēdija	—	Latvian Soviet Encyclopedia	11	1981– 1988
Кыргыз Совет Энциклопедиясы	<i>Kyrgyz Soviet Entsiklopediyasy</i>	Kyrgyz Soviet Encyclopedia	6	1976– 1980
Энциклопедияи советии тоҷик	<i>Entsiklopediya-i sovietii-tojik</i>	Tajik Soviet Encyclopedia	8	1978– 1988
Հայկական սովետական հանրագիտարան	<i>Haykakan sovetakan hanragitaran</i>	Armenian Soviet Encyclopedia	13	1974– 1987

Original title	Transliteration (if applicable)	English title	Volumes	Dates
Түркмен совет энциклопедиясы	<i>Türkmen sowet ensiklopediýasy</i>	<i>Turkmen Soviet Encyclopedia</i>	10	1974– 1989
Eesti nõukogude entsüklopeedia	—	<i>Estonian Soviet Encyclopedia</i>	8	1968– 1976

Content

The Soviet Encyclopedia is a systematic summary of knowledge in social and economic studies and in the applied sciences. It became a universal reference work for the Soviet intelligentsia.^[6] According to the publisher's foreword in the English-language translation of the encyclopedia, the encyclopedia is important for knowledge and understanding of USSR. A major value of the Encyclopedia is its comprehensive information about Soviet and its peoples. Every aspect of Soviet life is systematically presented, including history, economics, science, art, and culture. The ethnic diversity of USSR's peoples and its languages and cultures are extensively covered. There are biographies of prominent cultural and scientific figures who are not as well-known outside of Russia. There are detailed surveys of USSR's provinces and towns, as well as their geology, geography, and flora and fauna.^[6]

The encyclopedia's Chief Editorial Board and Advisory board sought input from the general public. The entry list was sent to universities, scientific institutions, museums, and private specialists in every field. More than 50,000 suggestions were received and many additions were made.^[7] Scholars believe that the Encyclopedia is a valuable and useful source for Russian history.^[8] The Encyclopedia, though noted as having a strong Marxist bias, provides useful information for understanding the Soviet point of view.^{[9][10]}

Damnatio memoriae

Following the arrest and punishment of the infamous [Lavrentiy Beria](#), the notorious head of the [NKVD](#), in 1953 the encyclopedia—ostensibly in response to overwhelming public demand—mailed subscribers to the second edition a letter from the editor^[11] instructing them to cut out and destroy the three-page article on Beria and paste in its place enclosed replacement pages expanding the adjacent articles on [F. W. Bergholz](#) (an 18th-century courtier), the [Bering Sea](#), and [Bishop Berkeley](#).^[12] By April 1954, the Library of the University of California had received this “replacement.”^[13] This was not the only case of political influence. Encyclopedia subscribers received missives to replace articles in the fashion of the Beria article frequently.^[14] Content of others changed significantly, to reflect not the scientific knowledge but the current [party line](#). An article affected in such a fashion was the one on [Bukharin](#), whose evolution of descriptions went through several versions.^[15]

Great Russian Encyclopedia

Main article: [Great Russian Encyclopedia](#)

Publication of the *Great Soviet Encyclopedia* was suspended in 1990 and halted in 1991, but in 2002 it was reinstituted by decree of [Vladimir Putin](#). In 2003 and 2004 a team of editors overhauled the old encyclopedia by updating facts, removing most examples of overt political bias, and changing its name to the *Great Russian Encyclopedia*. Many outdated articles were entirely rewritten. In 2004, the first volume of the newly overhauled *Great Russian Encyclopedia* was published. As of 2009, the first complete (30-volume) edition since 1990 is about to be published.

Publication of the *Great Russian Encyclopedia* is overseen by the [Russian Academy of Sciences](#), and funded by the [Government of the Russian Federation](#). The encyclopedia is now found in libraries and schools throughout the [CIS](#).^[16] Additionally, the 1980s editions remain in widespread use, particularly as references in scientific and mathematical research.

See also

- [Ukrainian Soviet Encyclopedia](#)
- [Damnatio memoriae](#)

References

1. [^] The 3rd edition contains more 95,000 articles, nearly 35,000 illustrations and maps. Compare with over 120,000 articles of the Russian [Brockhaus and Efron Encyclopedic Dictionary](#) (1890–1907) and with 100,000 of the 15th edition of [Britannica](#)
2. [^] Kister, p. 365
3. [^] [a b c d e](#) *From extensive discussions with the editors of the second edition of the GSE, editor-in-chief Vvendensky*. Benton, W. [This Is The Challenge](#). Associated College Presses. 1959
4. [^] [Editors Foreword, Great Soviet Encyclopedia, 3rd Edition](#)
5. [^] [Great Soviet Encyclopedia, "Education"](#)
6. [^] [a b](#) Publishers' Foreword, *Great Soviet Encyclopedia: A Translation of the Third Edition*. Volume 1. Macmillan, Inc.
7. [^] [Great Soviet Encyclopedia](#)
8. [^] [Reference sources in history: an introductory guide](#). Ronald H. Fritze, Brian E. Coutts, Louis Andrew Vyhnanek

9. [^](#) Allen Kent, Harold Lancour, Jay E. Daily, *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science: Volume 25* CRC Press, 1978, [ISBN 0-8247-2025-3](#), [Google Print](#), p.171
10. [^](#) Bill Katz, William A. Katz, Ruth A. Fraley, *Evaluation of reference services*, Haworth Press, 1984, [ISBN 0-86656-377-6](#), [Google Print](#), p.308
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14. [^](#) John T. Jost, Aaron C., *Social and Psychological Bases of Ideology and System Justification*, Oxford University Press US, 2009, [ISBN 0-19-532091-3](#), [Google Print](#), p.465
15. [^](#) Ludwik Kowalski, "[Discriptions of Bucharin in Great Soviet Encyclopedia](#)"
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External links

- (Russian) [Great Soviet Encyclopedia online](#)

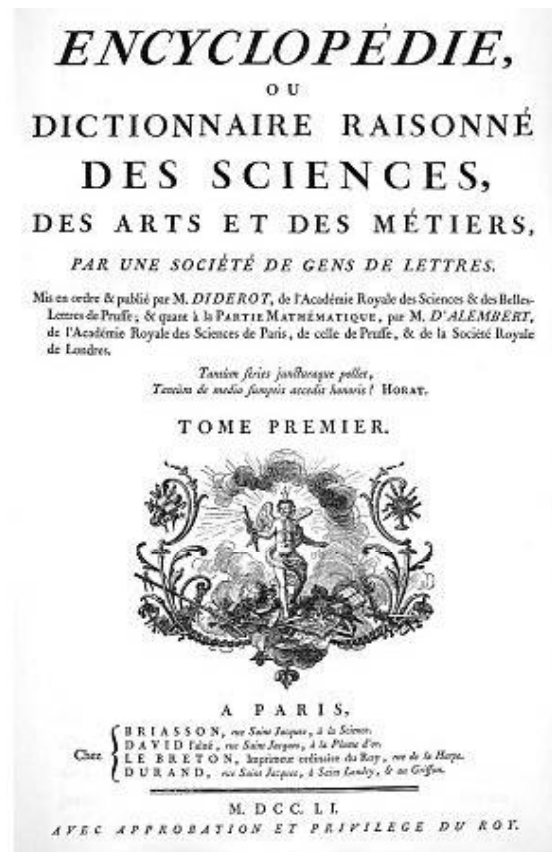
French Encyclopédie

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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This article is about the 18th-century French encyclopaedia. For a definition of the word "encyclopédie", see the Wiktionary entry [encyclopédie](#).

Encyclopédie, ou dictionnaire raisonné des sciences, des arts et des métiers



The [title page](#) of the *Encyclopédie*

Author(s)

[Numerous contributors](#), edited by [Denis Diderot](#) and [Jean le Rond d'Alembert](#)

Country

France

Language

French

Subject(s)	General
Genre(s)	Reference encyclopedia
Publisher	André le Breton , Michel-Antoine David , Laurent Durand , and Antoine-Claude Briasson
Publication date	1751–72

Encyclopédie, ou dictionnaire raisonné des sciences, des arts et des métiers (English: Encyclopaedia or a Systematic Dictionary of the Sciences, Arts and Crafts) was a general [encyclopedia](#) published in France between 1751 and 1772, with later supplements, revised editions, and translations. It was edited by [Denis Diderot](#) and [Jean le Rond d'Alembert](#). As of 1750, the full title was *Encyclopédie, ou Dictionnaire raisonné des sciences, des arts et des métiers, par une société de gens de lettres, mis en ordre par M. Diderot de l'Académie des Sciences et Belles-Lettres de Prusse, et quant à la partie mathématique, par M. d'Alembert de l'Académie royale des Sciences de Paris, de celle de Prusse et de la Société royale de Londres*. (Encyclopedia: or a Systematic Dictionary of the Sciences, Arts, and Crafts, by a Company of Men of Letters, arranged by M. Diderot of the Academy of Sciences and [Belles-lettres](#) of Prussia: as to the Mathematical Portion, arranged by M. d'Alembert of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Paris, to the Academy of Sciences in Prussia and to the Royal Society of London.) The title page was amended as D'Alembert acquired more titles.

The *Encyclopédie* was an innovative encyclopedia in several respects. Among other things, it was the first encyclopedia to include contributions from many named contributors, and it was the first general encyclopedia to lavish attention on the mechanical arts. Still, the *Encyclopédie* is famous above all for representing the thought of the [Enlightenment](#). According to Denis Diderot in the article "Encyclopédie", the *Encyclopédie*'s aim was "to change the way people think."^[1] He wanted to incorporate all of the world's knowledge into the *Encyclopédie* and hoped that the text can disseminate all this information to the public and to future generations.^[2]

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Origins

The *Encyclopédie* was originally conceived as a French translation of [Ephraim Chambers's](#) *Cyclopaedia* (1728).^[3] In 1743, the translation was entrusted by the Parisian book publisher [André Le Breton](#) to [John Mills](#), an English resident in France. In May 1745, Le Breton announced the work as available for sale, but to his dismay, Mills had not done the work he was commissioned to do; in fact, he could barely read and write French and did not even own a copy of *Cyclopaedia*. Furious at having been swindled, Le Breton beat Mills with a cane. Mills sued for assault, but Le Breton was acquitted in court as being justified.^[4] For his new editor, Le Breton settled on the mathematician [Jean Paul de Gua de Malves](#). Among those hired by Malves were the young [Étienne Bonnot de Condillac](#), Jean le Rond d'Alembert, and Denis Diderot. Within thirteen months, in August 1747, Gua de Malves was fired for being an ineffective leader. Le Breton then hired Diderot and Jean d'Alembert to be the new editors.^[5] Diderot would remain editor for the next twenty-five years, seeing the *Encyclopédie* through its completion.^[6]



Fig.2: Extract from the [frontispiece](#) of the *Encyclopédie* (1772). It was drawn by [Charles-Nicolas Cochin](#) and engraved by [Bonaventure-Louis Prévost](#). The work is laden with [symbolism](#): The figure in the centre represents truth — surrounded by bright light (the central symbol of the Enlightenment). Two other figures on the right, reason and philosophy, are tearing the veil from truth. ([entire frontispiece](#))

Publication

The work comprised 28 volumes, with 71,818 articles and 3,129 illustrations. The first seventeen volumes were published between 1751 and 1765; eleven volumes of plates were finished by 1772. Because of its occasional radical contents (see "Contents" below), the French government suspended the encyclopedia's *privilège* in 1759,^[7] but because it had many highly placed supporters, notably [Malesherbes](#) and [Madame de Pompadour](#), work continued "in secret." In truth, secular authorities did not want to disrupt the commercial enterprise, which employed hundreds of people. To appease the church and other enemies of the project, the authorities had officially banned the enterprise, but they turned a blind eye to its continued existence.

In 1775, [Charles Joseph Panckoucke](#) obtained the rights to reissue the work. He issued five volumes of supplementary material and a two-volume index from 1776 to 1780. Some scholars include these seven "extra" volumes as part of the first full issue of the *Encyclopédie*, for a total of 35 volumes, although they were not written or edited by the original authors.

From 1782 to 1832, Panckoucke and his successors published an expanded edition of the work in some 166 volumes as the [Encyclopédie méthodique](#). That work, enormous for its time, occupied a thousand workers in production and 2,250 contributors.

Contributors

Since the objective of the editors of the *Encyclopédie* was to gather all the knowledge in the world, Diderot and D'Alembert knew they would need various contributors to help them with their project.^[8] Many of the most noted figures of the French [Enlightenment](#) contributed to the *Encyclopédie*, including [Diderot](#), [Voltaire](#), [Rousseau](#), and [Montesquieu](#).^[9] The most prolific contributor was [Louis de Jaucourt](#), who wrote 17,266 articles, or about eight per day, between 1759 and 1765. The publication became a place where these contributors can share their ideas and interests.

Still, as [Frank Kafker](#) has argued, the Encyclopedists were not a unified group^[10]:

... despite their reputation, [the Encyclopedists] were not a close-knit group of [radicals](#) intent on subverting the Old Regime in France. Instead they were a disparate group of men of letters, physicians, scientists, craftsmen and scholars ... even the small minority who were persecuted for writing articles belittling what they viewed as unreasonable customs—thus weakening the might of the Catholic Church and undermining that of the monarchy—did not envision that their ideas would encourage a revolution.

Following is a list of notable contributors with their area of contribution (for a more detailed list, see [Encyclopédistes](#)):

- [Jean Le Rond d'Alembert](#) — editor; science (especially mathematics), contemporary affairs, philosophy, religion, among others
- [André Le Breton](#) — chief publisher; article on printer's ink
- [Louis-Jean-Marie Daubenton](#) — natural history
- [Denis Diderot](#) — chief editor; economics, mechanical arts, philosophy, politics, religion, among others
- [Baron d'Holbach](#) — science (chemistry, mineralogy), politics, religion, among others
- [Chevalier Louis de Jaucourt](#) — economics, literature, medicine, politics, bookbinding, among others
- [Jean-Baptiste de La Chapelle](#) - mathematics
- [Montesquieu](#) — part of the article "Goût" ("Taste")
- [François Quesnay](#) — articles on tax farmers and grain
- [Jean-Jacques Rousseau](#) — music, political theory
- [Anne Robert Jacques Turgot, Baron de Laune](#) — economics, etymology, philosophy, physics
- [Voltaire](#) — history, literature, philosophy

Contents

The introduction to the *Encyclopédie*, D'Alembert's "[Preliminary Discourse](#)", is considered an important exposition of [Enlightenment](#) ideals.

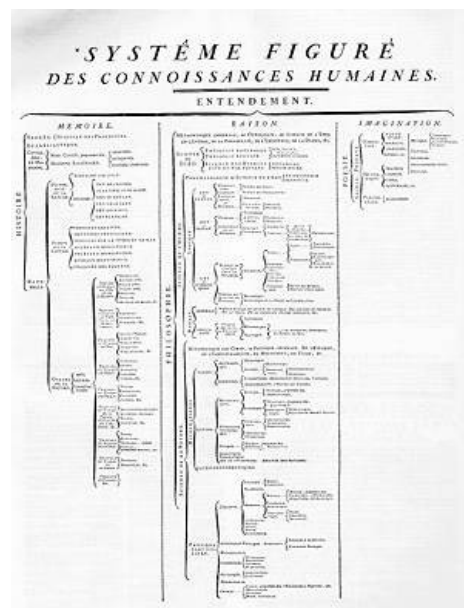


Fig. 3: "[Figurative system of human knowledge](#)", the structure that the *Encyclopédie* organised knowledge into. It had three main branches: memory, reason, and imagination.

Among other things, it presents a [taxonomy of human knowledge](#) (see Fig. 3), which was inspired by [Francis Bacon's *The Advancement of Learning*](#). The three main branches of knowledge are: "Memory"/History, "Reason"/Philosophy, and "Imagination"/Poetry. This tree of knowledge was created for the readers in order to help them evaluate the usefulness of the content within the *Encyclopédie*, and to organize its content.^[11] Notable is the fact that theology is ordered under "Philosophy". [Robert Darnton](#) argues that this categorisation of religion as being subject to human reason and not a source of knowledge in and of itself was a significant factor in the controversy surrounding the work. Additionally, notice that "Knowledge of God" is only a few nodes away from "[Divination](#)" and "[Black Magic](#)".

Likewise, many contributors saw the *Encyclopédie* as a vehicle for covertly destroying what the contributors viewed as [superstitions](#) (namely, revealed religion, primarily Catholicism), while overtly providing access to human knowledge. In [ancien régime](#) France, it caused a storm of controversy, due mostly to its attacks on Catholicism and favor for religious tolerance. The *Encyclopédie* praised [Protestant](#) thinkers^[who?]^[citation needed] and challenged teachings and dogma of the [Catholic Church](#).

At the same time, the *Encyclopédie* was a vast compendium of knowledge, notably on the technologies of the period, describing the traditional craft tools and processes. Much information was taken from the [Descriptions des Arts et Métiers](#). These articles applied a scientific approach to understanding the mechanical and production processes, and offered new ways to improve machines to make them more efficient.^[12] Diderot felt that people should have access to "useful knowledge" that they can apply to their everyday life.^[13]

Influence

The *Encyclopédie* played an important role in the intellectual ferment leading to the [French Revolution](#). "No encyclopaedia perhaps has been of such political importance, or has occupied so conspicuous a place in the civil and literary history of its century. It sought not only to give information, but to guide opinion," wrote the [1911 *Encyclopædia Britannica*](#). In *The Encyclopédie and the Age of Revolution*, a work published in conjunction with a 1989 exhibition of the *Encyclopédie* at the University of California, Los Angeles, Clorinda Donato writes the following:

The encyclopedians successfully argued and marketed their belief in the potential of reason and unified knowledge to empower human will and thus helped to shape the social issues that the French Revolution would address. Although it is doubtful whether the many artisans, technicians, or laborers whose work and presence and interspersed throughout the *Encyclopédie*

actually read it, the recognition of their work as equal to that of intellectuals, clerics, and rulers prepared the terrain for demands for increased representation. Thus the *Encyclopédie* served to recognize and galvanize a new power base, ultimately contributing to the destruction of old values and the creation of new ones (12).

While many contributors to the *Encyclopédie* had no interest in radically reforming [French society](#), the *Encyclopédie* as a whole pointed that way. The *Encyclopédie* denied that the teachings of the [Catholic Church](#) could be treated as authoritative in matters of science. The editors also refused to treat the decisions of political powers as definitive in intellectual or artistic questions. Some articles talked about changing social and political institutions that would improve their society for everyone.^[14] Given that Paris was the intellectual capital of Europe at the time and that many European leaders used French as their administrative language, these ideas had the capacity to spread.^[15]

Statistics



Frontispiece of the first volume in the library of the [Teyler's Museum](#), one of the two remaining complete original copies in the world

Approximate size of the *Encyclopédie*:

- 17 volumes of articles, issued from 1751 to 1765
- 11 volumes of illustrations, issued from 1762 to 1772
- 18,000 pages of text
- 75,000 entries
 - 44,000 main articles
 - 28,000 secondary articles
 - 2,500 illustration indices
- 20,000,000 words in total

[Print run](#): 4,250 copies (note: even single-volume works in the 18th Century seldom had a print run of more than 1,500 copies)

Quotes

- The goal of an Encyclopédie is to assemble all the knowledge scattered on the surface of the earth, to demonstrate the general system to the people with whom we live, & to transmit it to the people who will come after us, so that the works of centuries past is not useless to the centuries which follow, that our descendants, by becoming more learned, may become more virtuous & happier, & that we do not die without having merited being part of the human race. (*Encyclopédie*, Diderot)^[16]
- "Reason is to the philosopher what [grace](#) is to the [Christian](#)... Other men walk in darkness; the philosopher, who has the same passions, acts only after reflection; he walks through the night, but it is preceded by a torch. The philosopher forms his principles on an infinity of particular observations. He does not confuse truth with plausibility; he takes for truth what is true, for forgery what is false, for doubtful what is doubtful, and probable what is probable. The philosophical spirit is thus a spirit of observation and accuracy." (*Philosophers*, Dumarsais)
- "If exclusive privileges were not granted, and if the financial system would not tend to concentrate wealth, there would be few great fortunes and no quick wealth. When the means of growing rich is divided between a greater number of citizens, wealth will also be more evenly distributed; extreme poverty and extreme wealth would be also rare." (*Wealth*, Diderot)

Literature

- *Preliminary discourse to the Encyclopedia of Diderot*, Jean Le Rond d'Alembert, translated by Richard N. Schwab, 1995. [ISBN 0-226-13476-8](#)
- *Jean d'Alembert* by Ronald Grimsley. (1963)
- *The Business of Enlightenment: A Publishing History of the Encyclopédie, 1775–1800* by [Robert Darnton](#) (1979) [ISBN 0-674-08785-2](#)
- *The Encyclopedists as individuals: a biographical dictionary of the authors of the Encyclopédie* by Frank A. Kafker and Serena L.

Kafker. Published 1988 in the *Studies of Voltaire and the eighteenth century*. [ISBN 0-7294-0368-8](#)

- *Encyclopédie ou dictionnaire raisonné des sciences, des arts et des métiers*, Editions Flammarion, 1993. [ISBN 2-08-070426-5](#)
- [Diderot, the Mechanical Arts, and the Encyclopédie](#), John R. Pannabecker, 1994. With bibliography.
- *L'Encyclopédie de Diderot et d'Alembert*, édition DVD, Redon, ASIN: B0000DBA4X—the complete *Encyclopédie* on DVD-ROM
- *Enlightening the World: Encyclopedie, The Book That Changed the Course of History* by [Philipp Blom](#) (2005). [ISBN 1-4039-6895-0](#)
- *The Encyclopédie and the Age of Revolution*. Ed. Clorinda Donato and Robert M. Maniquis. Boston: G. K. Hall, 1992. [ISBN 0-8161-0527-8](#)

Facsimiles

Readex Microprint Corporation, NY 1969. 5 vol. The full text and images reduced to four double-spread pages of the original appearing on one folio-sized page of this printing.

Later released by the Pergamon Press, NY and Paris with [ISBN 0-08-090105-0](#).

References

Notes

1. [^](#) Denis Diderot as quoted in Hunt, p. 611
2. [^](#) Denis Diderot as quoted in Kramnick, p. 17
3. [^](#) Magee, p. 124
4. [^](#) Blom, p. 35–38
5. [^](#) Blom, p. 39–40
6. [^](#) Stockwell, p. 90
7. [^](#) Magee, p. 125
8. [^](#) Brewer, p. 56.
9. [^](#) Magee, p. 124
10. [^](#) [The Camargo Foundation : Fellow Project Details](#)
11. [^](#) Brewer, p. 54
12. [^](#) Brewer, p. 55
13. [^](#) Burke, p. 17
14. [^](#) Spielvogel, p. 480–481
15. [^](#) Magee, p. 125
16. [^](#) Blom, p. 139

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- [Blom, Philipp](#), *Enlightening the world: Encyclopédie, the book that changed the course of history*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005, [ISBN 1-4039-6895-0](#)
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- [Burke, Peter](#), *A social history of knowledge: from Gutenberg to Diderot*, Malden: Blackwell Publishers Inc., 2000, [ISBN 0-7456-2485-5](#)
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- [Magee, Bryan](#), *The Story of Philosophy*, New York: DK Publishing, Inc., 1998, [ISBN 0-7894-3511-X](#)
- [Spielvogel, Jackson J](#), *Western Civilization*, Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2011, [ISBN 0-495-89733-7](#)
- Stockwell, Foster, *A History of Information Storage and Retrieval*, McFarland & Company, December 2000, [ISBN 0-7864-0840-5](#)

External links



Wikimedia Commons has media related to: [Encyclopédie, ou Dictionnaire raisonné des sciences, des arts et des métiers](#)

- [On-line version](#) in original French, contains the scans of the images too.
- [On-line version](#) with an English interface and the [dates of publication](#)
- [Encyclopédie collaborative translation project](#) currently contains a rather small but growing collection of articles translated into English (1,315 articles as of January 5, 2012).
- *The Encyclopedie*, discussion on the [BBC Radio 4](#) programme *In Our Time*, broadcast on October 26, 2006. With Judith Hawley, Senior Lecturer in English at Royal Holloway, University of London; Caroline Warman, Fellow and Tutor in French at Jesus College,

Oxford; and David Wootton, Anniversary Professor of History at the University of York, and presented by [Melvyn Bragg](#).

- [Encyclopédie, ou Dictionnaire raisonné des sciences, des arts et des métiers](#) on French Wikisource
-  Texts on Wikisource:
 - "[Encyclopédie](#)". *New International Encyclopedia*. 1905.
 - "[Encyclopédie](#)". *The Nuttall Encyclopædia*. 1907.

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Works by [Denis Diderot](#)

- Author**
- [The Indiscreet Jewels](#)
 - [Lettre sur les aveugles à l'usage de ceux qui voient](#)
 - [Le Fils naturel](#)
 - [Le père de famille](#)
 - [La Religieuse](#)
 - [Rameau's Nephew](#)
 - [Le rêve de D'Alembert](#)
 - [Jacques the Fatalist](#)
 - [Madame de La Carlière](#)
 - [Supplément au voyage de Bougainville](#)
 - [Ceci n'est pas un conte](#)



Editor

- **Encyclopédie**

Chinese encyclopedia

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Not to be confused with [Chinese Encyclopedia](#) or [Encyclopedia of China](#).



This article **has an unclear citation style**. The references used may be made clearer with a different or consistent style of [citation](#), [footnoting](#), or [external linking](#). (January 2011)

中文

This article contains [Chinese](#) text. Without proper [rendering support](#), you may see [question marks, boxes, or other symbols](#) instead of [Chinese characters](#).

Chinese encyclopedias are [encyclopedias](#) published in the [Chinese language](#) or encyclopedias about [China](#) and [Chinese-related topics](#). The origin of encyclopedias in China can be traced to the late [Han dynasty](#), circa 220 CE. Chinese has two words for "encyclopedia, encyclopedic", common *baike* ([Chinese](#): 百科; [pinyin](#): *bǎikē*; [Wade–Giles](#): pai-ke; literally "hundred subjects") and literary *dadian* ([Chinese](#): 大典; [pinyin](#): *dàdiǎn*; [Wade–Giles](#): ta-tien; literally "great canon"). For example, *baike quanshu* (百科全書 "hundred subjects complete book") "comprehensive encyclopedia" and *Yongle dadian* (永樂大典 'Yongle [Emperor's] great canon) "[Yongle Encyclopedia](#)". Encyclopedic works were published in China for well over one and a half thousand years before China's first modern encyclopedias were published after China's economic liberalization in the 1980s, during the [reform period](#). Several encyclopedias have been published in China since then, including several specialist and children's encyclopedias. The major title currently available - in both paper and online versions - is the [Encyclopedia of China](#) (中国大百科全书 *Zhōngguó Dà Bǎikē Quánshū*), published by [Encyclopedia of China Publishing House](#).

Since the 21st century, with internet use proliferating, a number of online encyclopedias have been started. The three largest online Chinese encyclopedias are [Hudong](#), [Baidu Baike](#) and [Chinese Wikipedia](#).

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History

The history of [encyclopedias](#) in [China](#) is distinctive and covers almost two thousand years. Traditional Chinese encyclopedias differ from the modern encyclopedia in that they are mainly anthologies of significant [literature](#) with some aspects of the [dictionary](#). Compiled by eminent [scholars](#), they have been revised rather than replaced over hundreds of years.

Publications

Encyclopedias written in [Chinese](#).

- [Administrative Districts Encyclopedia of China](#) (1999) ^[1]
- [Beijing Encyclopedia](#) (1991; 2002) ^[2] World's largest municipal encyclopedia. Compiled by more than 3,000 people over a period of 5 years, the reference consists of 20 volumes with more than 17 million words and over 10,000 items and illustrations. Has eight volumes covering Beijing's history, geography, districts, politics and society, economy, science, education, culture, health and tourist sites.
- [Bencao Gangmu](#), also known as Compendium of Materia Medica, is Chinese materia medica work written by Li Shizhen in Ming Dynasty.
- [Book by category](#), one kind of reference book in ancient China.
- [Britannica Online, Traditional Chinese Edition](#) (February 2004), the first full-length online encyclopedia in [traditional Chinese](#), a joint publication of Britannica and Yuan-Liou Publishing Company of Taiwan ^[3]
- [Chinese Children's Encyclopedia](#), 4-volume encyclopedia, published by Zhejiang Education Press (ZEP)

- [*Chinese Encyclopedia*](#) (1981–83), Taiwan
- [*Chinese Towns Encyclopedia*](#) (2000)^[4] Details 20,000 Chinese towns, focusing on their economies.
- [*Cihai*](#), combines dictionary and encyclopedia
- [*Concise Encyclopædia Britannica*](#), 11-volume short-entry encyclopaedia in the Chinese language, published in Beijing in 1985–91, as a joint venture between [*Encyclopedia of China Publishing House*](#) and [*Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.*](#)^[5]
- [*Concise Huaxia Encyclopedia*](#), published by Huaxia Press in Beijing. See "[*Huaxia*](#)".
- [*Diplomacy Encyclopedia of China*](#) (2000)^[6]
- [*Dream Pool Essays*](#), written by Shen Kuo in the Song Dynasty
- [*Encyclopedia of China*](#) (1978), the first large-entry modern encyclopedia in the Chinese language.
- [*Encyclopedia of the Chinese Overseas*](#) (1998). Chinese Heritage Centre, Singapore.
- [*Encyclopedia of Republic of China*](#) (2001)^[7] 16,000 entries on the Republican Era (1911–49). Published by Jiangsu Ancient Books Publishing House.
- [*Fayuan Zhulin*](#), a Buddhist encyclopedia compiled AD 668 by Dao Shi
- [*Finest Blossoms in the Garden of Literature*](#), an anthology of poetry, odes, songs and writings from the Liang Dynasty to the Five Dynasties era
- [*Four Great Books of Song*](#), compiled by Li Fang and others during the Song Dynasty
- [*Gujin Tushu Jicheng*](#), a vast encyclopaedic work written in China during the reigns of Qing emperors Kangxi and Yongzheng, completed in 1725
- [*Imperial Readings of the Taiping Era*](#), a massive encyclopedia in the Song Dynasty
- [*Macao Encyclopedia*](#) (1999), the first specialist encyclopedia on Macao, published by the Macao Foundation ^[8]
- [*Military Encyclopedia of China*](#) (2000)^[9] China's largest military encyclopedia. Comprises over 50,000 short entries.
- [*Modern Science and Technology Encyclopedia*](#) (2000)^[10]
- [*Mongolian Studies Encyclopedia*](#) (1999)^[11]
- [*Prime Tortoise of the Record Bureau*](#), largest encyclopedia compiled during the Chinese Song Dynasty

- [*Sancai Tuhui*](#), compiled by Wang Qi and Wang Siyi, completed in 1607 and published in 1609
- [*Shanghai Encyclopedia*](#) (1999; 2008), most comprehensive reference on [Shanghai](#); has more than 7 million words, published by the Shanghai Lexicographical Publishing House.^[12]
- [*Shanxi Encyclopedia*](#) (2002)^[13] Published by Zhonghua Book Company; contains 8.1 million Chinese characters and 5,000 images, and is the first large reference which documents the province's history, culture, society and economy.
- [*Siku Quanshu*](#), largest collection of books in Chinese history and probably the most ambitious editorial enterprise in the history of the world
- [*Resource Sciences Encyclopedia*](#) (2000)^[14]
[*Tàipíng quǎngì*](#), a collection of stories compiled under the editorship of Li Fang, first published in 978
- [*Traditional Mongolian Medicine Encyclopedia*](#) (2000).^[15]
- [*Yiwen Leiju*](#), an encyclopedia completed during the Tang Dynasty by the calligrapher Ouyang Xun
- [*Yongle Encyclopedia*](#) (1403), a compilation commissioned by the Ming emperor Yongle—one of the earliest and largest at the time.
- [*Zhong Hua Da Dian*](#) ("The Great Encyclopedia of China") (2008),^[16]. On China's cultural history from the Qin Dynasty to the 1911 Revolution.

Onlines

Free

- [Hudong Encyclopedia](#) (June 2005), largest online Chinese language encyclopedia^[17]
- [Baidu Encyclopedia](#) (October 2005), second largest online Chinese encyclopedia
- [Chinese Wikipedia](#) (October 2002)
 - [Cantonese Wikipedia](#)
 - [Classical Chinese Wikipedia](#)
 - [Hakka Wikipedia](#)
 - [Mindong Wikipedia](#)
 - [Minnan Wikipedia](#)
 - [Wu Wikipedia](#)
 - [Gan Wikipedia](#)

- Wiki CN Encyclopedia (October 2005)
- Wiki Lib Encyclopedia (September 2004)
- Encyclopedia of Virtual Communities in Hong Kong (EVCHK) (March 2006)

Non free

- Encyclopedia of Taiwan (January 2005)

Other related encyclopedias

Though not technically Chinese encyclopedias because they are not written in Chinese, there have been many specialist works in other languages that have focused on China itself as a subject. These include:

English

- *Berkshire Encyclopedia of China* (2009), Berkshire Publishing Group. Linsun Cheng, Kerry Brown, Winberg Chai, et al. (Editors).
- *Cambridge Encyclopedia of China*, Cambridge University Press.
- *Encyclopedia of China*, Dorothy Perkins.
- *Encyclopedia Of Contemporary Chinese Civilization* (2005), Greenwood Pub Group. Jing Luo (Editor).
- *Science and Civilization in China*, Cambridge University Press.
- *Nagel's Encyclopedia Guide: China*, Nagel Publishers, Geneva, 1968.
- [*Encyclopaedia Sinica*](#), 1917. Samuel Couling (British)

See also

- [Yongle Encyclopedia](#)
- [Four Great Books of Song](#)
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Chinese literature

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[21st century](#)

- [v](#)
- [t](#)
- [e](#)

Chinese literature extends thousands of years, from the earliest recorded dynastic court [archives](#) to the mature fictional [novels](#) that arose during the Ming Dynasty to entertain the masses of literate Chinese. The introduction of widespread [woodblock printing](#) during the [Tang Dynasty](#) (618–907) and the invention of [movable type printing](#) by [Bi Sheng](#) (990–1051) during the [Song Dynasty](#) (960–1279) rapidly spread written knowledge throughout China. In more modern times, the author [Lu Xun](#) (1881–1936) is considered the founder of [baihua](#) literature in China.

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Classical texts

Main articles: [Chinese classics](#) and [List of Chinese language poets](#)

There is a wealth of early Chinese literature dating from the [Hundred Schools of Thought](#) that occurred during the [Eastern Zhou Dynasty](#) (770-256 BCE). The most important of these include the Classics of [Confucianism](#), of [Daoism](#), of [Mohism](#), of [Legalism](#), as well as works of military science and [Chinese history](#). Note that except for the books of poems

and songs, most of this literature is philosophical and didactic; there is little in the way of fiction. However, these texts maintained their significance through both their ideas and their prose style.

The Confucian works in particular have been of key importance to Chinese culture and history, as a set of works known as the *Four Books and Five Classics* were, in the 12th century CE, chosen as the basis for the [Imperial examination](#) for any government post. These nine books therefore became the center of the educational system. They have been grouped into two categories: the [Five Classics](#), allegedly commented and edited by [Confucius](#), and the [Four Books](#). The *Five Classics* include:

1. The [I Ching](#), or *Book of Changes*, a [divination](#) manual attributed to the mythical emperor [Fu Xi](#) and based on [eight trigrams](#). The *I Ching* is still used by adherents of [folk religion](#).
2. The [Classic of Poetry](#), a collection of poems, folk songs, festival and ceremonial songs, and hymns and eulogies.
3. The [Classic of Rites](#) or *Record of Rites*
4. The [Classic of History](#), a collection of documents and speeches allegedly written by rulers and officials of the early [Zhou period](#) and before. It contains the best examples of early Chinese prose.
5. The [Spring and Autumn Annals](#), a historical record of Confucius' native state, [Lu](#), from 722 to 479 BCE.

The *Four Books* include: the [Analects of Confucius](#), a book of pithy sayings attributed to Confucius and recorded by his disciples; [Mencius](#), a collection of political dialogues; the [Doctrine of the Mean](#), a book that teaches the path to Confucian virtue; and the [Great Learning](#), a book about education, self-cultivation and the [Dao](#).

Other important philosophical works include the Mohist [Mozi](#), which taught "inclusive love" as both an ethical and social principle, and [Hanfeizi](#), one of the central Legalist texts.

Important [Daoist](#) classics include the [Dao De Jing](#), the [Zhuangzi](#), and the [Classic of the Perfect Emptiness](#). Later authors combined Daoism with Confucianism and Legalism, such as [Liu An](#) (2nd century BCE), whose [Huainanzi](#) (*The Philosophers of Huai-nan*) also added to the fields of [geography](#) and [topography](#).

Among the classics of military science, [The Art of War](#) by [Sun Tzu](#) (6th century BCE) was perhaps the first to outline guidelines for effective international [diplomacy](#). It was also the first in a tradition of Chinese military treatises, such as the [Wujing Zongyao](#) (*Collection of the Most Important Military Techniques*, 1044 CE) and the [Huolongjing](#) (*Fire Dragon Manual*, 14th century CE).

Historical texts, dictionaries and encyclopedias

Main article: [Chinese historiography](#)

Further information: [Category:Chinese encyclopedias](#) and [Chinese dictionary](#)



[Sima Qian](#) laid the ground for professional [Chinese historiography](#) more than 2,000 years ago.

The Chinese kept consistent and accurate court records after the year 841 BCE, with the beginning of the [Gonghe](#) regency of the [Western Zhou Dynasty](#). The earliest known [narrative history](#) of China was the [Zuo Zhuan](#), which was compiled no later than 389 BCE, and attributed to the blind 5th century BCE historian [Zuo Qiuming](#). The [Classic of History](#) is thought to have been compiled as far back as the 6th century BCE, and was certainly compiled by 4th century BCE, the latest date for the writing of the [Guodian Chu Slips](#) unearthed in a [Hubei](#) tomb in 1993. The [Classic of History](#) included [early information on geography](#) in the chapter of the [Yu Gong](#).^[1] The [Bamboo Annals](#) found in 281 AD in the tomb of the King of Wei, who was interred in 296 BCE, provide another example; however, unlike the [Zuo Zhuan](#), the authenticity of the early date of the [Bamboo Annals](#) is in doubt. Another early text was the political strategy book of the [Zhan Guo Ce](#), compiled between the 3rd and 1st centuries BCE, with [partial amounts of the text](#) found amongst the 2nd century BCE tomb site at [Mawangdui](#). The oldest extant [dictionary](#) in China is the [Erya](#), dated to the 3rd century BCE, anonymously written but with later commentary by the historian [Guo Pu](#) (276–324). Other early dictionaries include the [Fangyan](#) by [Yang Xiong](#) (53 BCE – 18 AD) and the [Shuowen Jiezi](#) by [Xu Shen](#) (58–147

AD). One of the largest was the [Kangxi Dictionary](#) compiled by 1716 under the auspices of the [Kangxi Emperor](#) (r. 1661–1722); it provides definitions for over 47,000 characters.

Although court records and other independent records existed beforehand, the definitive work in early Chinese historical writing was the [Shiji](#) (史記/史记), written by the [Han Dynasty](#) court historian [Sima Qian](#) (145 BCE–90 BCE). This groundbreaking text laid the foundation for Chinese historiography and the many official Chinese historical texts compiled for each dynasty thereafter. Sima Qian is often compared to the Greek [Herodotus](#) in scope and method, because he covered Chinese history from the mythical [Xia Dynasty](#) until the contemporary reign of [Emperor Wu of Han](#) while retaining an objective and non-biased standpoint. This was often difficult for the official dynastic historians, who used historical works to justify the reign of the current dynasty. He influenced the written works of many Chinese historians, including the works of [Ban Gu](#) and [Ban Zhao](#) in the 1st and 2nd centuries, and even [Sima Guang's](#) 11th-century compilation of the [Zizhi Tongjian](#) (資治通鑑/资治通鉴), presented to [Emperor Shenzong of Song](#) in 1084 AD. The overall scope of the historiographical tradition in China is termed the [Twenty-Four Histories](#), created for each successive Chinese dynasty up until the [Ming Dynasty](#) (1368–1644); China's last dynasty, the [Qing Dynasty](#) (1644–1911), is not included.

Large encyclopedias were also produced in China through the ages. The [Yiwen Leiju](#) encyclopedia was completed by [Ouyang Xun](#) in 624 during the [Tang Dynasty](#), with aid from scholars [Linghu Defen](#) and [Chen Shuda](#). During the [Song Dynasty](#), the compilation of the [Four Great Books of Song](#) (10th century – 11th century), begun by [Li Fang](#) and completed by [Cefu Yuangui](#), represented a massive undertaking of written material covering a wide range of different subjects. This included the [Extensive Records of the Taiping Era](#) (978), the [Imperial Readings of the Taiping Era](#) (983), the [Finest Blossoms in the Garden of Literature](#) (986), and the [Prime Tortoise of the Record Bureau](#) (1013). Although these Song Dynasty Chinese encyclopedias featured millions of written [Chinese characters](#) each, their aggregate size paled in comparison to the later [Yongle Encyclopedia](#) (1408) of the [Ming Dynasty](#), which contained a total of 50 million Chinese characters.^[2] Even this size was trumped by later [Qing Dynasty](#) encyclopedias, such as the printed [Gujin Tushu Jicheng](#) (1726), which featured over 100 million written Chinese characters in over 800,000 pages, printed in 60 different copies using [copper-metal Chinese movable type](#) printing. Other great encyclopedic writers include the polymath scientist [Shen Kuo](#) (1031–1095) and his [Dream Pool Essays](#), the agronomist and inventor [Wang Zhen](#) (fl. 1290–1333) and his [Nongshu](#), and the minor scholar-official [Song Yingxing](#) (1587–1666) and his [Tiangong Kaiwu](#).

Classical poetry

Main article: [Classical Chinese poetry](#)



 [Su Shi](#) (1037–1101), a famous [Song Dynasty](#) poet and statesman.

The rich tradition of Chinese poetry began with two influential collections. In northern China, the *Shijing* or [Classic of Poetry](#) (approx. 10th-7th century BCE) comprises over 300 poems in a variety of styles ranging from those with a strong suggestion of folk music to ceremonial hymns.^[3] The word "[shi](#)" has the basic meaning of poem or poetry, as well as its use in criticism to describe one of China's lyrical poetic genres. [Confucius](#) is traditionally credited with editing the *Shijing*. Its stately lines are usually composed of four characters or four syllables (Chinese characters are monosyllabic). Many of these early poems establish the later tradition of starting with a description of nature that leads into emotionally expressive statements, known as *bi*, *xing*, or sometime *bixing*.^[4] Separately in southern China, the [Chuci](#) is ascribed to [Qu Yuan](#) (c. 340-278 BCE) and his

follower [Song Yu](#) (fl. 3rd century BCE) and is distinguished by its more emotionally intense affect, often full of despair and descriptions of the fantastic.^[5] Metrically its six-character lines are formed into couplets separated in the middle by a strong caesura character (as the seventh character of the first line), producing a driving and dramatic rhythm. Both the *Shijing* and the *Chuci* have remained influential throughout Chinese history.

During the greater part of China's first great period of unification, begun with the short-lived [Qin Dynasty](#) (221 BCE - 206 BCE) and followed by the centuries-long [Han Dynasty](#) (206 BCE - 220 CE), the *shi* form of poetry underwent little innovation. But a distinctively descriptive and erudite *fu* form (not the same *fu* character as that used for the bureau of music) developed that has been called "rhyme-prose," a uniquely Han offshoot of Chinese poetry's tradition.^[6] Equally noteworthy is [Music Bureau](#) poetry (*yuefu*), collected and presumably refined popular lyrics from folk music. The end of the Han witnesses a resurgence of the *shi* poetry, with the anonymous "[19 Old Poems](#)." This collection reflects the emergence of a distinctive five-character line that later became *shi* poetry's most common line length.^[7] From the [Jian'an](#) reign period (196 - 220 CE) onward, the five-character line became a focus for innovations in style and theme.^[8] The Cao family,^[9] rulers of the [Wei Dynasty](#) (220 - 265 CE) during the post-Han [Three Kingdoms](#) period, distinguished themselves as poets by writing poems filled with sympathy for the day-to-day struggles of soldiery and the common people. Taoist philosophy became a different, common theme for other poets, and a genre emphasizing true feeling emerged led by [Ruan Ji](#) (210-263).^[10] The landscape genre of Chinese nature poetry emerged under the brush of [Xie Lingyun](#) (385-433), as he innovated distinctively descriptive and complementary couplets composed of five-character lines.^[11] A farmland genre was born in obscurity by [Tao Qian](#) (365-427) also known as Tao Yuanming as he labored in his fields and then wrote extolling the influence of wine.^[12] Toward the close of this period in which many later-developed themes were first experimented with, the Xiao family^[13] of the [Southern Liang Dynasty](#) (502-557) engaged in highly refined and often denigrated^[14] court-style poetry lushly describing sensual delights as well as the description of objects.

Reunified China's [Tang Dynasty](#) (618-907) high culture set a high point for many things, including poetry. Various schools of Buddhism flourished, a successfully imported and modified cultural influence from India, as represented by the Chan or Zen beliefs of [Wang Wei](#) (701-761).^[15] His quatrains (*jueju*) describing natural scenes are world-famous examples of excellence, each couplet conventionally containing about two distinct images or thoughts per line.^[16] Tang poetry's big star is [Li Bai](#) (701-762) also pronounced and written as Li Bo, who worked in all major styles, both the more free old style verse (*gutishi*) as well as the tonally regulated new style verse (*jintishi*).^[17] Regardless of genre, Tang poets notably strove to perfect a style in which poetic subjects are exposed and evident, often without directly referring to the emotional thrust at hand.^[18] The poet [Du Fu](#) (712-770) excelled at regulated verse and use of the seven-character line, writing denser poems with more allusions as he aged, experiencing hardship and writing about it.^[19] A parade of great Tang poets also includes [Chen Zi'ang](#) (661-702), [Wang Zhihuan](#) (688-742), [Meng Haoran](#) (689-740), [Bai Juyi](#) (772-846), [Li He](#) (790-816), [Du Mu](#) (803-

852), [Wen Tingyun](#) (812-870), (listed chronologically) and [Li Shangyin](#) (813-858), whose poetry delights in allusions that often remain obscure,^[20] and whose emphasis on the seven-character line also contributed to the emerging posthumous fame of Du Fu,^[21] now ranked alongside Li Bai. The distinctively different [ci](#) poetry form began its development during the Tang as Central Asian and other musical influences flowed through its cosmopolitan society.^[22]

China's [Song Dynasty](#) (960-1279), another reunification era after a brief period of disunity, initiated a fresh high culture. Several of its greatest poets were capable government officials as well including [Ouyang Xiu](#) (1007–1072), [Su Shi](#) (1037–1101), and [Wang Anshi](#) (1021–1086). The [ci](#) form flourished as a few hundred songs became standard templates for poems with distinctive and variously set meters.^[23] The free and expressive style of Song high culture has been contrasted with majestic Tang poems by centuries of subsequent critics who engage in fierce arguments over which dynasty had the best poetry.^[24] Additional musical influences contributed to the [Yuan Dynasty](#)'s (1279–1368) distinctive [qu](#) opera culture and spawned the [sanqu](#) form of individual poems based on it.^[25]

Classical Chinese poetry composition became a conventional skill of the well educated throughout the [Ming](#) (1368–1644) and [Qing](#) (1644–1911) dynasties. Over a million poems have been preserved, including those by women and by many other diverse voices.^[26] Painter-poets, such as [Shen Zhou](#) (1427–1509), [Tang Yin](#) (1470–1524), [Wen Zhengming](#) (1470–1559), and [Yun Shouping](#) (1633–1690), created worthy conspicuous poems as they combined art, poetry and calligraphy with brush on paper.^[27] Poetry composition competitions were socially common, as depicted in novels, for example over dessert after a nice dinner.^[28] The Song versus Tang debate continues through the centuries.^[29] While China's later imperial period does not seem to have broken new ground for innovative approaches to poetry, picking through its vast body of preserved works remains a scholarly challenge, so new treasures may yet be restored from obscurity.^[30]

Classical prose

Early prose

 This section requires [expansion](#). (July 2010)

Early Chinese prose was deeply influenced by the great philosophical writings of the [Hundred Schools of Thought](#) (770-221 BCE). The works of [Mo Zi](#) (墨子), [Mencius](#) (孟子) and [Zhuang Zi](#) (莊子) contain well-reasoned, carefully developed discourses that reveal much stronger organization and style than their predecessors. Mo Zi's polemic prose was built on solid and effective methodological reasoning. Mencius contributed elegant diction and, like Zhuang Zi, relied on comparisons, anecdotes, and allegories. By

the 3rd century BCE, these writers had developed a simple, concise and economical prose style that served as a model of literary form for over 2,000 years. They were written in [Classical Chinese](#), an [isolating language](#) spoken during the [Spring and Autumn Period](#).

Later prose



 [Wen Chang](#), a Chinese deity of literature.

 This section requires [expansion](#). (July 2010)

During the [Tang period](#), the ornate, artificial style of prose developed in previous periods was replaced by a simple, direct, and forceful prose based on examples from the Hundred Schools (see above) and from the [Han period](#), the period in which the great historical works of [Sima Tan](#) and [Sima Qian](#) were published. This neoclassical style dominated prose writing for the next 800 years. It was exemplified in the work of [Han Yu](#) 韓愈 (768–824), a master essayist and strong advocate of a return to [Confucian](#) orthodoxy; Han Yu was later listed as one of the "Eight Great Prose Masters of the Tang and Song."

The [Song Dynasty](#) saw the rise in popularity of "travel record literature" (*youji wenxue*). [Travel literature](#) combined both [diary](#) and [narrative](#) prose formats, it was practiced by such seasoned travelers as [Fan Chengda](#) (1126–1193) and [Xu Xiake](#) (1587–1641) and can be seen in the example of [Su Shi's](#) [Record of Stone Bell Mountain](#).

After the 14th century, [vernacular](#) fiction became popular, at least outside of court circles. Vernacular fiction covered a broader range of subject matter and was longer and more loosely structured than literary fiction. One of the masterpieces of Chinese vernacular fiction is the 18th-century domestic novel [Dream of the Red Chamber](#) (紅樓夢).

Some contributors

- **Eight Great Prose Masters of the [Tang](#) and [Song](#)** (唐宋八大家)
 - [Han Yu](#) (韓愈，韩愈)
 - [Liu Zongyuan](#) (柳宗元)
 - [Ouyang Xiu](#) (歐陽修，欧阳修)
 - [Su Zhe](#) (蘇轍，苏辙)
 - [Su Shi](#) (蘇軾，苏轼)
 - [Su Xun](#) (蘇洵，苏洵)
 - [Wang Anshi](#) (王安石)
 - [Zeng Gong](#) (曾鞏，曾巩)
- Two great scientific authors from the Song period:
 - [Shen Kuo](#) (沈括) (1031–1095)
 - [Su Song](#) (蘇頌，苏颂) (1020–1101)
- **[Ming Dynasty](#)**
 - [Song Lian](#) (宋濂) (1310–1381)
 - [Liu Ji](#) (劉基，刘基) (1311–1375)
 - [Jiao Yu](#) (焦玉)
 - [Gui Youguang](#) (歸有光，归有光) (1506–1571)
 - [Yuan Hongdao](#) (袁宏道) (1568–1610)
 - [Xu Xiake](#) (徐霞客) (1586–1641)
 - [Gao Qi](#) (高啟，高启)
 - [Zhang Dai](#) (張岱，张岱)
 - [Tu Long](#) (屠隆)

- [Wen Zhenheng](#) (文震亨)
- [Qing Dynasty](#)
 - [Fang Pao](#) (方苞) (1668–1749)
 - [Li Yu](#) (李漁) (1610–1680)
 - [Liu Dakui](#) (劉大櫟, 刘大魁) (1698–1779)
 - [Yao Nai](#) (姚鼐) (1731–1815)
 - [Yuan Mei](#) (袁枚) (1716–1798)
 - [Gong Zizhen](#) (龔自珍, 龚自珍) (1792–1841)
 - [Wei Yuan](#) (魏源) (1794–1857)

Selected classical novels and plays

- The [Four Great Classical Novels](#) (*Si Da Ming Zhu* 四大名著):
 - [Dream of the Red Chamber](#) (紅樓夢, 红楼梦 *A Dream of Red Mansions, The Story of the Stone* and *The Chronicles of the Stone*, 石頭記, 石头记 *Shítóu Jì*), by [Cao Xueqin](#) (曹雪芹)
 - [Water Margin](#) (水滸傳, 水浒传 *All Men Are Brothers and Outlaws of the Marsh*), by [Shi Naian](#) (施耐庵)
 - [Romance of the Three Kingdoms](#) (三國演義, 三国演义), by [Luo Guanzhong](#) (羅貫中, 罗贯中)
 - [Journey to the West](#) (西遊記, 西游记 [Monkey King](#) and *Monkey*), by [Wu Cheng'en](#) (吳承恩, 吴承恩). This is not one of [The Four Journeys](#).
- Other classic literature:
 - [Strange Stories from a Chinese Studio](#) (聊齋誌異, 聊斋志异), by [Pu Songling](#) (蒲松齡, 蒲松龄)
 - [Jin Ping Mei](#) (金瓶梅, 蘭陵笑笑生, 兰陵笑笑生 or *The Plum in the Golden Vase*), by Lanling Xiaoxiao Sheng (兰陵笑笑生)

- [Flowers in the Mirror](#) (镜花缘 *Jing huayuan*) by [Li Ruzhen](#)
- [Fengshen Bang](#) (封神榜, *The Investiture of the Gods*)
- [Xingshi Yinyuan Zhuan](#) (醒世姻缘传, 醒世姻缘传 or *The Story of a Marital Fate to Awaken the World*)
- [The Scholars](#) (儒林外史 *Ru Lin Wai Shi*), by [Wu Jingzi](#) (吳敬梓)
- [Dijing Jingwulue](#) (帝京景物略 or *Survey of Scenery and Monuments in the Imperial Capital*), by [Liu Tong](#)
- [The Romance of the Eastern Zhou](#) (東周列國志, 东周列国志 *dōngzhōu lièguō zhì*), by [Feng Menglong](#)(冯梦龙), edited by Cai Yuanfang (蔡元放)
- [The Orphan of Zhao](#) (趙氏孤兒), a 13th century play by Ji Junxiang (紀君祥), was the first Chinese play to have been translated into a European language.^[31]
- Drama:
 - [The Story of the Western Wing](#) (西廂記, 西厢记 *Xīxiāngjì*), by [Wang Shifu](#) (王实甫)
 - [The Injustice to Dou E](#) (竇娥冤, 窦娥冤 *Dou E Yuan*), by [Guan Hanqing](#) (關漢卿, 关汉卿)
 - *The Jade Hairpin* (*Yuzanji* 玉簪記, 玉簪记), by [Gao Lian](#) (高濂)
 - [Hui Lan Ji](#) (灰闌記, 灰兰记), by [Li Xingdao](#) (李行道) became the basis for [The Caucasian Chalk Circle](#)
 - [The Peony Pavilion](#) (*Mudan Ting* 牡丹亭), by [Tang Xianzu](#) (湯顯祖, 汤显祖)

Modern literature

Late Qing (1895–1911)

Scholars now tend to agree that modern Chinese literature did not erupt suddenly in the [New Culture Movement](#) (1917–23). Instead, they trace its origins back at least to the late Qing period (1895–1911). The late Qing was a period of intellectual ferment sparked by a sense of national crisis. Intellectuals began to seek solutions to China's problems outside of its own tradition. They translated works of Western expository writing and literature, which enthralled readers with new ideas and opened up windows onto new exotic cultures. Most outstanding^[by whom?] were the translations of [Yan Fu](#) (严复) (1864–1921) and [Lin Shu](#) (林纾) (1852–1924). In this climate, a boom in the writing of fiction occurred, especially after the 1905 abolition of the civil service examination when literati struggled to fill new social and cultural roles for themselves. Stylistically, this fiction shows signs of both the Chinese novelistic tradition and Western narrative modes. In subject matter, it is strikingly concerned with the contemporary: social problems, historical upheaval, changing ethical values, etc. In this sense, late Qing fiction is modern. Important novelists of the period include [Wu Woyao](#) (吴沃尧) (1866–1910), [Li Boyuan](#) (李伯元) (1867–1906), [Liu E](#) (刘鹗) (1857–1909), and [Zeng Pu](#) (曾朴) (1872–1935).

The late Qing also saw a "revolution in poetry" (诗界革命), which promoted experimentation with new forms and the incorporation of new registers of language. However, the poetry scene was still dominated by the adherents to the Tongguang School (named after the [Tongzhi](#) and [Guangxu](#) reigns of the Qing), whose leaders — [Chen Yan](#) (陈衍), [Chen Sanli](#) (陈三立), [Zheng Xiaoxu](#) (郑孝胥), and [Shen Zengzhi](#) (沈曾植) — promoted a Song style in the manner of Huang Tingjian. These poets would become the objects of scorn by New Culturalists like [Hu Shi](#), who saw their work as overly allusive, artificial, and divorced from contemporary reality.

In drama, the late Qing saw the emergence of the new "civilized drama" (文明戏), a hybrid of Chinese operatic drama with Western-style spoken drama. [Peking opera](#) and "reformed Peking opera" were also popular at the time.

Republican Era (1911–1949)

The literary scene in the first few years after the collapse of the Qing in 1911 was dominated by popular love stories, some written in the classical language and some in the vernacular. This entertainment fiction would later be labeled "Mandarin Ducks and Butterfly" fiction by New Culturalists, who despised its lack of social engagement. Throughout much of the Republican era, Butterfly fiction would reach many more readers than its "progressive" counterpart.

In the course of the [New Culture Movement](#) (1917–23), the vernacular language largely displaced the classical in all areas of literature and writing. Literary reformers [Hu Shi](#) (胡適) (1891–1962) and [Chen Duxiu](#) (陳獨秀) (1880–1942) declared the classical language "dead" and promoted the vibrant vernacular in its stead. Hu Shi once said, "A dead language can never produce a living literature."^[citation needed] In terms of literary practice, [Lu Xun](#) (1881–1936) is usually said to be the first major stylist in the new vernacular prose that Hu Shi and Chen Duxiu were promoting.

Though often said to be less successful than their counterparts in fiction writing, poets also experimented with the vernacular in new poetic forms, such as free verse and the sonnet. Given that there was no tradition of writing poetry in the vernacular, these experiments were more radical than those in fiction writing and also less easily accepted by the reading public.^[by whom?] Modern poetry flourished especially in the 1930s, in the hands of poets like [Zhu Xiang](#) (朱湘), [Dai Wangshu](#) (戴望舒), [Li Jinfa](#) (李金发), Wen Yiduo (闻一多), and [Ge Xiao](#) (葛萧). Other poets, even among the [May Fourth](#) radicals (e.g., [Yu Dafu](#)), continued to write poetry in classical styles.

May Fourth radicalism, combined with changes in the education system, made possible the emergence of a large group of women writers. While there had been women writers in the late imperial period and the late Qing, they had been few in number. These writers generally tackled domestic issues, such as relations between the sexes, family, and friendship, but they were revolutionary in giving direct expression to female subjectivity. [Ding Ling](#)'s (丁玲) story "Diary of Miss Sophie" (莎菲女士日记) exposes the thoughts and feelings of its female diarist in all their complexity.

The 1920s and 1930s saw the emergence of spoken drama. Most outstanding among playwrights of the day are [Ouyuang Yuqian](#) (欧阳予倩), [Hong Shen](#) (洪深), [Tian Han](#) (田汉), and [Cao Yu](#) (曹禺).^[by whom?] More popular than this Western-style drama, however, was Peking Opera, raised to new artistic heights by the likes of [Mei Lanfang](#) (梅蘭芳).

In the late 1920s and 1930s, literary journals and societies espousing various artistic theories proliferated. Among the major writers of the period were [Guo Moruo](#) (郭沫若) (1892–1978), a poet, historian, essayist, and critic; [Mao Dun](#) (茅盾) (1896–1981), the first of the novelists to emerge from the "League of Left-Wing Writers" and one whose work reflected the revolutionary struggle and disillusionment of the late 1920s; satirist and novelist [Lao She](#) (老舍) (1899–1966); and [Ba Jin](#) (巴金) (1904–2005), a novelist whose work was influenced by [Ivan Turgenev](#) and other Russian writers. In the 1930s Ba Jin produced a trilogy that depicted the struggle of modern youth against the ageold dominance of the Confucian family system. Comparison often is made^[by whom?] between [Jia](#) (Family), one of the novels in the trilogy, and [Dream of the Red Chamber](#) (红楼梦).

Many of these writers became important as administrators of artistic and literary policy after 1949. Most of those authors who were still alive during the [Cultural Revolution](#) (1966–76) were either purged or forced to submit to public humiliation.

The League of Left-Wing Writers founded in 1930 included [Lu Xun](#) (鲁迅) among its leadership. By 1932 it had adopted the Soviet doctrine of [socialist realism](#); that is, the insistence that art must concentrate on contemporary events in a realistic way, exposing the ills of nonsocialist society and promoting a glorious future under [communism](#).

Other styles of literature were at odds with the highly-political literature being promoted by the League. The "New Sensationists" (新感觉派) – a group of writers based in [Shanghai](#) who were influenced, to varying degrees, by Western and Japanese modernism—wrote fiction that was more concerned with the unconscious and with aesthetics than with politics or social problems. Most important among these writers were [Mu Shiying](#) (穆时英), [Liu Na'ou](#) (刘呐鸥), and [Shi Zhecun](#) (施蛰存).^{[[by whom?](#)]} Other writers, including [Shen Congwen](#) (沈从文) and [Fei Ming](#) (废名), balked at the utilitarian role for literature by writing lyrical, almost nostalgic, depictions of the countryside. [Lin Yutang](#), who had studied at Harvard and Leipzig, introduced the concept of *youmo* (humor), which he used in trenchant criticism of China's political and cultural situation before leaving for the United States.

The [Communist Party of China](#) had established a base after the [Long March](#) in [Yan'an](#). The literary ideals of the League were being simplified and enforced on writers and "cultural workers." In 1942, [Mao Zedong](#) gave a series of lectures called "Talks at the Yan'an Forum on Art and Literature" that clearly made literature subservient to politics via the [Yan'an Rectification Movement](#). This document would become the national guideline for culture after the establishment of the People's Republic of China.

Maoist Era (1949–1976)

After coming to power in 1949, the Communists gradually nationalized the publishing industry, centralized the book distribution system, and brought writers under institutional control through the Writers Union. A system of strict censorship was implemented, with Mao's "Yan'an Talks" as the guiding force. Periodic literary campaigns targeted figures such as [Hu Shi](#) and [Hu Feng](#) (胡风) who did not toe the Party line on literature. Socialist realism became the uniform style. Conflict, however, soon developed between the government and the writers. The ability to satirize and expose the evils in contemporary society that had made writers useful to the [Communist Party of China](#) before its accession to power was no longer welcomed. Even more unwelcome to the party was the persistence among writers of what was deplored as "[petty bourgeois idealism](#)," "[humanitarianism](#)", and an insistence on freedom to choose subject matter. This conflict came to a head in the [Hundred Flowers Campaign](#) (1956–57). Mao Zedong encouraged writers to speak out against problems in the new society. Having learned the lessons of the anti-Hu Feng campaign, they were initially reluctant; soon, however, a flurry of

newspaper articles, films, and literary works drew attention to such problems as bureaucratism and authoritarianism within the ranks of the party. Now aware of the level of discontent toward the new regime by intellectuals, Mao decided to reverse the Hundred Flowers liberalization, a crackdown now referred to as the [Anti-Rightist Movement](#) (反右运动). Many intellectuals were attacked. At the time of the Great Leap Forward, the government increased its insistence on the use of socialist realism and combined with it so-called revolutionary realism and revolutionary romanticism. Authors were permitted to write about contemporary China, as well as other times during China's modern period—as long as it was accomplished with the desired socialist revolutionary realism.

Despite the draconian measures instituted by Mao's regime to instill literary uniformity, novels of great quality^[by whom?] were produced. Examples of this new socialist literature include *The Builder* (Chuanye Shi 创业史) by Liu Qing 柳青, *The Song of Youth* (Qing Chun Zhi Ge 青春之歌) by [Yang Mo](#) 杨沫, *Tracks in the Snowy Forest* (Lin Hai Xue Yuan 林海雪原) by [Qu Bo \(novelist\)](#) 曲波, *Keep the Red Flag Flying* (Hong Qi Pu 红旗谱) by Liang Bin 梁斌, *The Red Sun* (Hong Ri 红日) by Wu Qiang 吴强, and *Red Crag* (Hong Yan 红岩) by Luo Guangbin 罗广斌 and Yang Yiyan (杨益言).

During the [Cultural Revolution](#), the repression and intimidation led by Mao's fourth wife, [Jiang Qing](#), succeeded in drying up all cultural activity except a few "model" operas and heroic novels, such as those by [Hao Ran](#) (浩然). Although it has since been learned that some writers continued to produce in secret, during that period no significant literary work was published.

Post-Mao (1976–present)

The arrest of [Jiang Qing](#) and the other members of the [Gang of Four](#) in 1976, and especially the reforms initiated at the [Third Plenum of the Eleventh National Party Congress Central Committee](#) in December 1978, led writers to take up their pens again.

Much of the literature in what would be called the "new era" (新时期) discussed the serious abuses of power that had taken place at both the national and the local levels during the [Cultural Revolution](#). The writers decried the waste of time and talent during that decade and bemoaned abuses that had held China back. At the same time, the writers expressed eagerness to make a contribution to building Chinese society. This literature, often called "the literature of the wounded," contained disquieting views of the party and the political system. Intensely patriotic, these authors wrote cynically of the political leadership that gave rise to the extreme chaos and disorder of the Cultural Revolution. Some of them extended the blame to the entire generation of leaders and to the political system itself. The political authorities were faced with a serious problem: how could they encourage writers to criticize and discredit the abuses of the Cultural Revolution without allowing that criticism to go beyond what they considered tolerable limits?

During this period, a large number of novels and short stories were published. Literary magazines from before the Cultural Revolution were revived, and new ones were established to satisfy the appetite of the reading public. There was a special interest in foreign works. Linguists were commissioned to translate recently published foreign literature, often without carefully considering its interest for the Chinese reader. Literary magazines specializing in translations of foreign short stories became very popular, especially among the young.

These dramatic changes brought objections from some leaders in the government, literary and art circles who feared it was happening too fast. The first reaction came in 1980 with calls to combat "bourgeois liberalism," a campaign that was repeated in 1981. These two difficult periods were followed by the [Anti-Spiritual Pollution Campaign](#) in late 1983.

At the same time, writers remained more free to write in unconventional styles and to treat sensitive subject matter. A spirit of literary experimentation flourished in the second half of the 1980s. Fiction writers such as [Wang Meng](#) (王蒙), [Zhang Xinxin](#) (张辛欣), and [Zong Pu](#) (宗璞) and dramatists such as [Gao Xingjian](#) (高行健) experimented with modernist language and narrative modes. Another group of writers—collectively said to constitute the Roots (寻根) movement—including [Han Shaogong](#) (韩少功), [Mo Yan](#), and [A Cheng](#) (阿城) sought to reconnect literature and culture to [Chinese traditions](#), from which a century of modernization and cultural and political [iconoclasm](#) had severed them. Other writers (e.g., [Yu Hua](#) (余华), [Ge Fei](#) (格非), [Su Tong](#) (苏童)) experimented in a more avant-garde (先锋) mode of writing that was daring in form and language and showed a complete loss of faith in ideals of any sort.^[by whom?]

In the wake of the [Tiananmen massacre of 1989](#) and with the intensification of market reforms, literature and culture turned increasingly commercial and escapist. [Wang Shuo](#) (王朔), the so-called "hooligan" (痞子) writer, is the most obvious manifestation of this commercial shift, though his fiction is not without serious intent.^[by whom?] Some writers, such as [Yan Lianke](#) 阎连科, continue to take seriously the role of literature in exposing social problems; his novel *Dreams of Ding Village* (丁庄梦) deals with the plight of [HIV-AIDS](#) victims.

As in the May Fourth Movement, women writers flourish in present-day China. Many of them, such as [Chen Ran](#) (陈然), [Wei Hui](#) (卫慧), [Wang Anyi](#) (王安忆), and [Hong Ying](#) (虹影), explore female subjectivity in a radically changing society. Neo-realism (e.g., [Liu Heng](#) (刘恒), [Chi Li](#) (池莉), [Fang Fang](#) (方方), [He Dun](#) (何顿), and [Zhu Wen](#) (朱文)) is another important current in post-Tian'anmen fiction.

China's state-run General Administration of Press and Publication (新闻出版总署) screens all Chinese literature intended to be sold on the open market. The GAPP has the legal authority to screen, censor, and ban any print, electronic, or Internet publication in China. Because all publishers in China are required to be licensed by the GAPP, that agency also has the power to deny people the right to publish, and completely shut down any publisher who fails to follow its dictates.^[32] As a result, the ratio of official to pirated books is said to be 2:3.^[33] According to a report in *ZonaEuropa*, there are more than 4,000 underground publishing factories around China.^[32] The Chinese government continues to hold public book burnings^[34] on unapproved yet popular "spiritual pollution" literature, though critics claim this spotlight on individual titles only helps fuel booksales.^[35] Many new-generation Chinese authors who were the recipients of such government attention have been re-published in English and success in the western literary markets, namely [Zhou Weihui's](#) *Shanghai Baby*, [Anchee Min's](#) controversial memoir *Red Azalea*, *Time Magazine* banned-book covergirl Chun Sue's *Beijing Doll*, and [Mian Mian's](#) *Candy*. Online bestseller *Ghost Blows Out the Light* had to be rewritten to remove references to the supernatural before it could be released in print.^[36]

After the liberal 1980s, the 1990s saw a strong commercialization of literature due to an opening of the book market. According to [Martin Woesler](#) trends were 'cult literature' with [Guo Jingming](#) (郭敬明), 悲伤逆流成河 *Cry me a sad river*, vagabond literature with [Xu Zechen](#) (徐则臣), 跑步穿过中关村 *Peking double quick*, [Liu Zhenyun](#) (刘震云), 我叫刘跃进 *The pickpockets*, underground literature [Mian Mian](#) (棉棉), 声名狼籍 *Panda Sex*, 'longing for something' literature, divided in historicizing literature with [Yu Dan](#) 于丹, 《论语》心得 *Confucius in your heart*, [Yi Zhongtian](#) (易中天) and in Tibetan literature with [Alai](#), literature of the mega cities, women's literature with [Bi Shumin](#) (毕淑敏), 女儿拳 *Women's boxing*, 女心理师 *The female psychologist*, master narratives by narrators like [Mo Yan](#) 莫言 with 生死疲勞 *Life and Death are Wearing me out*.^[37]

However Chinese literature at the beginning of the 21st century shows signs of overcoming the commercialization of literature of the 1980s and 1990s. An example is [Han Han's](#) (韩寒) novel 他的国 *His land* (2009), which was written in a social critical surrealist style against the uncritical mainstream, but ranked 1st in 2009 Chinese bestseller list.^[38]

In the new millennium, online literature in China plays a much more important role than in the United States or in the rest of the world.^[39] Almost any book is available online, novels finding millions of readers, being available at 2 Yuan in average, a tenth of the average price of a printed book.^[40] Online literature stars are, amongst others, again [Han Han](#) and [Guo Jingming](#).^[41]

Chinese language literature also flourishes in the diaspora—in [South East Asia](#), the [United States](#), and [Europe](#). China is the largest publisher of books, magazines and newspapers in the world.^{[[citation needed](#)]} In book publishing alone, some 128,800 new titles of books were published in 2005, according to the General Administration of Press and Publication. There are more than 600 literary journals across the country. Living and writing in [France](#) but continuing to write primarily in Chinese, [Gao Xingjian](#) became the first Chinese writer to receive the [Nobel Prize for Literature](#) in 2000.

Book market



Inside Chongwen Book City, a large bookstore in [Wuhan](#).

China buys many foreign book rights; nearly 16 million copies of the sixth book of the [Harry Potter](#) series were sold in Chinese translation. As *China Book Review* reported, the rights to 9,328 foreign titles – including many children's books – went to China in 2007. China was nominated as a *Guest of Honour* at the [Frankfurt Bookfair](#) in 2009. ^{[2][3]}

The book market in China traditionally orders books during bookfairs, because the country lacks a national book ordering system. In 2006, 6.8 million titles were sold, not including an unknown number of banned titles, bootleg copies and underground publishing factories. Seven percent of all publishers are located in Shanghai. Because the industry lacks a national distribution system, many titles from publishers in the provinces can only be found there.

The central publishing houses belonging to ministries or (other) government institutions have their main seat at Beijing (40 percent of all publishers). Most regional publishing houses are situated in the capitals of the provinces. Universities also have associated presses. Private publishing is tolerated. 220,000 books were published in 2005. Among 579 publishers – almost five times more than thirty years ago – 225 are supervised by ministries, commissions or the army; 348 are controlled by agencies; and six are even

more independent. On the other hand 100,000 private bookstores bring in the half of the income of the book industry.^[42]

In 2005, the Chinese government started a sponsoring program for translations of government-approved Chinese works, which has already resulted in more than 200 books being translated from Chinese into another language.

[Shanda Literature Ltd.](#) is an online publishing company that claims to publish 8,000 Chinese literary works daily.

Women and Chinese literature

Early female writers

Cai, or literary talent, is an attribute describing profound lyricism, deep intellectuality and analytic skill.^[43] Although it was acknowledged that both women and men possessed *cai*, the phrase *nuren wucai bian shi de* 女人無才便是德 (for women, lack of literary talent is a virtue)^[43] summarizes the dominant sentiment that the literary field was traditionally a domain for men. Despite this belief, works authored by women play an integral part throughout Chinese history. There were a number of women writers prior to the 20th century who were respected by the intelligentsia of their era, even if much of their work was considered less important than men's work in general.^[44] Female writers helped to bring forth themes such as romance, marriage, gender roles and the politics surrounding women.

The first women recorded in biography and bibliography were poets.^[44] The aesthetic nature of poetry was highly regarded, while fiction was viewed as an avenue taken because of a failed career or commercial venture.^[44] A marked increase in female literacy took place during the Late Imperial Era. One of the more notable poets of this time was [Mao Xiuhui](#), a 16th century poet that used the plight of her husband's failed attempt at gaining a position as civil servant to write a poem that draws parallels between the male and female as they suffer hardships in the political and domestic arenas respectively. Other notable female poets in Chinese history were [Gao Zhixian](#), [Xue Tao](#), and [Li Qingzhao](#)

20th century writers and feminism

The beginning of the century marked a period of growing unrest for women as the feminist movement took hold. Women of this period were faced with the dilemma of protesting oppressive ideals stemming from Confucian ideology or remaining true to their family and maintaining peace and order. Literary discourse at the time was highly influenced by this social movement. Women writers of the time authored works reflecting the feminist sentiment and the issues that came with revolution.^[45] [Zhang Ailing](#), [Lu Yin](#),

Shi Pingmei and [Ding Ling](#), were four of the most influential feminist writers of the time. In the 1920s and 1930s, [Freudian psychoanalysis](#) gained favor with Chinese feminists looking to study gender relationships, thus becoming a topic of many feminist writers throughout the early and mid portions of the 20th century.^[45]

When Mao came to power in 1949, he addressed the issue of women's rights and tried to establish women's equality through the "iron girls" of national development ideal.^[45] Through this philosophy, long-standing practices such as [foot binding](#), [prostitution](#) and trafficking of women were abolished. Women were given the opportunity to own land, divorce, and join the military and other employment fields.^[46] The establishment of this ideology, however, did not liberate women; instead, it undermined the feminine voice by forcing women to take a male-oriented stance on public and domestic policy.^[45] Literature authored during this time reflects the restrictive and masculine perspective of women writers during this period.^[45] This "[Mulanian](#)" style of writing submerged true feminine identity, rendering the female perspective neglected and hidden in the male dominated political and aesthetic arenas.^[47] There were some exceptions to this rule, such as [Yuan Qiongqiong](#), who wrote about women's issues and how much women could accomplish without men.

Some modern Chinese writers

- [Wang Tao](#) (王韜) (1828–1897)
- [Yan Fu](#) (嚴復) (1853–1924)
- [Liu E](#) (劉鶚) (1857–1909)
- [Liang Qichao](#) (梁啟超) (1873–1929)
- [Wang Guowei](#) (王國維) (1877–1927)
- [Hu Shi](#) (胡適) (1891–1962)
- [Su Manshu](#) (蘇曼殊) (1894–1918)
- [Lu Xun](#) (魯迅) (1881–1936)
- [Liang Shiqiu](#) (梁實秋) (1903–1987)
- [Xu Dishan](#) (許地山) (1893–1941)
- [Ye Shengtao](#) (葉聖陶) (1894–1988)
- [Lin Yutang](#) (林語堂) (1895–1976)
- [Mao Dun](#) (茅盾) (1896–1981)
- [Xu Zhimo](#) (徐志摩) (1896–1936)

- [Yu Dafu](#) (郁達夫) (1896–1945)
- [Wang Tongzhao](#) (王統照) (1897–1957)
- [Guo Moruo](#) (郭沫若) (1892–1978)
- [Lao She](#) (老舍) (1897–1966)
- [Zhu Ziqing](#) (朱自清) (1898–1948)
- [Tian Han](#) (田漢) (1898–1968)
- [Feng Zikai](#) (豐子愷) (1898–1975)
- [Wen Yiduo](#) (聞一多) (1899–1946)
- [Bing Xin](#) (冰心) (1900–1999)
- [Ba Jin](#) (巴金) (1904–2005)
- [Shen Congwen](#) (沈從文) (1902–1988)
- [Cao Yu](#) (曹禺) (1905–1996)
- [Qian Zhongshu](#) (錢鍾書) (1910–1988)
- [He Qifang](#) (何其芳) (1912–1977)
- [Lin Haiyin](#) (林海音) (1918–2001)
- [Eileen Chang](#) (張愛玲) (1920–1995)
- [Qu Bo \(novelist\)](#) (曲波) (1922–2002)
- [Wang Xiaobo](#) (王小波) (1952–1997)
- [Wang Zengqi](#) (汪曾祺) (1920–1997)
- [Bai Xianyong](#) (白先勇) (1937—)
- [Bei Dao](#) (北島) (1949—)
- [Cong Weixi](#) (從維熙) (1933—)
- [Jinyong](#) (金庸), The pen name of living Chinese author Louis Cha, the best selling living Chinese author^[48]
- [Mo Yan](#) (莫言) (1955—)
- [Su Tong](#) (蘇童) (1963—)

- [Ma Jian](#) (馬建) (1953—)
- [Tie Ning](#) (鐵凝) (1957—)
- [Gao Xingjian](#) (高行健), recipient of the [Nobel Prize in Literature](#) 2000 (1940—)
- [Yang Mu](#) (楊牧) (1940—)
- [Zhang Xianliang](#) (張賢亮) (1936—)
- [Chiung Yao](#) (琼瑤) (1938—)
- [Chen Zhongshi](#) (陳忠實) (1942—)

Overseas Chinese literature

- [You Jin](#), Singapore

Others

Chinese writers writing in English:

- [Ha Jin](#) (金雪飞) (1956—)
- [Lien Chao](#) (1950—)
- [Chiang Yee](#) (1903–1977)

Chinese writers writing in French:

- [Chen Jitong](#) (陳季同) (1852–1907)
- [François Cheng](#) (程抱一) (1929—)
- [Dai Sijie](#) (戴思杰) (1954—)
- [Shan Sa](#) (山飒) (1972—)

Chinese writer writing in Indonesian:

- [Kho Ping Hoo](#) (1926–1994)

See also



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中文

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- [Chen prophecy](#)

Notes

1. [^](#) Needham, Volume 3, 500–501.
2. [^](#) Ebrey (2006), 272.
3. [^](#) Cai 2008, p. 13 et seq., Chapter 1
4. [^](#) Lin and Owen 1986, pp. 342–343 regarding *xing*; Cai 2008, p. 8, 43 on *bixing*, and p. 113 on the development and expansion of *bixing* after its *Shijing* beginnings
5. [^](#) Cai 2008, p. 36 et seq., Chapter 2
6. [^](#) Cai 2008, p. 59 et seq., Chapter 3
7. [^](#) Cai 2008, p. 103 et seq., Chapter 5
8. [^](#) Lin and Owen 1986, pp. 346–347
9. [^](#) Lin and Owen 1986, p. 136
10. [^](#) Watson 1971, pp. 69–70

11. [^](#) Lin and Owen 1986, p. 125
12. [^](#) Cai 2008, pp. 121–129
13. [^](#) Lin and Owen 1986, p. 158
14. [^](#) Contemporary criticism by Watson 1971, "stilted," "effete," "trying" at p. 105, "weakness," "banality," "badness of style," "triviality," "repetitiousness," "beyond recovery" at p. 107, "ridiculous" at p. 108; Tang Dynasty criticism by Li Bai at Lin and Owen 1986, p. 164
15. [^](#) Watson 1971, pp. 169–172
16. [^](#) Cheng 1982, p. 37, and pp. 56–57 on the non-linear dynamic this creates
17. [^](#) Watson 1971, pp. 141–153 generally; Cheng 1982, p. 65 and Cai 2008, p. 226 regarding *gutishi* and *jintishi*
18. [^](#) Lin and Owen 1986, pp. 316–317, p. 325 regarding *jueju*; Watson 1971, pp. 172–173 on plainness in Wang Wei; more generally, taking from the above reference to *bi* and *xing*, the objectivity of depicting nature has a conventional carryover to depicting emotion, for example by explicitly depicting the poet's own shed tears as if from a detached point of view
19. [^](#) Watson 1971, pp. 153–169 generally; Lin and Owen 1986, p. 375 et seq., particularly regarding use of the seven-character line
20. [^](#) Liu 1962, pp. 137–141
21. [^](#) Lin and Owen 1986, p. 375
22. [^](#) Watson 1984, p. 353 on Dunhuang Caves discovery; Cai 2008, pp. 248–249
23. [^](#) Cai 2008, p. 245 et seq., Chapters 12–14
24. [^](#) Chaves 1986, p. 7 on Ming advocates of Tang superiority; Cai 2008, p. 308, "it has long been fashionable, ever since the Song itself, for poets and critics to think of the poetry of the Song as stylistically distinct from that of the Tang, and to debate its merits relative to the earlier work."
25. [^](#) Cai 2008, p. 329 et seq., Chapter 16
26. [^](#) Cai 2008, p. 354 et seq., Chapter 17; Cai 2008, p. 376 fn. 2 notes effort to compile complete collection of Ming poetry began in 1990
27. [^](#) Chaves 1986, pp. 8–9
28. [^](#) The novel *Dream of the Red Chamber* has many examples of competitive poetic composition but most apt is the drinking game after dinner at Feng Ziyang's in Chapter 28, which includes each guest composing a line apiece about a girl's sorrow, worry, joy, and delight; transposing the real to the fantastic, Chapter 64 of *Journey*

- to the West includes an otherworldly competition between the pilgrim monk and four immortal tree spirits
29. [^] [Attesting to the debate's survival](#) a previous version of this page contained the assertion (to which a Wikipedia editor asked "by whom?"): "Subsequent writers of classical poetry lived under the shadow of their Tang predecessors, and although there were many poets in subsequent dynasties, none reached the level of this period."
 30. [^] Chaves 1986, p. 6, "The sheer quantity of Ming poetry, the quality of so much of it, and its stylistic richness and diversity all cry out for serious attention."
 31. [^] Liu, Wu-Chi (1953). "The Original Orphan of China". *Comparative Literature* 5 (3): 193. [JSTOR 1768912](#).
 32. [^] ^a ^b ["General Administration of Press and Publication"](#). CECC. Retrieved 2008-09-05.
 33. [^] ["The Underground Publishing Industry in China"](#). ZoneEuropa. Retrieved 2008-09-05.
 34. [^] ["Afterthoughts on the Banning of "Shanghai Baby""](#). Archived from [the original](#) on 2008-04-20. Retrieved 2008-09-05.
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 36. [^] ["The Chinese Novel Finds New Life Online"](#), Aventurina King, *Wired*, August 17, 2007
 37. [^] Martin Woesler, *Chinese contemporary literature - authors, works, trends – A snap-shot 2007/2008*, Munich 2008, 267 pp.
 38. [^] Martin Woesler, *Chinese cultic literature 2008/2009 - authors, works, trends*, Munich 2009, 127 pp.
 39. [^] [\[1\]](#)
 40. [^] [Isabel Xiang, "Chinese Popular Author Eyes Profits Online", in: APPREB \(December 2008\)](#); 彭文波 Peng Wenbo, 赵晓芳 Zhao Xiaofang, "新媒体时代的博客传播与图书出版研究 Blogs and Book Publication in New Media Era", 《出版科学》 Publishing Journal, 2007年 第15卷 第04期, 期刊 ISSN : 1009-5853(2007)04-0068-04, 2007, issue 4, page 68-70, 84; 2007-04
 41. [^] Michel Hockx, in: Cambridge History of Chinese Literature, 2010; Martin Woesler, in: European Journal of Sinology (2010) 88-97
 42. [^] [Zeitung zur Buchmesse,FAZ 19.10.2008, S. 22 \(PDF; 12,15 MB\)](#)

43. ^ [a](#) [b](#) Larson, W. (1998). *Women and Writing in Modern China*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press.
44. ^ [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) Chang, K.S. & Saussy, H. (Eds.). (1999). *Women writers of traditional china: An anthology of poetry and criticism*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press. pp.1–44.
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