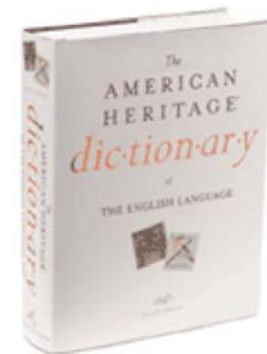
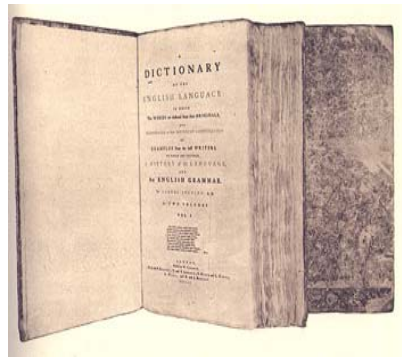


Quality and Material Form: Where are "books" online?



Geoff Nunberg
IS 218
Quality of Information
10/10/07



Books? Where we're going we don't *need* books.

A clash of fetishisms

"Nobody is going to sit down and read a novel on a twitchy little screen. Ever." — E. Annie Proulx

"Paper is just an object that [some] information has been sprayed onto in the past..." — Ted Nelson





Books? Where we're going we don't need books.

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--> What do you want to be playing with in your lap when you go to bed at night?



"Twitchy little screens" and the future of the book

This is a story about the future of reading.

With Microsoft Reader, the future of reading is clear.

It all begins here.

How will Microsoft Reader revolutionize publishing? Time will tell.

2000 Microsoft Reader debuts

2009 E-books begin to outsell paper

2016 Last print newspaper

2020 Dictionary definition of *book* changes

2019 Paper books remain popular among collectors...

2000 Microsoft Reader debuts

2009 E-books begin to outsell paper

2016 Last print newspaper

2020 Dictionary definition of *book* changes

2019 Paper books remain popular among collectors...

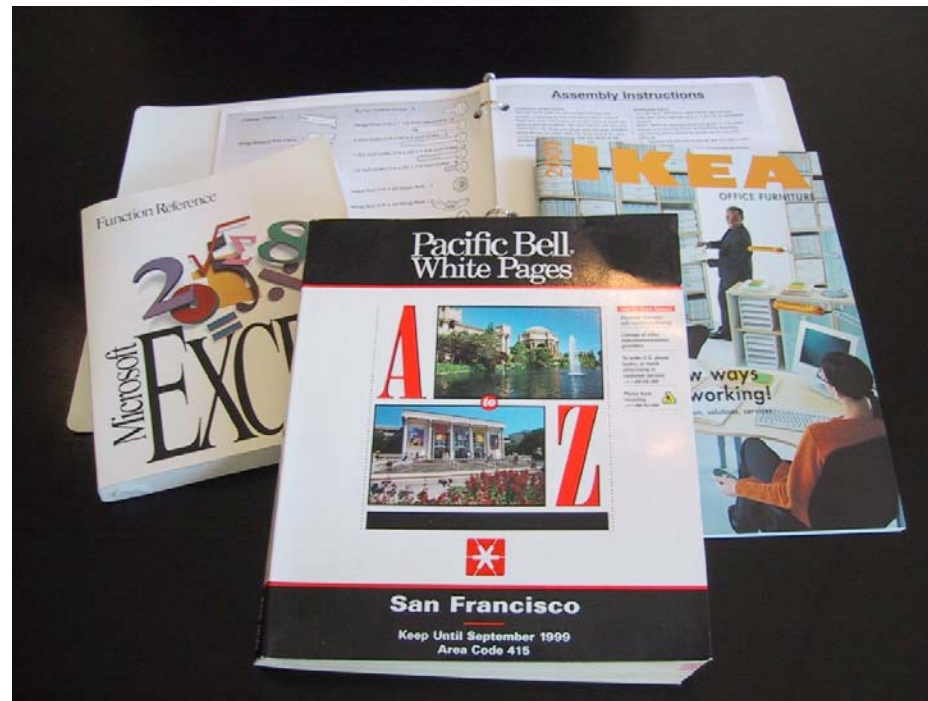


Debates over the book

Much of the discussion seems to be about whether, and if so when, e-books will replace traditional print-on-paper books, and a great deal of the debate is infused with sentimental appeals to reading on the beach or in the bath, the joys of finely printed books, and of browsing in good bookstores.
Cliff Lynch

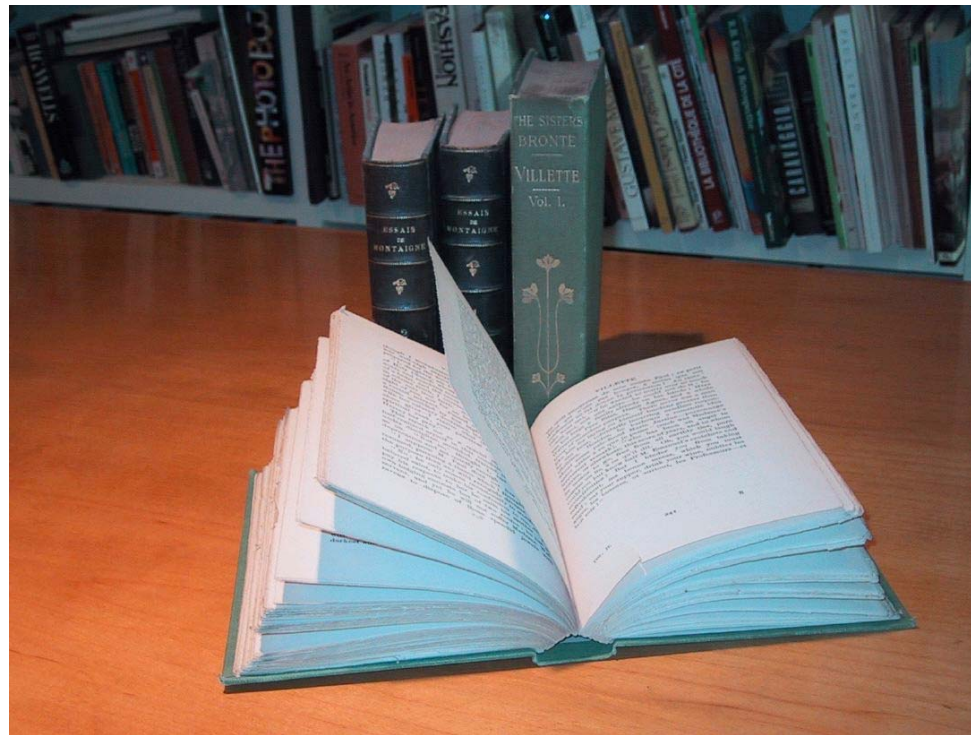


books. . .





♦ ♦ ♦ *The Book*





... and my books





The perils of supercession: "Ceci tuera cela"

The archdeacon silently considered the giant edifice, then with a sigh extended his right hand toward the book that was open on the table and his left hand toward Notre-Dame, casting a sad look from the book to the church. "Alas," he said, "This will kill that."





Complicating the story

Ceci doesn't often kill cela -- more like nudges it aside a bit...

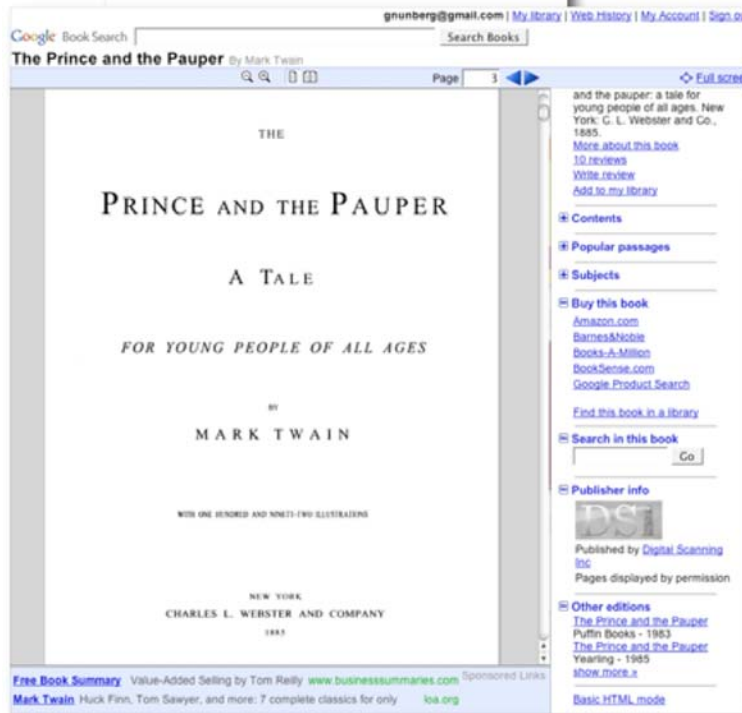
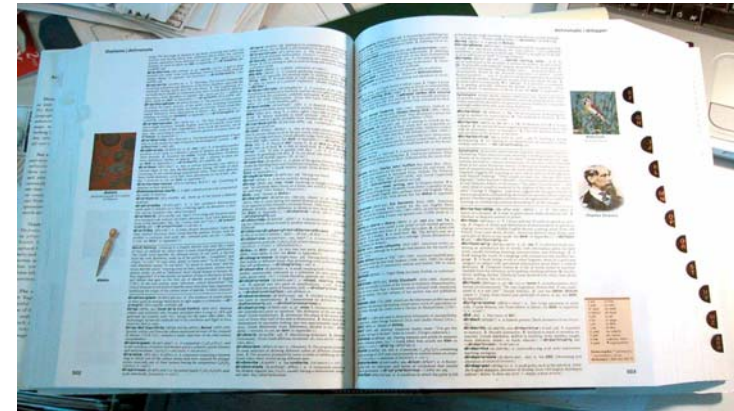
The sentimentally framed questions about digital books and electronic devices replacing printed books are largely irrelevant, an artificial and distracting controversy. Both can and undoubtedly will co-exist for a long time to come and will find their appropriate audiences and market niches. CL



Complicating the story

The real issues are more fundamental: how do we think of books in the digital world, and how will books behave? How will we be able to use them, to share them, and to refer to them? In particular, what are our expectations about the persistence and permanence of human communication as embodied in books as we enter the brave new digital world? Will our thinking be dominated by the conventions and business models of print publishing (and the current power relationships among publishers, readers, and authors), and by our cultural practices, consumer expectations, legal frameworks and social norms related to books, or will we discard these traditions...? CL

What is a book? Primary and Secondary Representations





Further Complications: What is "essentially" a book?

Certain specific genres have been a great success in electronic forms, and these are rapidly displacing printed products. For example, bibliographies, abstracting and indexing guides, citation indexes, dictionaries, encyclopedias, directories, product catalogs, and maintenance manuals for complex systems such as aircraft work well in digital form. In a sense, by moving to the digital medium we have been able to understand these kinds of works more deeply, and to bring out their essence.

CL



Further Complications: What is "essentially" a book?

We can also learn from what has happened as scholarly journals, newspapers, and magazines have moved to electronic form. These shifts have been relatively successful in that the electronic versions have found substantial readership, but they aren't yet displacing the print products. The "unit" of reading in such works ranges from a page or so (a newspaper column) to a few dozen pages (for a typical journal article). Basically, the printed form has been translated rather literally into an electronic representation for these kinds of content... Numerous studies in university settings [6] have discovered what people do with these electronic offerings: They use the online (or other computer-based version) to browse, to do quick checking, to decide what they do and do not want to read carefully. But if the piece is over a few screens in length, they *print* the article for reading. In essence, they are using paper - a mature, robust, and exquisitely effective viewing technology - as their preferred user interface for reading.



Where does "bookness" inhere?

content and form

book, AHD: 1. A set of written, printed, or blank pages fastened along one side and encased between protective covers. 2a. A printed or written literary work.



Where does "bookness" inhere?

Other distinctions: mode of diffusion,
circulation, reproduction, etc.

E.g., distribute-&-print vs. print-&-
distribute





Why do some genres "resist" digitization?

The reading experience? Books and the body

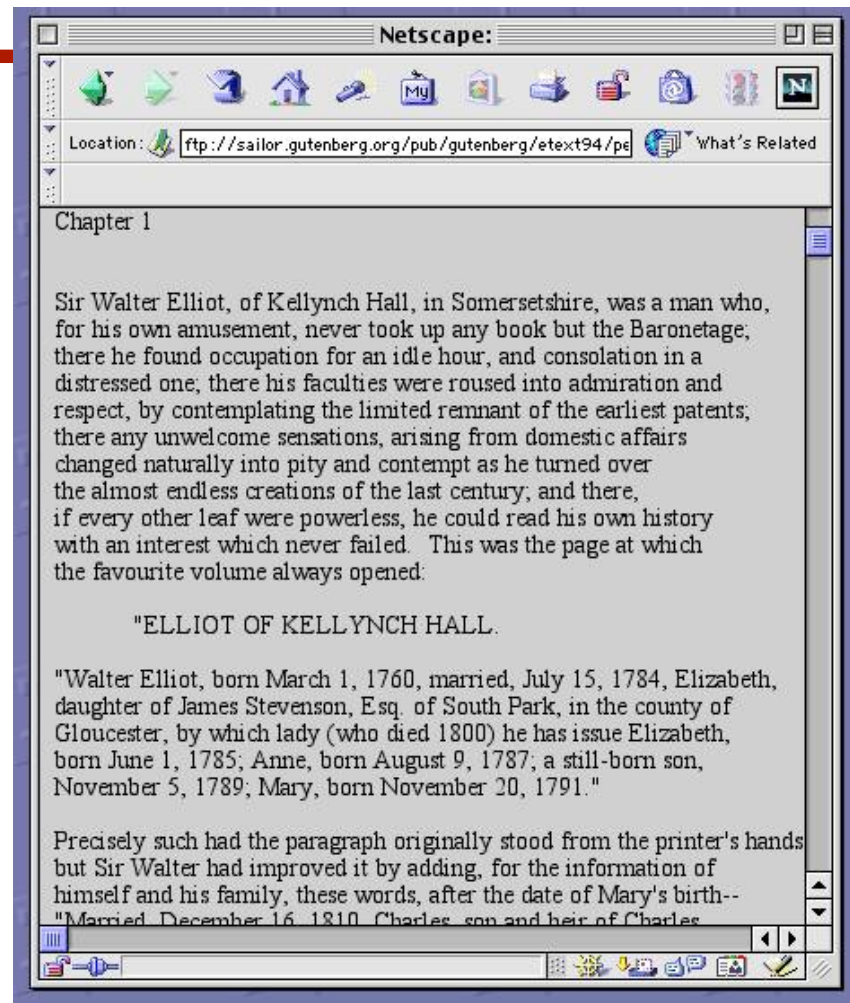


"My readers... will see in the tell-tale compression of the pages before them, that we are all hastening together to perfect felicity."

Jane Austen, in the final chapter of *Northanger Abbey*



Reading Jane Austen Online: Like touring Hampshire through a bombsight



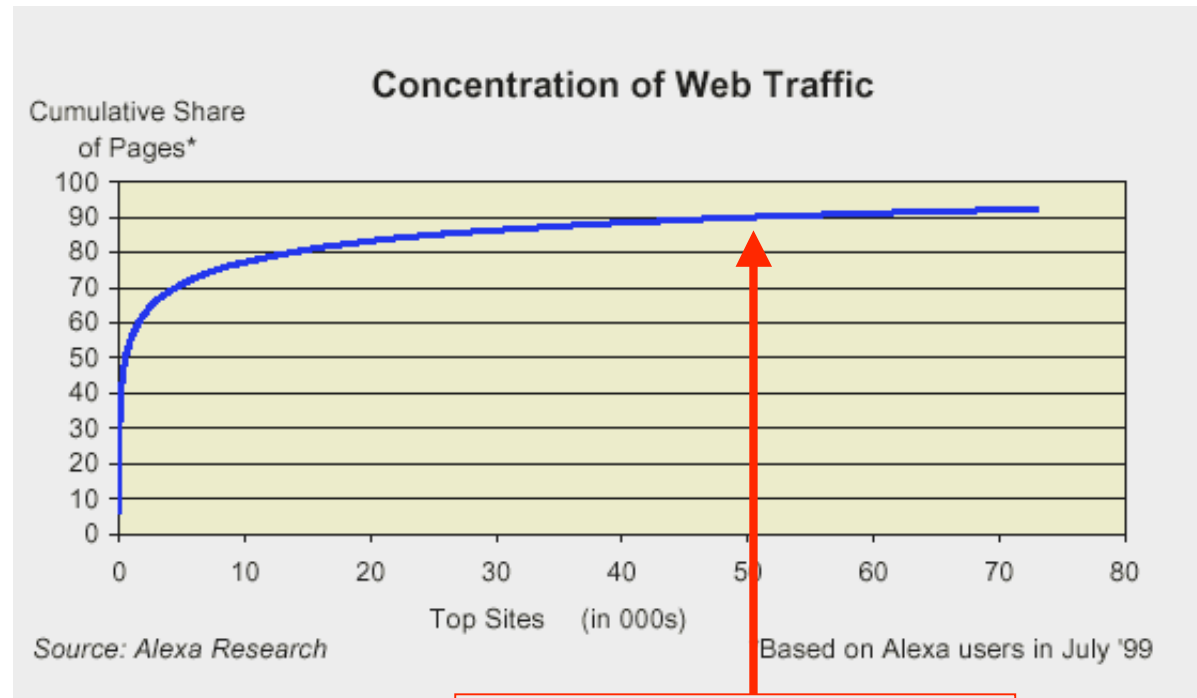


Some Cases in Point: 1. Journal vs Monograph

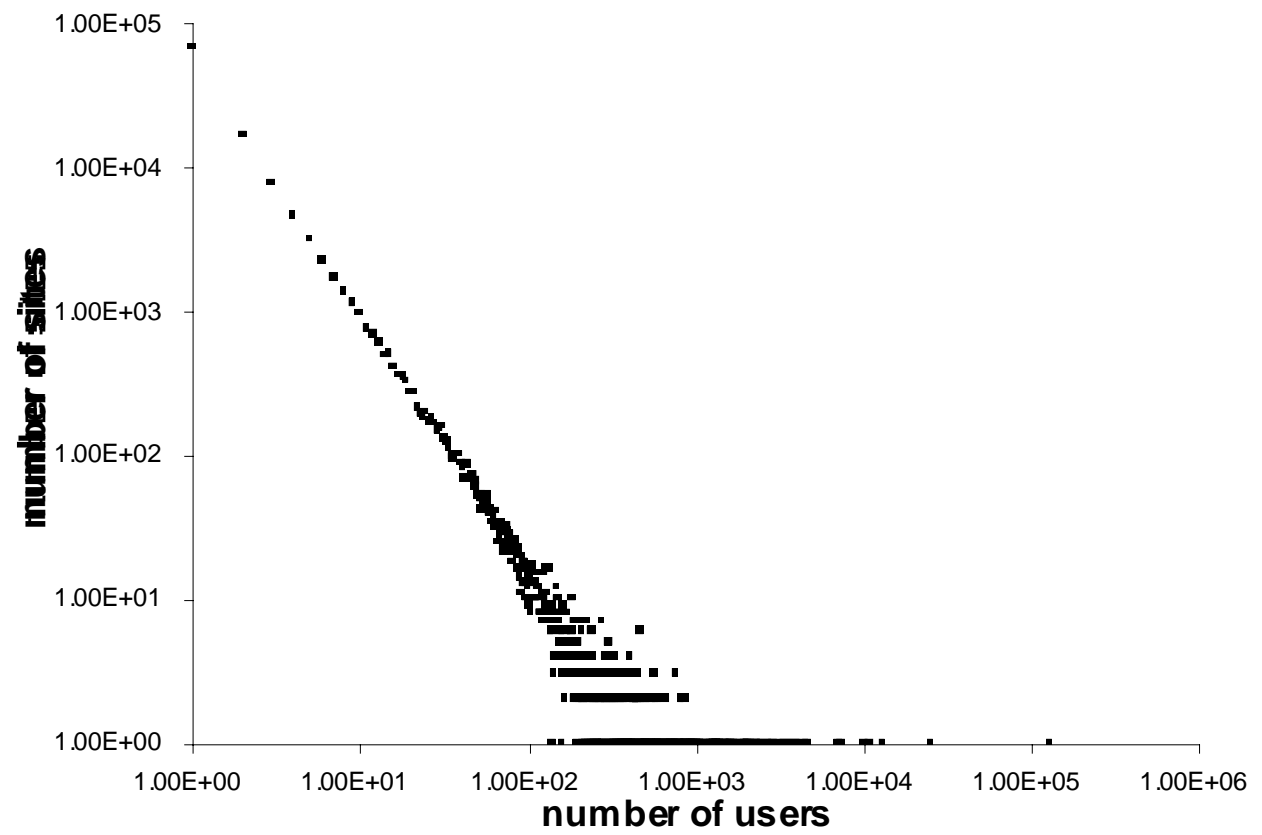




A Puzzle about University Press Publishing

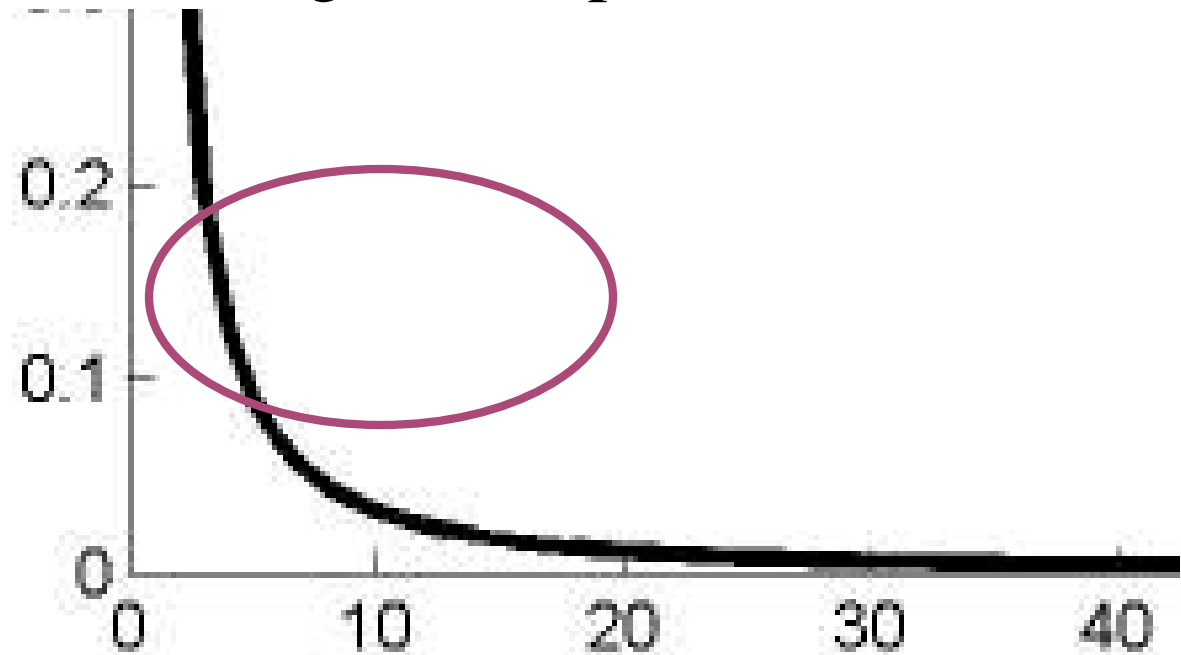


Top 1 % of sites



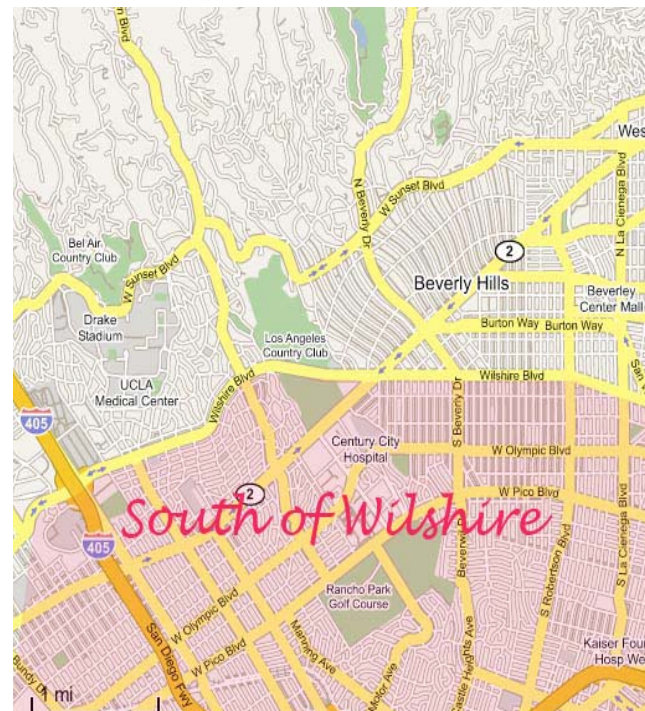


Where the action is:
The middle range of the powerlaw curve





Where the Web Has the Biggest Effect





The Biggest Gains for the Middle Range

North of Wilshire

English

Steven Spielberg

Madonna

First-run trade publishers

South of Wilshire

Hungarian

Erich Rohmer

Carlos Varela

Book resellers

Small presses...

But not the scholarly monograph...



The Crisis of University Publishing

The endangered monograph

“University Printing Presses exist ... for the purpose of producing books that no-one can read.” *Microcosmographia Academica*, 1908

Print runs decline from 3000 in 1960's to <700 by 2000.



Journals Have Less Serious Problems than Monographs

Journals

Can be read online or printed by individual readers

Authors skilled at editorial preparation

Production uses templates

Predictable print runs

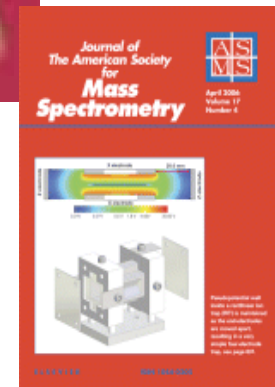
Appeal to general disciplinary community

One-time purchase decisions

Lower marketing costs per sale

Each annual renewal adds value

Increased costs can be passed along to libraries





But monographs haven't benefitted...

Monographs

Authors require more editorial help

Production process is usually unique for each title (in US)

Unpredictable print runs -- overruns & underruns common

Each title appeals to a unique audience

Separate purchase decisions for each title

Increases marketing costs per sale

Reprintings do not add value

Squeezed by diminishing library budgets for monograph purchases, availability of titles from online resellers





But monographs haven't benefitted...

Monographs

Difficult to read online,
awkward to print by individual
readers





The Crisis of University Publishing

"The calculus is stark: find more money, reduce the demand to publish monographs, or greatly reduce the cost per monograph somehow."

"The Specialized Scholarly Monograph in Crisis," Clifford Lynch, Director, Coalition for Networked Initiatives



"Find More Money"

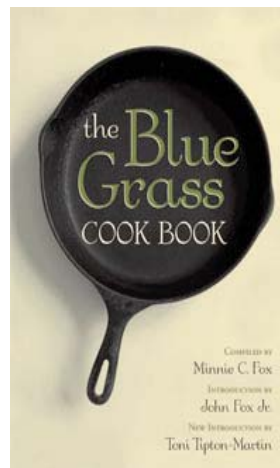
Proposals to add publishing subventions to faculty compensations

But seems to turn university presses into vanity presses

Concentrate on "hot" topics or expand UP offerings into midlist trade publishing & fiction



Indiana U.



U. Of Kentucky



U. of Florida



"Find More Money"

Absorb university press into library

e.g., Rice, Georgetown, Tennessee

Libraries have bigger budgets, more extensive infrastructure and specialized staff. Easier for libraries to get grants & subventions.

UP backlist becomes part of library's digitization program.

Libraries will assume key role in building computational infrastructure for the social sciences and humanities. UP's may play a role as well.



Lowering the costs of monograph publishing

Consolidating sales, marketing, distribution
(but not of editorial process)

Redesigning and automating workflow &
order processing

Doing less editing

Marketing online

All of these have been attempted, sometimes
with modest effects on publication costs



Lowering the costs of monograph publishing

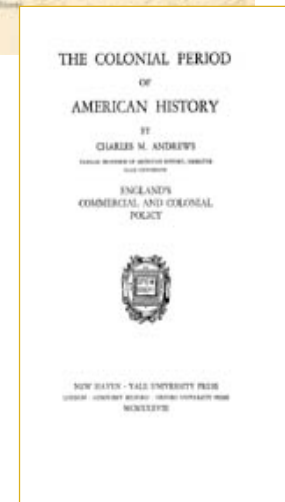
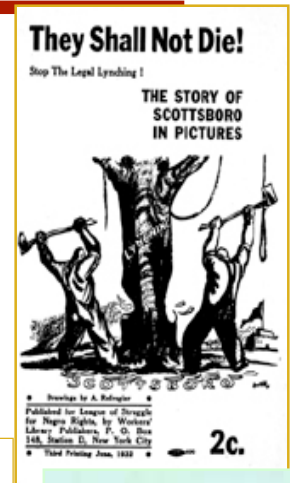
Lowering Costs of Production & Distribution

Print-on-demand reduces overstock, inventory costs; preserves "thud factor"

Cf. Harvard Bus. School case studies, U.Mich dissertations, etc.)

Print-on-demand at libraries, copy centers, etc.

Driven by increasing availability of digitized archival materials (e.g., ACLS history e-book project, Google print, Internet Archive)



ACLS History E-Book Project



American Council of Learned Societies
HISTORY E-BOOK PROJECT

save citation
view my citations
view search history

search browse help home terms

title record contents reviews search this book page 9

Cairo : 1001 years of the city victorious
Abu-Lughod, Janet L. Princeton University Press, 1971.

The Nile valley at Cairo is relatively narrow, but its usable width was once even narrower. Unchanged through the centuries are the two low mountain ridges whose sudden escarpments fix the boundary of the valley bed. The ridge which divides valley from desert on the western extremity follows a relatively smooth course, on a line even with the locations of the ancient pyramids of Jizah and Saqqara. While a fairly wide alluvial plain presently stretches between these higher lands and the now-stable banks of the river several miles to the east, much of this plain had but a periodic existence in the past. In pharaonic times, the granite used for many of Memphis' monuments was floated down the Nile from the quarries of Aswan during the flood season, when the river's swelling brought water to the gates of the city. During the dry season, receding waters left a wide strip of rich river-bed land which was cultivated until the next flood.

On the eastern side of the river the width of this flood plain was not nearly so generous in earlier times, nor is the ridge dividing valley from desert so even and simply formed. Rather, the break between the two is achieved through a series of southeast to northwest projections. Instead of following a due north-south direction parallel to the present course of the river, the ridges take a southwest to northeast direction. What remains is a cone-shaped valley, narrowest at the southern extremity and becoming increasingly broader to the north, blending finally with the larger Delta. The apex of that inverted pyramid, where the low steps of the mountain projections approach the river, was the site of ancient Babylon.

Most of contemporary Cairo is built on land which by either permanently or periodically submerged under the river in the seventh century. Map I, adapted from Haswell,¹⁴ shows the land which has been added to Cairo since 800. As early as the tenth century, natural silting began to build up the land below water level. Later, diversion of flood waters, at first through a system of canals and ponds and later by complex dam storage upstream, finally permitted the emergence of much of the land on which modern Cairo stands. Map II, adapted from Haswell¹⁵ and Clerget,¹⁶ summarizes the topological and riverine features which underlie the natural history of Cairo.

The growth and expansion of the city of Cairo from the first small nucleus at Babylon to the sprawling giant of today can be understood only by tracing the interplay between socio-political and physical developments since the time of 'Ame in the seventh century. Indeed, the ecological organization of the contemporary city appears confused and utterly capricious to an observer who fails to understand its previous natural and cultural history.

¹⁴C.J.R. Haswell, "Cairo, Origin and Development. Some Notes on the Influence of the River Nile and its Changes," *Bulletin de la Société Royale de Géographie d'Égypte*, Tome 20, No. 3 & 4 (December 1921), pp. 271-276; four plates, of which Plate II is particularly helpful. Mr. Haswell was for years the British Director-General of the Tawfik department.

¹⁵Ibid., Plates II and III.

¹⁶Clerget, *Le Caire*, v. 45.



Landmarks:
A. Fustat
B. Khelt Alkali
C. Fârimid al-Qâhira
D. Binkar Azbukiyah
E. Binkar al-Fil

9

Collaboration of American Council of Learned Societies, 75 participating publishers, U. of Michigan

Publishes 250 previous published titles in history annually, as selected by advisory board, along with reviews, etc.

Publishes new titles in XML format, with links to supporting materials, source materials, etc.

Texts are OCR'd, permit searching.

Texts available to subscribing libraries for onscreen viewing or print-on-demand. Royalties paid to authors according to downloads or page views.

Soon to be extended to religion, art history, musicology, etc.



Aggregating Distribution

For monographs, print-on-demand can only reduce costs moderately, but permits aggregation of monographs into series



Aggregating Monograph Distribution

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the Oxford Scholarship Online website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.oxfordscholarship.com/oso/public/>. The website features a navigation menu with links for 'About OSO', 'What's New', 'Subscriber Services', 'Help', 'Contact Us', and 'LOG IN'. Below the navigation menu, there are tabs for 'TITLES', 'SUBJECTS', and 'AUTHORS'. A 'Quick Search' box is visible on the left side, along with a 'Search' button and a link to 'Advanced Search'. The main content area displays a banner for 'Oxford University Press' with the text 'Welcome to Oxford Scholarship Online'. Below the banner, there is a paragraph describing the service: 'Combining excellence with innovation, Oxford Scholarship Online is a unique service and invaluable tool for online research and teaching. For the first time many of the important scholarly books published by Oxford University Press in the humanities and social sciences are available online.' Another paragraph follows: 'Oxford Scholarship Online currently has four subject modules – Philosophy, Religion, Economics and Finance, and Political Science – and offers over 700 complete and fully searchable books, with at least 200 titles to be added each year. Most works within these subjects have specially commissioned keywords and book and chapter abstracts to aid accurate and relevant searching.' The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows several open applications, including 'ANU Programs', 'Inbox - Microsoft Outlook', 'HRC Future of Scholarly B...', and 'Oxford Scholarship On...'. The system clock indicates the time is 3:51 PM.

1200 texts,
searchable, with
linked footnotes etc.
Available by
subscription



University Scholarship Repositories

The image shows two overlapping browser windows from Microsoft Internet Explorer. The left window displays the main homepage of the eScholarship Repository. The right window shows a search results page for the same repository.

Left Window (Homepage):

- Address bar: <http://escholarship.cdlib.org/>
- Header: **Scholarship** Scholar-led innovations in scholarly communication. CDL logo.
- Navigation: Feedback, About Us, Site Index.
- Left sidebar: UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA eScholarship Repository. Author and reader services for rapid dissemination of scholarship.
- Center: A globe with a classical statue's head. Overlaid text boxes include: UCIAS Papers, Tobacco Control, ECAI Interactive Publications, About eScholarship, eScholarship Repository, Peer-Reviewed Articles & Journals, and eScholarship Editions.
- Footer: an initiative of the California Digital Library.

Right Window (Search Results):

- Address bar: /escholarship/
- Header: UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA eScholarship Repository. CDL logo.
- Text: search and scholarship by [unit, center, or department] and peer-reviewed series.
- Text: 2689 papers
- Form: [] Go
- Text: Most downloads of repository last week.
- Text: is a service of the eScholarship
- Right sidebar: paper of the day. Tobacco Explained...The truth about the tobacco industry...in its own words by Clive Bates and Andy Rowell. Tobacco Control, University of California.

The taskbar at the bottom shows several open applications: ANU Programs, Inbox - Microsoft Outlook, HRC Future of Scholarship, eScholarship - Microsoft Internet Explorer, and Open Access Initiatives. The system clock shows 4:03 PM and 4:00 PM.



University Scholarship Repositories

DSpace at Cornell University: Internet-First University Press - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by CAS

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites History Print Mail Address

File Links About.com http--www.jkautographs.co.uk- Australian Frequent Flyer Bulletin Board

DSpace™ CORNELL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Search DSpace: Go [Advanced Search](#)

[Home](#)

Browse

- [Communities & Collections](#)
- [Titles](#)
- [Authors](#)
- [By Date](#)

Internet-First University Press

Community home page

In: Go

Search for Go

or browse

Sign on to: These materials are being published as

ANU Programs Internet

Start Inbox - Microsoft Outlook HRC Future of Scholarly B... DSpace at Cornell Univ... 3:38 PM



Reducing Demand to Publish Monographs

Market pressures drive some authors to produce more general-interest books.

Professional organizations (e.g., the Modern Language Association) are urging tenure committees to place more weight on journal articles, and even Web publications.



Reducing Demand to Publish Monographs

"The crisis of the specialized scholarly monograph is in reality the crisis of the academic profession."

Steven Humphries

New electronic formats offer alternative genres of publication, from Web publications to blogs to discussion groups -- if credentialing bodies will accept them.

Editing tasks devolve on authors etc.

New roles for open source?



THE DICKENS PROJECT

The Dickens Project of the University of California is a scholarly consortium devoted to promoting the study and enjoyment of the life, times, and work of Charles Dickens. [LEARN MORE ->](#)

2007 High School Essay Contest

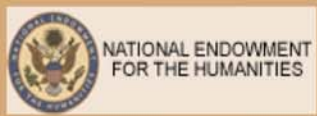


THE DICKENS UNIVERSE



The [Dickens Universe](#) is a week-long summer gathering that brings together scholars, school teachers, and members of the general public for a week of study and Dickensian conviviality. The book for the 2007 Dickens Universe will be **The Pickwick Papers**. Dates will be Sunday July 29 to Saturday August 4.

2007 NEH SUMMER SEMINAR



This year's [NEH Summer Seminar](#), **Adaptation and Revision: The Example of Great Expectations**, focuses on Dickens's immortal novel and how it has been reinterpreted since its publication.

FACTS ABOUT DICKENS



Did you know that, contrary to popular myth, Charles Dickens was not paid by the word? You can learn more about Dickens and his work at our [DICKENS CHRONOLOGY](#).

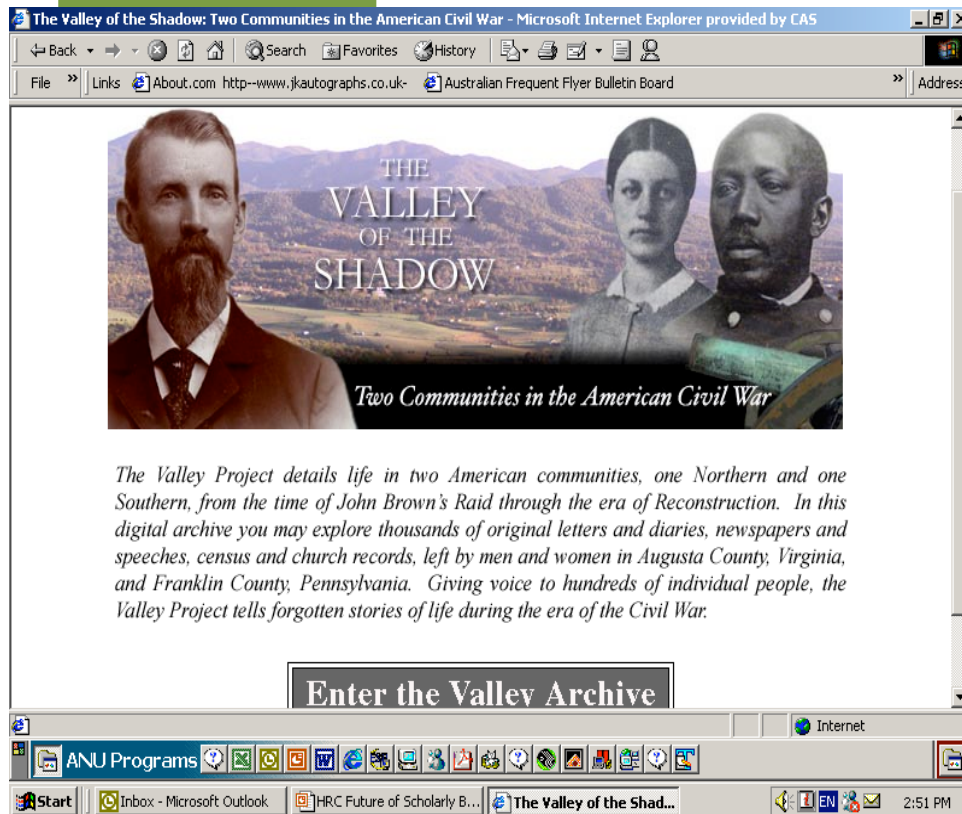
OUR MUTUAL FRIEND



Co-sponsored by The Dickens Project and the BBC, "**Our Mutual Friend**: The Scholarly Pages," is an electronic archive dedicated to providing information on Dickens's last-completed novel. [READ MORE](#).



New Forms of Historical Scholarship



Cf. Valley of the Shadow project, E. Ayres, U. Va.



The Valley of the Shadow: Two Communities in the American Civil War - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by CAS

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites History Print Mail News RSS

File Links About.com http--www.jkautographs.co.uk- Australian Frequent Flyer Bulletin Board Address

THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW

The Eve of War

- 1860 Statistics
- Church Records
- Maps & Images
- Letters & Diaries
- Reference Center
- News
- Newspapers
- Census & Tax Records
- Site

The War Years

- Images
- Official Records
- Battle Maps
- Letters & Diaries
- Reference Center
- Newspapers
- Soldiers' Records

The Aftermath

- 1870 Statistics
- Freedmens Bureau
- Maps & Images
- Letters & Diaries
- Reference Center
- News
- Census & Veteran Records
- Memory of ...

http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu/newspapersp1.html

ANU Programs

Start | Inbox - Microsoft Ou... | HRC Future of Schol... | The Valley of the ... | Microsoft Word

2:52 PM



SEMANTICS ETC.

KAI VON FINTEL'S WEBSITE

Brain Surgery Live

Wednesday, October 25, 2006

[This](#) is a gripping one hour webcast from earlier today in which neurosurgeons at Children's Hospital Boston remove a brain tumor employing functional mapping of the cortex on a 13-year-old boy.

FILED IN SEMANTICS NEWS | COMMENTS (0) | PERMALINK

GURT 2007: Little Words

Friday, October 20, 2006

The Georgetown University Round Table on Languages and Linguistics (GURT 2007) will focus on [little words](#). I will give a plenary talk on "*If: The Biggest Little Word*". The abstract deadline for contributed papers and posters is November 10, 2006.

FILED IN SEMANTICS NEWS | COMMENTS (0) | PERMALINK

21st Century Horn

Friday, October 20, 2006

[Larry Horn](#) has posted some new papers under the rubric "Selected 21st Century Publications", including the following two:

- Laurence R. Horn. 2006. ["Toward a Fregean](#)

SEARCH

 Find

ABOUT ME

Academic Homepage

Bibliography

Alphabetizing my name

My Personal Log

SECTIONS

Weblog

Semantics Resources

Course Websites

24.899 Seminar

Geek Notes

RECENTLY UPLOADED TO SEMANTICS ARCHIVE

Gillon, Carrie: The Semantics of Determiners: Domain Restriction in Skwxwu7mesh

Pustejovsky, James: Type Theory and Lexical Decomposition

Yatabe, Shuichi: Evidence for the existence of non-constituent focus

Language Log

November 26, 2006

DOUBLESPEAK AND THE WAR ON TERROR

A briefing paper entitled [Doublespeak and the War on Terrorism](#) by [Timothy Lynch](#) of the [Cato Institute](#) seems to be getting belated attention. It appeared in September, but this [AP report](#) by Calvin Woodward came out today. The briefing paper addresses the attempt of the Bush Administration to make more palatable its violations of civil liberties by using doublespeak, e.g. dubbing "warrants" "national security letters" in the hope that the courts will be fooled into thinking that judicial oversight is not required, or describing the suicide attempts of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay (referred to by the Bush Administration as "detainees", as if they were witnesses to a traffic accident asked by the police to remain until they could be interviewed) as "self-injurious behavior incidents".

[Continue reading "Doublespeak and the War on Terror"](#)

Posted by Bill Poser at 10:02 PM

DESCRIPTIVISM IN LITERATURE

While Mark was [reporting](#) on prescriptivism in Pynchon, I found a nice example of level-headed descriptivism in Philip Roth's *I Married a Communist* (not Roth's newest, but I've been catching up). It's on the first page of chapter 4:

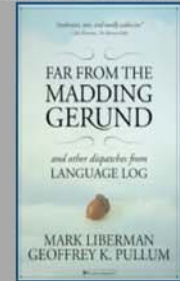
It was like penetrating a foreign language and discovering that, despite the alienating exoticism of its sounds, the foreigners fluently speaking it are saying no more than what you've been hearing in English all your life.

Obviously, this is being used as a metaphor for something else; it's not as direct as Mark's example. Still, it's very clearly descriptive as opposed to prescriptive.

[Continue reading "Descriptivism in literature"](#)

Posted by Eric Bakovic at 04:50 PM

Now: Language Log, the book.



Search

Search the Language Log archives:

Search

Recent hits and old favorites

- David Brooks, Neuroendocrinologist
- Hollywood Glamour, activist passion, false rhetoric
- In defense of Kaavya Viswanathan
- Parataxis in Pirahã
- Linguist jokes (3)
- Voice confused with tense at The Economist
- Freedom of speech: more famous than Bart Simpson
- Tracking snowclones is hard. Let's go shopping!
- A phonographic phony
- Copy-editing terrorism
- The care less train has left the station
- The butt-crack of dawn
- (Mis)Informing Science
- Tightrope: the semantics



THE JOHNS HOPKINS GUIDE TO LITERARY THEORY & CRITICISM

Edited by
Michael Groden, Martin Kreiswirth,
and Imre Szeman



Now expanded and updated, *The Johns Hopkins Online Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism* is an indispensable resource for scholars and students of literary theory and discourse. Revised extensively to reflect a decade of rapidly changing scholarship, the **Online Guide** features 48 new entries and subentries. Compiled by 275 specialists from around the world, the **Online Guide** presents a comprehensive historical survey of the field's most important figures, schools, and movements. It includes more than 240 alphabetically arranged entries on critics and theorists, critical schools and movements, and the critical and theoretical innovations of specific countries and historical periods. ▶

▶ **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

▶ **ABOUT THE GUIDE**

▶ **SEARCH THE GUIDE:** ▶

▶ **PREFACE**

▶ **FOREWORD**

▶ **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

▶ **COPYRIGHT**



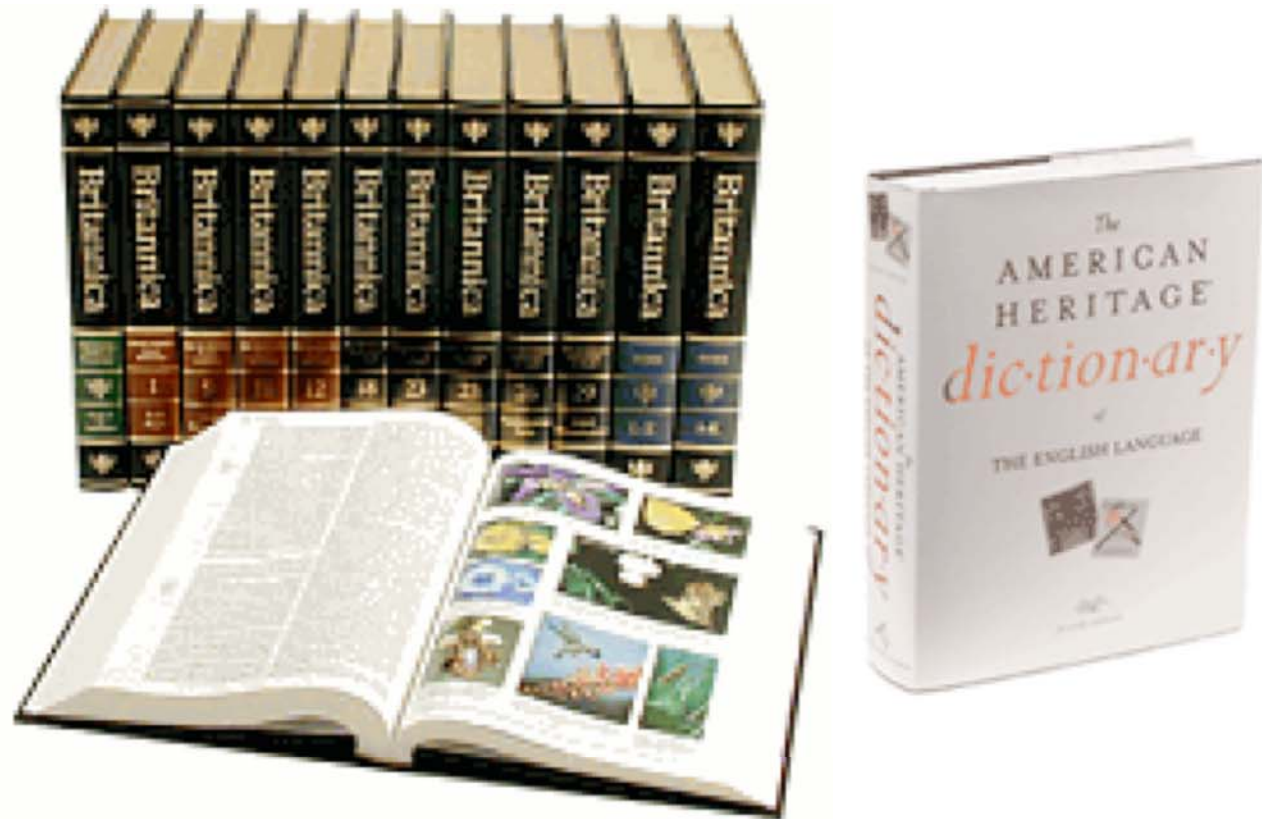
Specialized Uses of Print-on-Demand

Distributed printing project of Internet Archive





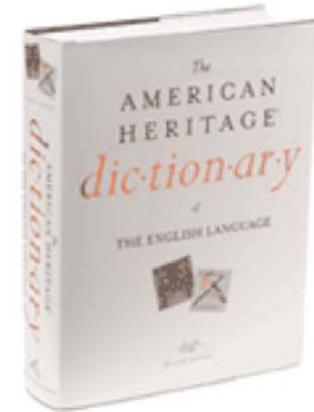
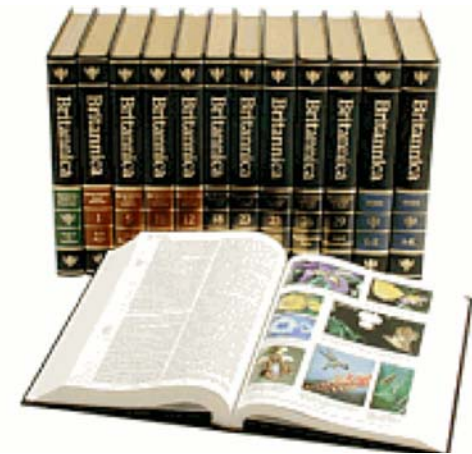
A divergence: Dictionaries and Encyclopedias



Making Distinctions: The Dictionary vs. the Encyclopedia

Online encyclopedias
have almost
completely supplanted
print...

But print dictionaries
still sell at near pre-
electronic levels



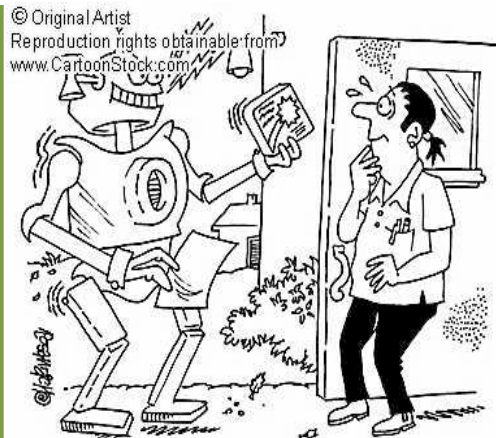


Affordances of the online encyclopedia



Online form facilitates

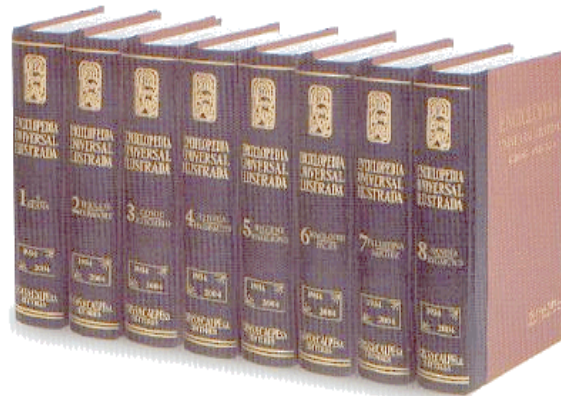
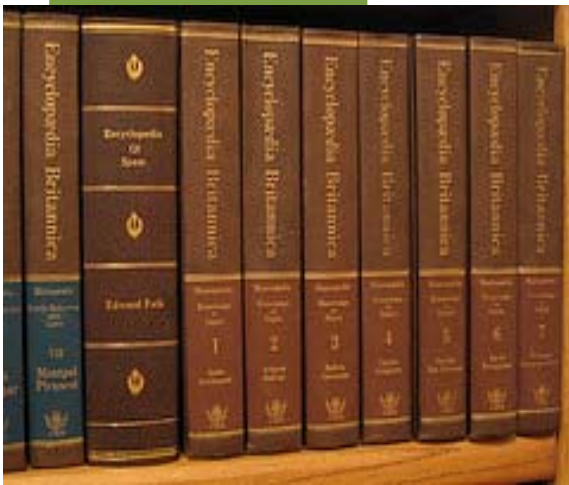
- instant updating
- easy search
- linking to other articles & sites
- animations, multimedia, etc.



But also transforms economic & publishing model

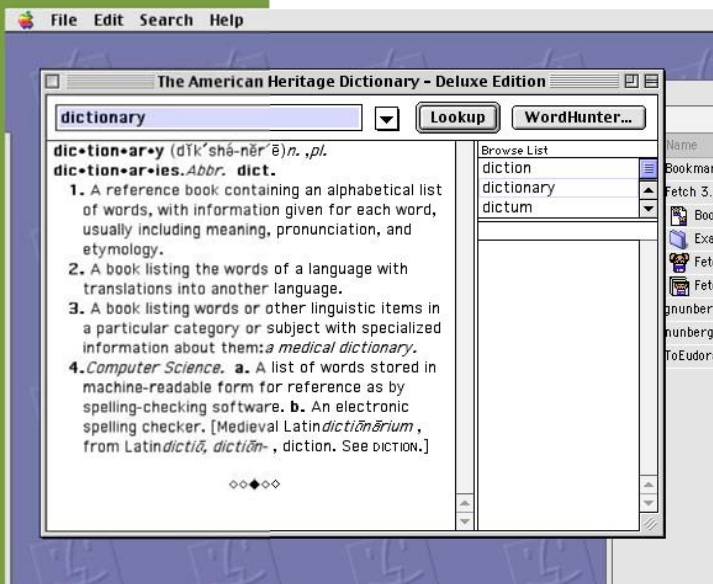


Features of the print encyclopedia





Affordances of Online Dictionaries



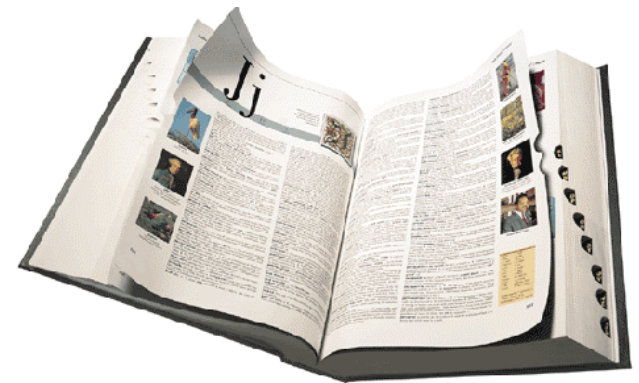
Facilitates search, interaction with other applications, dynamic definition, corpus interaction, etc.



Affordances of the Print Dictionary

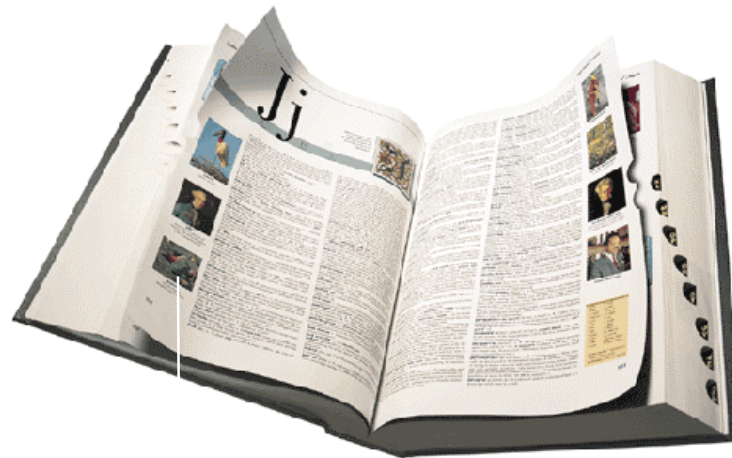
Print dictionary
doesn't require
constant updating
Links aren't crucial
Print dictionary still
has symbolic function

Best predictor of dict.
purchase: presence of
children in house





The Material Presence of the Dictionary: The Thud Factor

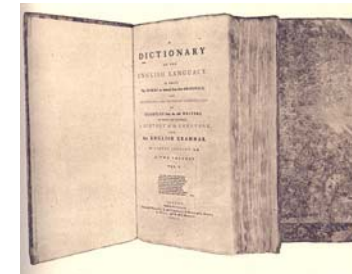


THUD!



The Triumph of the Dictionary

At length, what many had wished, and many had attempted in vain, what seemed indeed to demand the united efforts of a number, the diligence and acuteness of a single man performed. The English Dictionary appeared; and, as the weight of truth and reason is irresistible, its authority has nearly fixed the external form of our language; and from its decisions few appeals have yet been made. Robert Nares, 1782





Naturalizing the Dictionary

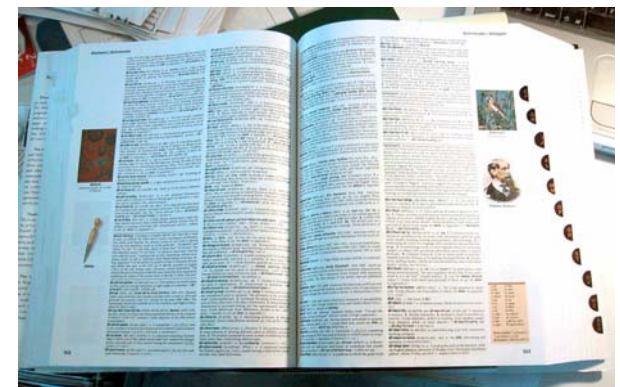
"The dictionary" like
"the Periodic Table":
Form answers to
structure of
represented domain +
user needs...

C. Barnhart: "it is the
function of a popular
dictionary to answer
the questions that the
user of the dictionary
asks."

The periodic table of the elements

	1A	2A	3A	4A	5A	6A	7A	8	1B	2B	3B	4B	5B	6B	7B	0		
1	H															He		
2	Li	Be									B	C	N	O	F	Ne		
3	Na	Mg									Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar		
4	K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr
5	Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe
6	Cs	Ba	L	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn
7	Fr	Ra	A															
	L	La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu		
	A	Ac	Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr		

Metals
Metalloids
Non-metals
Transition Metals
Gases





Features of Johnson's Dictionary

Modularity of Knowledge:

Tries to distinguish lexical from encyclopedic information (though not always successfully)

shrewmouse A mouse of which the bite is generally supposed venomous, and to which vulgar tradition assigns such malignity, that she is said to lame the foot over which she runs. I am informed that these reports are calumnious, and that her feet and teeth are equally harmless with those of any other little mouse. Our ancestors however looked on her with such terrour, that they are supposed to have given her name to a scolding woman, whom for her venom they call a shrew.

oats a grain which in England is generally given to horses, but in Scotland supports the people

lexicographer a writer of dictionaries, a harmless drudge...

Omits proper names



The Didactic Uselessness of Definitions

J. provides definitions in genus-differentia format, generally substitutable for definiens (word defined)

Information that D. provides isn't exceptionally accessible or comprehensible.

Cf Miller & Gildea: "The cook stimulated the soup."

Dicts are good on names of concrete categories (*marquis, marionette*)

But def's of abstract terms are didactically useless:

circumstance (MW10) 1. a condition, fact, or event accompanying, conditioning, or determining another: an essential or inevitable concomitant.

structure (OED) 2. The mutual relation of the constituent parts or elements of a whole as determining its peculiar nature or character.



The Didactic Uselessness of Definitions

Weakness of genus-differential definitions

disappointment: the state or emotion of being disappointed

disappointed MW: defeated in expectation or hope



The Didactic Uselessness of Definitions

Weakness of genus-differentia definitions

disappointed MW: defeated in expectation or hope

disappointment is when you expect something to happen



The Didactic Uselessness of Definitions

Weakness of genus-differentia definitions

disappointed MW: defeated in expectation or hope

disappointment is when you expect something to happen

And you want it to happen



The Didactic Uselessness of Definitions

Weakness of genus-differentia definitions

Disappointed MW: defeated in expectation or hope

disappointment is when you expect something to happen

And you want it to happen

And when the time comes for it to happen



The Didactic Uselessness of Definitions

Weakness of genus-differentia definitions

disappointed MW: defeated in expectation or hope

disappointment is when you expect something to happen

And you want it to happen

And when the time comes for it to happen

It doesn't happen



The Didactic Uselessness of Definitions

Weakness of genus-differentia definitions

Disappointed MW: defeated in expectation or hope

disappointment is when you expect something to happen

And you want it to happen

And when the time comes for it to happen

It doesn't happen

And you feel bad



Responses to Deficiencies

– "We need more public instruction in 'dictionary skills'"



The dictionary and the rise of the public sphere

"A nation of readers" -- the Book Written by Books

"[Johnson's] *Dictionary* was a typical achievement of print, a language book made out of still other books that would determine the language of books still to be written." Alvin Kernan

How can an autonomous and anonymous public discourse regulate and reproduce itself?

Need to interpret language in absence of knowledge of context, speaker, etc.

Need for a methodology to determine, regulate, and stabilize meanings.

Need for a test to tell which words are "in" the language -- acceptable to use. (which discourses need to be attended to)



The Methodology of Lexicography

Method for isolation & circumscription of relevant precedents (identification of “the language” in terms of public discourse)

Method for isolating and abstracting contributions of individual words to interpretation, independent of both linguistic and extralinguistic contexts

Method of reducing use of word to a "mechanical" rule that determines correct application of word.



The Methodology of Lexicography

Note that application of lexicographical argument isn't limited to use of Dictionary... method is most important for cases where Dict's actual authority is limited -- cf discussions of *obscene*, *terrorism*, *torture*, etc.



The Use of the Dictionary

LexisNexis(TM) Academic - Document List - Netscape

http://web.lexis-nexis.com/universe/doclist?_m=4b565948c6ab272708a32cc2df1a97f3&wchp=

Home Sources How Do I? Site Map What's New Help

Search Terms: **according to webster's FOCUS™** Search Within Results Edit Search

Jump to Documents 1-25 Print Email

Document List Expanded List KWIC Full Documents 1 - 25 of 599 next

Tag for delivery Clear

Sorted by Date
Sort by: Relevance

1. [St. Petersburg Times](#), March 3, 2003 Monday, CITRUS TIMES; Pg. 2, 1344 words, Board's sudden opposition to toll road reveals favoritism
2. [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#), February 9, 2003 Sunday, TWO STAR EDITION, Pg.B-7, 800 words, TOP OF THE CHARTS; TWENTY-FOUR YEARS OF CONSISTENT ADVICE FOR WRITERS



Defining "The Language"

Why include 'all the words'? Why bother to define simple words?

Cf defs in Nathan Bailey's dict., 1721:

cat: "a creature well known"

black: "a colour"

strawberry: "a well known fruit"



Defining the Compass of the Language

Let any man of correct taste cast his eye on such words as *denominable*, *opionatry*, *ariolation*, *assation*, *clancular*, and *comminuible*, and let him say whether a dictionary which gives *thousands* of such items, as *authorized English words*, is a safe standard of writing. Noah Webster on Johnson's *Dictionary*

Words have been admitted in the language that are not only disreputable in origin, not only offensive in all their associations, not only vulgar in essence, but unfit at all points for survival. The *New York Herald* (1890) on Funk & Wagnall's inclusion of *chesty* "bold"

"...that most monstrous of non-words." *Life Magazine* on Webster's *Third International's* inclusion of *irregardless*



The Organization of Knowledge

Knowledge and the emergence of the "trésor"

Libraries, anthologies, dictionaries, in a word "treasuries" [trésors], alongside of encyclopedic collections, delimit a vast territory on which are cast the signs required for knowledge, the expression of identities, and communication among the members of the group.

-Alain Rey, "Les trésors de la langue," 1986



Canonicity, cont.

Canonicity permits "essentialist" abridgement:

"[M]en of good will have extracted the substance of a thousand volumes and passed it in its entirety into a single small duodecimo, a bit like skillful chemists who press out the essence of flowers to concentrate it in a phial while throwing the dregs away." L-S.Mercier, *L'An 2440*, 1771

Cf sense of "library" and "bibliothèque" to denote comprehensive publication series & catalogues

"If the lexicon of a language is indeed something like that of a circle, then... if one moves away from the center in concentric circles, the result should be a faithful image of the total lexicon." Henri Béjoint, *Tradition and Innovation in English Dictionaries*, 1992

i.e., In theory, every large dictionary contains every small dictionary



Spatialization and the Forms of Print Discourse

Spatialization of discourse rests on the modes of print circulation

Topology presumes the distinction between public and private

Metricality presumes a correlation between spatiotemporal accessibility/diffusion & reputation...

Cf George Campbell, 1776: "The authors of reputation [provide us with a] certain, steady, and well-known standard to recur to, a standard which every one hath access to canvass and examine."

...and between reputation and quality:

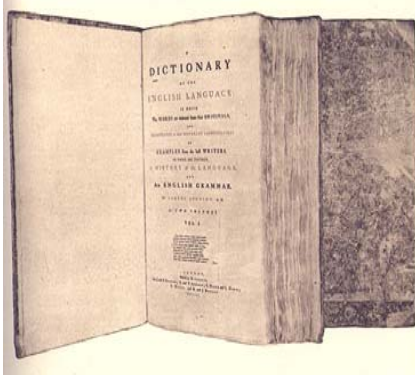
Cf Hume, Campbell: "reputation and merit go generally together."

Cf also citation indexes...



Symbolism of the dictionary's form

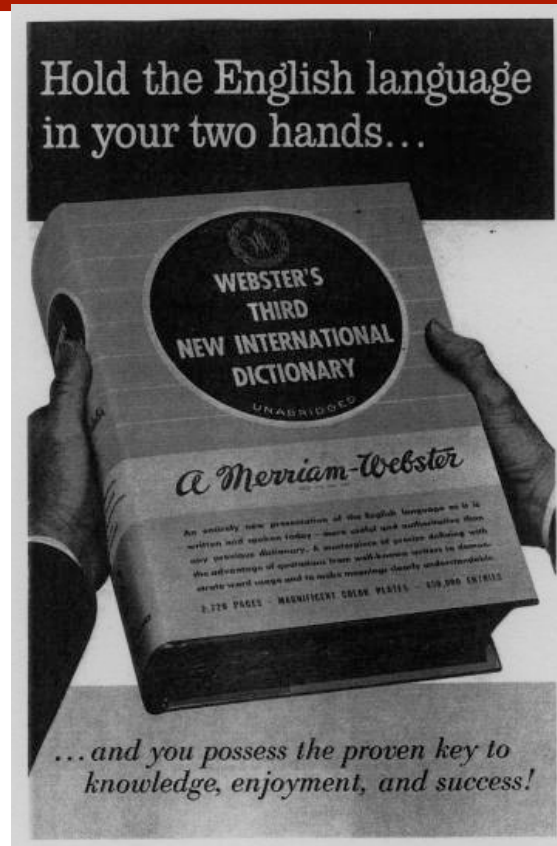
A monument, like a folio dictionary, is immovable and huge, inviolable and absolute in its expression of authority and its solidification of public memory; it exercises its authority as it represents it." (A. Reddick)



There is in [Johnson's *Dictionary*] a kind of architectural nobleness; it stands there like a great solid square-built edifice; you judge that a true builder did it." (Thos. Carlyle)



The Dict. as an "Inscription in Space": "Is X a word?"



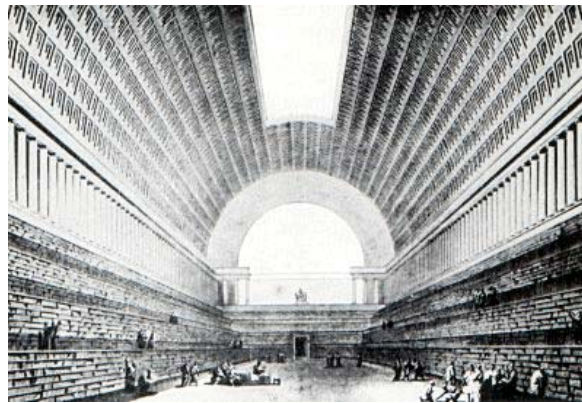
(Note also the importance of visible compression...)



The Form of Collections, 1



Library of the
Escorial, 1543



E-L. Boulée, plan for the
Bibliothèque du Roi,
1785

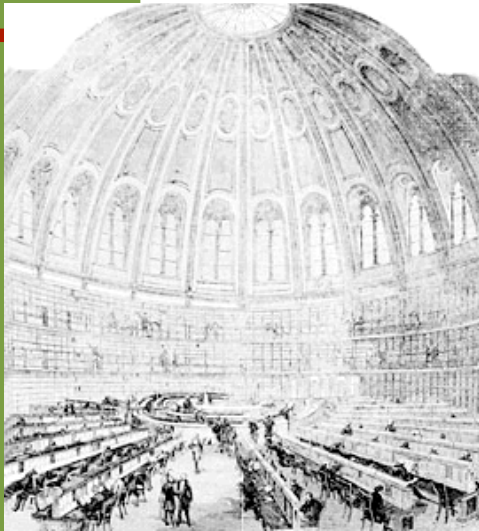


Labrouste, Bibliothèque
Ste. Geneviève, 1851



The Form of Collections, 2: The classical version

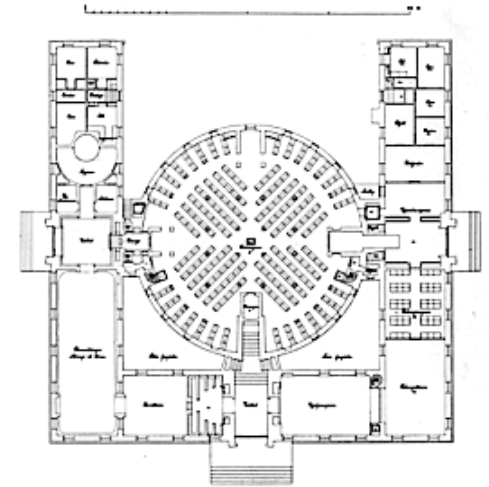
Smirke,
British Museum
Reading
Room, 1851



Pelz/Casey Reading
Room, LOC, ca 1898



Labrouste, Bibliothèque
Nationale 1868



Asplund, Stockholm City
Library, 1928



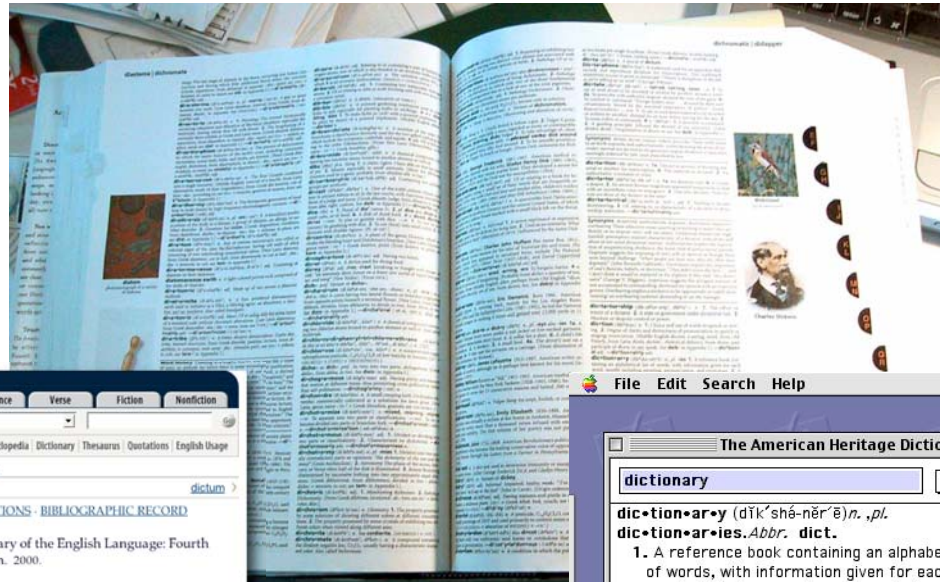
Circumscription of Knowledge: Brutalist Interpretations



D. Perrault, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, 1994



The Dictionary Online: Where does it End?



Bartleby.com
Great Books Online

Reference Verse Fiction Nonfiction

Search Dictionary

Home Subjects Titles Authors Encyclopedia Dictionary Thesaurus Quotations English Usage

Reference > American Heritage® > Dictionary

< diction dictionary >

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The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition. 2000.

dictionary

SYLLABICATION: dic-tion-ary
PRONUNCIATION: ˈdɪkʃən-er-ē

NOUN: Inflected forms: pl. **dic-tion-ar-ies**
1. A reference book containing an alphabetical list of words, with information given for each word, usually including meaning, pronunciation, and etymology. 2. A book listing the words of a language with translations into another language. 3. A book listing words or other linguistic items in a particular category or subject with specialized information about them: *a medical dictionary*. 4. *Computer Science* **a.** A list of words stored in machine-readable form for reference, as by spelling-checking software. **b.** An electronic spelling checker.

ETYMOLOGY: Medieval Latin *dictionarium*, from Latin *dictis*, *dictiōn-*, *dictiōn-*, *dictiōn-*, *dictiōn-*, *dictiōn-*, *dictiōn-*. See *dictiōn-*.

File Edit Search Help

The American Heritage Dictionary - Deluxe Edition

dictionary [Lookup WordHunter...]

dic-tion-ary (dĭk'shŏ-nĕr'ē) *n., pl.*
dic-tion-ar-ies. *Abbr. dict.*

1. A reference book containing an alphabetical list of words, with information given for each word, usually including meaning, pronunciation, and etymology.

2. A book listing the words of a language with translations into another language.

3. A book listing words or other linguistic items in a particular category or subject with specialized information about them: *a medical dictionary*.

4. *Computer Science* **a.** A list of words stored in machine-readable form for reference as by spelling-checking software. **b.** An electronic spelling checker. [Medieval Latin *dictiōnarium*, from Latin *dictis*, *dictiōn-*, *dictiōn-*, *dictiōn-*, *dictiōn-*. See *dictiōn-*.]

◆◆◆◆

Browse List
diction
dictionary
dictum

Name
Bookmark
Fetch 3.0.
Book
Exam
Fetch
gnunberg
nunberg
ToEudora



The Circumscription Of "The Language" in Metrical Space

The impression of objectivity (Murray's "nebulous masses"). Association of reputation, breadth of diffusion (in time and space), and accessibility, and phenomenal prominence.

[I]t is of importance to have some certain, steady, and well-known standard to recur to, a standard which every one hath access to canvass and examine. And this can be no other than authors of reputation. I choose to name them authors of reputation, rather than good authors, for two reasons: first, because it is more strictly conformable to the truth of the case. It is solely the esteem of the public, and not their intrinsic merit (though these two go generally together), which raises them to this distinction, and stamps a value on their language.

Second, this character is more definitive than the other, and therefore more extensively intelligible. Between two or more authors, different readers will differ exceedingly, as to the preference in point of merit, who agree perfectly as to the respective places they hold in the favour of the public.

(Campbell, *Phil. Of Rhetoric*)



"The file written by files"?

Assume (exclusively) electronic discourse. Problems of localization, assurance of common experience...Diffusion/accessibility no indicator of reputation

Difficulties in circumscribing the common public language; individuating subdiscourses; the deceptiveness of frequency



Constraining the Corpus

Shadow of the Colossus is a refreshingly simplistic adventure game that is well worth your time. His style is refreshingly simplistic and philosophical.



Constraining the Corpus

Shadow of the Colossus is a refreshingly simplistic adventure game that is well worth your time.

His s
philo

The screenshot shows a Google search interface. The search bar contains the text "refreshingly simplistic". The search results are displayed under the heading "Web" and show "Results 1 - 100 of about 1,060 for 'refreshingly simplistic'. (0.47 seconds)". The first result is titled "Language Log: 'Tis the gift to be simplistic" and includes a snippet: "'Refreshingly simplistic,' was how a VH1 reviewer described a new CD by some artist whose name I didn't recognize. I couldn't jot it down, ...". The URL for this result is "itre.cis.upenn.edu/~myl/languageelog/archives/002430.html - 9k - Cached - Similar pages - Note this". The second result is titled "Daily Star Egypt - Full Article" and includes a snippet: "Refreshingly simplistic By Farah El Alfy First Published: June 14, 2006. Mohammed Sharkawy finds untapped potential while at the Townhouse Gallery ...". The URL for this result is "www.dailystaregypt.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=1888 - 30k - Cached - Similar pages - Note this".



The heterogeneous dictionary

Dictionaries can offer multiple modes of representation

tango (MW 10): a ballroom dance of Latin-American origin in 2/4 time with a basic pattern of step-step-step-step-close and characterized by long pauses and stylized body positions





Representing derivational and polysemic complexity

punch 1, vb.

1a: PROD, POKE

1b: DRIVE, HERD <punching cattle>

2a: to strike with a forward thrust esp. of the fist

2b: to drive or push forcibly by or as if by a punch

2c: to hit (a ball) with less than a full swing

3: to emboss, cut, perforate, or make with or as if with a punch

4a: to push down so as to produce a desired result <punch buttons on a jukebox>

4b: to hit or press down the operating mechanism of <punch a time clock> <punch a typewriter>

4c: to produce by or as if by punching keys <punch out a tune on the piano> <a teletypewriter punching out the news>

4d: to enter (as data) by punching keys

5: to give emphasis to

~**punch 2n**

1: the action of punching

2: a quick blow with or as if with the fist

3: effective energy or forcefulness <a story that packs a punch> <political punch>

punch 3n

1a: a tool usu. in the form of a short rod of steel that is variously shaped at one end for different operations (as forming, perforating, embossing, or cutting)

1b: a short tapering steel rod for driving the heads of nails below a surface

1c: a steel die faced with a letter in relief that is forced into a softer metal to form an intaglio matrix from which foundry type is cast

1d: a device or machine for cutting holes or notches (as in paper or cardboard)

2: a hole or notch from a perforating operation



Alternatives: FrameNet

No.	frames	lemma	pos	disp.	COD/FN def	WordNet	Manual
1	Risk_action	risk	V	withFE	COD: act in such a way as to incur the risk of.	risk	help
ALL FE KDG valence Supp Gov Supp+[xPrep...] Gov+[xPrep...] trans.N untra.N							
Num	sort = FE; risk,						
18	Agent + risk.V + Action						
01	risk.V + Action						
19							

18. [\[Top\]](#) : [Agent](#) + [risk.V](#) + [Action](#)

[\[back to the main table\]](#)

1. [1048782](#): [[Agent](#)>[Natty](#)] *risk*^{Tgt} [[Action](#)>[looking at him](#)] . [\[Top\]](#)
2. [1048785](#): [[Agent](#)>[He](#)] *risk*^{Tgt} [[Action](#)>[a quick look at her furious face](#)] . [\[Top\]](#)
3. [1048790](#): The street ahead was clear so [[Agent](#)>[I](#)] slowed and *risk*^{Tgt} [[Action](#)>[a look in the mirror](#)] . [\[Top\]](#)
4. [1048793](#): [[Agent](#)>[He](#)] ca n't try anything, could n't *risk*^{Tgt} [[Action](#)>[trying to get away](#)] . " [\[Top\]](#)
5. [1048794](#): They were on the choppy, wavelike hills before Milford, a narrow road with too much Friday evening traffic heading south, against them, for [[Agent](#)>[Maxim](#)] to *risk*^{Tgt} [[Action](#)>[trying to overtake an](#)



The localized dictionary: obviating abstraction

Locolex, f-s technology for treatment of collocations in bilingual dictionaries:

il va tenir le coup -- he'll hold up

gare routière -- bus station

Cf application to sense-tagging...

Through self-observation, the successfully analyzed patient picks up the inner signals of stress...

5a: to catch sight of: PERCEIVE <pick up the harbor lights>

5b: to come to and follow <picked up the outlaw's trail>

5c: to bring within range of sight or hearing <pick up distant radio signals>

5d: UNDERSTAND, CATCH <didn't pick up the hint>



Can There be "Dictionaries" for online language?

How do we circumscribe "the language" of online discourse?

Disappearance of the distinction between public and private. Where does "English" end?

Can the dictionary retain its symbolic function online?