

The Organization of Knowledge

Geoff Nunberg
Concepts of Information i218

March 13, 2012



Itinerary: 3/12

"Knowledge" and "Information" (reprise)

The structure of knowledge

~~Shifting conceptions of Knowledge, 1500-1800~~

~~Early modern solutions~~

Enlightenment Reorganizations of Knowledge:
philosophical influences

Material Representations of Knowledge

The Politics of Knowledge: the case of the dictionary

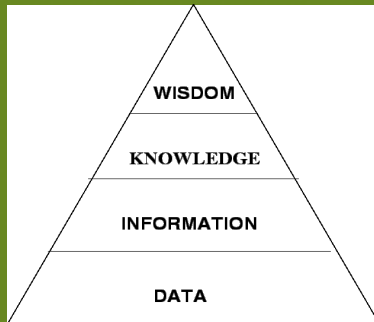
Spatializations of Knowledge



"knowledge" and "information"

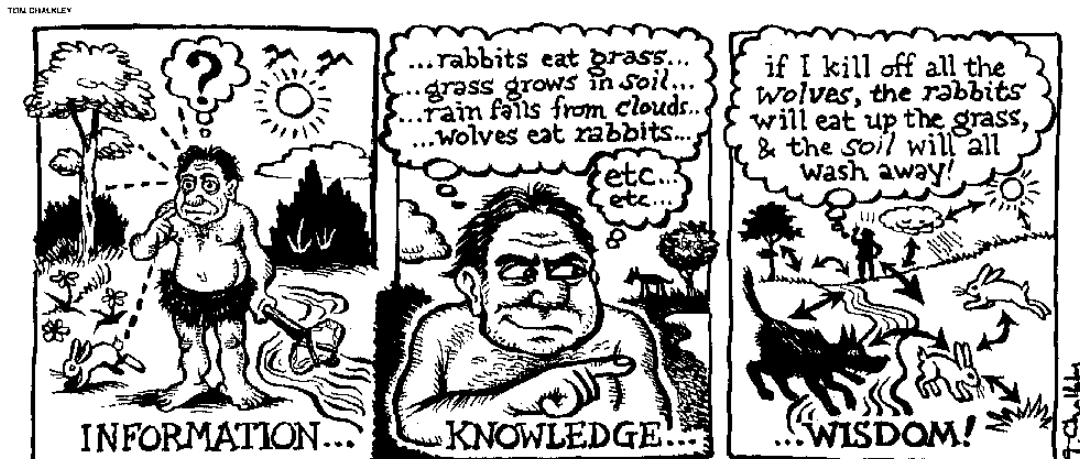


"knowledge" and "information"



A spurious semantic field

Data are facts and statistics that can be quantified, measured, counted, and stored. Information is data that has been categorized, counted, and thus given meaning, relevance, or purpose. Knowledge is information that has been given meaning and taken to a higher level. Knowledge emerges from analysis, reflection upon, and synthesis of information. *Dr. Donald Hawkins, Information Today*





"knowledge" and "information"

...information is the meaning of statements as they are intended by the speaker/writer and understood/misunderstood by the listener/reader. Knowledge is embodied in humans as the capacity to understand, explain and negotiate concepts, actions and intentions.

H. Albrechtson, Institute of Knowledge Sharing, Denmark

Data are sensory stimuli that we perceive through our senses. Information is data that has been processed into a form that is meaningful to the recipient. Knowledge is what has understood and evaluated by the knower.

Prof. Shifra Baruchson–Arbib, Bar Ilan University, Israel



A modest proposal

To avoid confusion with ordinary-lg uses of *data*, *information*, and *knowledge*, substitute new terms for technical notions:



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"data" = "moe"

"information" → "curly"

"knowledge" → "larry"



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"data" = "moe"

"information" → "curly"

"knowledge" → "larry"

Moes are facts that are the result of observation or measurement. Curly is meaningful moe. ... Larry is internalized or understood curly that can be used to make decisions.



Defining "knowledge": What are we talking about?

Collocations

knowledge economy *n.* *Econ. and Business* an economy in which growth is thought to be dependent on the effective acquisition, dissemination, and use of information, rather than the traditional means of production **knowledge management** *n.* *Econ. and Business* the effective management of the sharing and retention of information in an organization; the use of management techniques to optimize) the acquisition, dissemination, and use of knowledge. **knowledge work** *n.* work which involves handling or using information. **knowledge worker** *n.* a person whose job involves handling or using information.

[Note: almost never translated with equivalent of "knowledge"]



Defining "knowledge"

Individual senses

Oxford English Dictionary:

- The fact of knowing a thing, state, etc., or a person; familiarity gained by experience. *His knowledge of human nature must be limited indeed.*
- Acquaintance with a branch of learning, a language, or the like; *His knowledge of French is excellent.*

The information that the Giants acquired Pagan →

The knowledge that Giants acquired Pagan.

No epistemic difference...



The ideology of "knowledge"



Folding the social into the concept, :

Information is piecemeal, fragmented, particular.
Knowledge is structured, coherent and **universal**.
information is timely, transitory, even ephemeral.
Knowledge is **enduring** and temporally expansive.
information is a flow across spaces. Knowledge is
a stock, specifically located, yet **spatially
expansive**. Machlup 1983

What kind of knowledge is "universal,"
"enduring," etc.?



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Collective senses

13. The sum of what is known. *De Quincey, 1860 All knowledge may be commodiously distributed into science and erudition.*



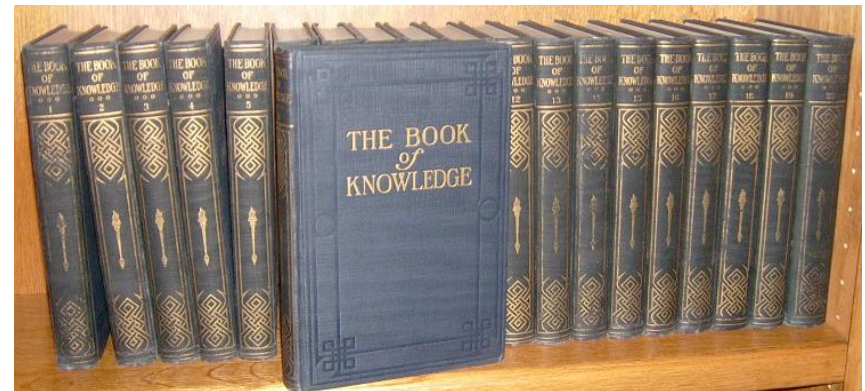
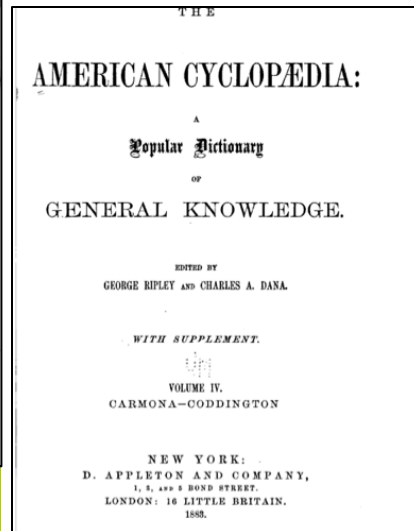
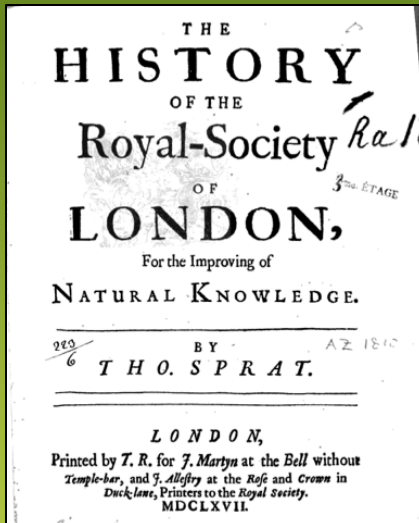
Collective knowledge: the missing arguments

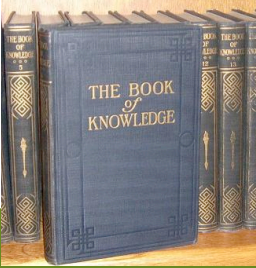


Collective senses: knowledge as a three-place relation

I3. The sum of what is known [about X] [by Y]

Medical knowledge vs medical information: what is the difference?





Collective knowledge: the missing arguments

Collective senses: knowledge as a three-place relation

I3. The sum of what is known [about X] [by Y]

What qualifies a proposition as c-knowledge?

P must be collectively accessible (to everyone? In C?)

"The third-century Chinese had knowledge of porcelain"

In that medical knowledge doubles every 3.5 years or less, by 2029, we will know at least 256 times more than we know today. As a result, it is not impracticable nor improbable to expect that humankind will reach the point where we'll know how to substantially slow or perhaps even stop aging,

GROUP 1 ART CHAPTER 5
The Story of the Beautiful Things in the Treasure-House of the World

THE WONDER MEN OF FLORENCE

There is a little town in Tuscany called Siena, a tranquil & a dirty place, sitting in the sun. Lovers of beautiful things have a warm feeling for Siena: in the thirteenth century were shown the first master compositions of that spiritual force called the Renaissance.

The town had a holiday in honour of the beautiful thing. This event, not the only one of its kind in the history of Italian art, throws a light on the general workings of the Renaissance. For several hundred years ordinary citizens could interest about art. We can

GROUP 2 STORIES CHAPTER 5
The Great Stories of the World That Will Be Told For Ever

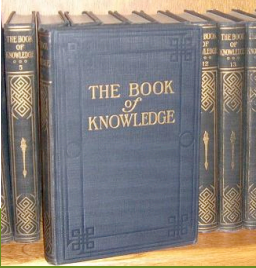
WILLIAM TELL

He did not know whether he should or not. One day they were walking across the lead on the top of the mountain. Suddenly he felt his own sword, and

PICTURES

FOXES, JACKALS, & WOLVES OF THE WORLD

1. PACIFIC REDDISH JACKAL
2. BROWN JACKAL
3. AMERICAN REDDISH JACKAL
4. ARCTIC WOLF
5. EUROPEAN WOLF
6. RED WOLF
7. NORTH AMERICAN JACKAL
8. SCANDINAVIAN WOLF
9. HIMALAYAN WOLF
10. AUSTRALIAN WOLF
11. SIBERIAN WOLF
12. HIMALAYAN WOLF



Collective knowledge: the missing arguments

Collective senses: knowledge as a three-place relation

I3. The sum of what is known [about X] [by Y]

What qualifies a proposition as c-knowledge?

P is collectively significant (to everyone? In C?)

It's snowing in Chicago./It often snows in Chicago.

"We are out of paper towels"/Paper towel consumption is 50% higher in America than in Europe/Arthur Scott introduced the first paper towel in 1931.

GN was born in Manhattan./William Tell was born in Bürglen, Switzerland.

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FOXES, JACKALS, & WOLVES OF THE WORLD

PLATE 1. ARABIAN JACKAL. PLATE 2. JACKAL. PLATE 3. SPANISH WOLF. PLATE 4. WOLF. PLATE 5. WOLF. PLATE 6. WOLF. PLATE 7. WOLF. PLATE 8. WOLF. PLATE 9. WOLF. PLATE 10. WOLF. PLATE 11. WOLF. PLATE 12. WOLF.



Collective knowledge: the missing arguments

Collective senses: knowledge as a three-place relation

13. The sum of what is known [about X] [by Y]

How do we satisfy x and y?

Circumscribing the community/discourse

Cf *medical knowledge vs medical information*

Circumscribing the knowledge domain



The structure of Knowledge



The structure of Knowledge

“All grammars leak”

– E. Sapir

Knowledge is characterized by “spatial” extension & internal structure

Internal structure implies a standardized (canonical, implicit) classificatory scheme, *ideally...*

= socially embedded, principled procedure for sorting everything in D into mutually exclusive categories

Class schemes realized in (more-or-less) formal infrastructures consisting of procedures, institutions, technologies, communities, etc.

Natural vs nominal, naïve vs. specialist, explicit vs implicit, etc.



Changing Frames of Knowledge

Schemes of knowledge are responses to influences that are:

Pragmatic/material

Technological

Philosophical/academic/theological

Symbolic/political

(Metaphysical – what's out there)



The anthropology of knowledge

How do we characterize conceptions of "knowledge" historically?

Explicit descriptions & theories

Models/images of knowledge in

Forms of institutions & practices (curriculum, conferences, job descriptions)

Material embodiments (library, museum, form of book)

Textual embodiments – encyclopedia, dictionary, compendium, bibliography

Metaphors & visualizations: field, tree, discipline, *trésor*, etc.



Shifting Conceptions of Knowledge, 1500-1800



Shifting Conceptions of Knowledge, 1500-1800

Varieties of Renaissance knowledge:

scientiae/artes: "Ars sine scientia nihil est."

Private/public (alchemy, cf *métier*, "trade")

General/specialized

The "universal man" (*polymathia*, *pansophia*) "A man is able to learn many things and make himself universal in many excellent arts." Matteo Palmieri, 1528

Book-learning vs knowledge of things





The 15th-Century Curriculum

The *enkyklios paideia* ("circle of 'learning'"):

Trivium: grammar, logic, rhetoric

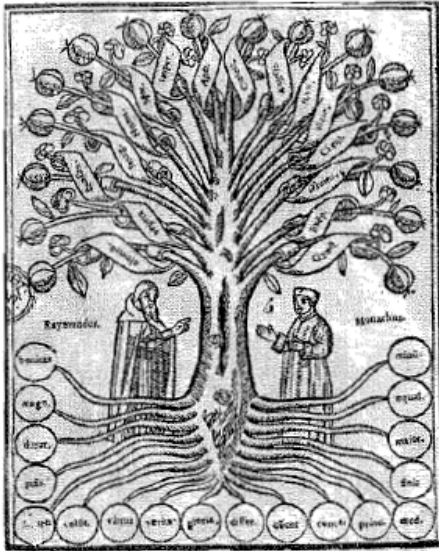
Quadrivium: arithmetic, astronomy, geometry, music

The three philosophies: ethics, metaphysics, "natural philosophy"

Higher faculties: theology, medicine, law



The 15th-Century Curriculum

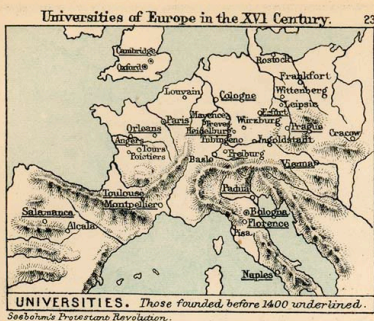


5 TREE OF KNOWLEDGE, TITLE-PAGE OF R. LULL, *ARBOR SCIENTIARUM* (1515; RPR. 1635); COPY IN CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY (P*3.52)

System of knowledge is "closed"; built around classical sources and religious texts (courses organized around texts, not subjects)

Organization of knowledge is fixed and "natural"

Curriculum roughly uniform throughout Europe, enabled *peregrinatio academica*



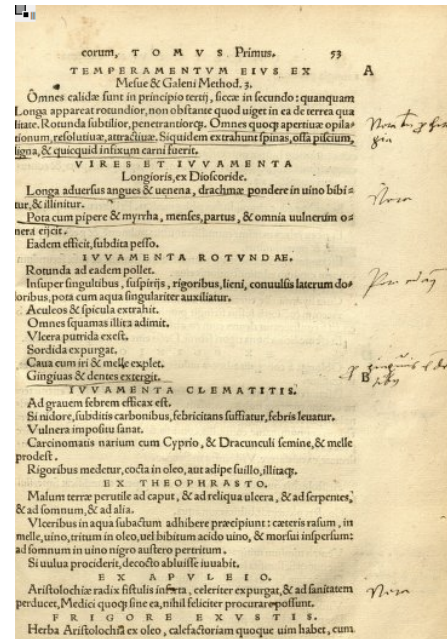
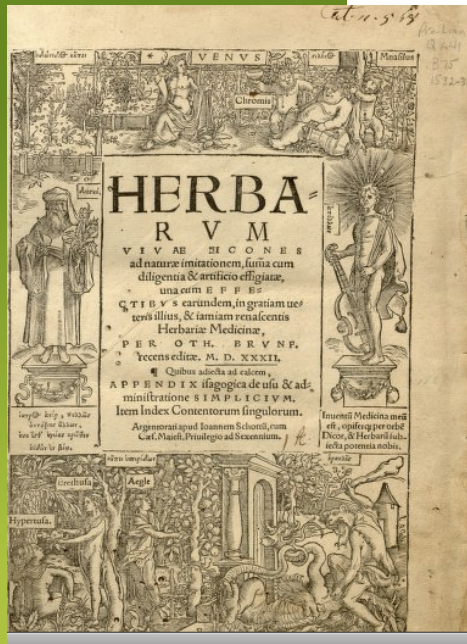
Breaking with the past



It would disgrace us, now that the wide spaces of the material globe, the lands and seas, have been broached and explored, if the limits of the intellectual globe should be set by the narrow discoveries of the ancients. Francis Bacon, *The Advancement of Learning*, 1605

Opening the World of Knowledge: Botany

Herbarum vivae eicones ("Living Pictures of Herbs") by Otto Brunfels, 1532. Matched Swiss & German plants to those known to Pliny and Discorides, ignoring differences, with residual *herbae nudaae* ("naked plants")





VALERIUS CORDUS
Medicus excellens.

Opening the world of knowledge

VALERII CORDI SIMESUS II, Historiæ plantarum, liber I. qui est de herbis diuersis.

*Prouida quas hominum causa natura creauit,
Pulchrius est rerum cognitione nihil.*

DE ROSELLA SIVE SALSIRORÁ, *Equæ ab alijs Ros
Solis dicitur.* CAP. I.



ROSELLA habet minima, septem uel octo numero, plura interdum, & interdum pauciora, longis et rubentibus pediculis in orbem per terram sparsa, leniter plerumque, quæ



caelum spectant, concava & hirsuta, ceu rubentia capilluæ sita, cœp in medio breuiori, in ambitu uero longiori: licetissimis etiam temporibus ceu oris minutissimas guttas et aspergines habentia: sapore acri, nitenti & glabra omnino sunt ex inferiore parte foliola, habentq; tota minime cochlearis figuram: è medio uero foliorum coliculus exit do drante breuior, gracilis, rubescens, & sine ramulis, in summo paruos & pallidos floculos sustinens. radicles habet paucas, breues, & capilli modo tenuissimas. Nascitur uliginosis & palustribus arenis. Habent folia, caules, & floculi, acerbum, leniter acetosum & modice acrem saporem.

Valerius Cordus, *Historia plantarum* 1561 (1544), published posthumously by Conrad Gesner.

Records numerous plants not described by the ancients; emphasizes differences among similar plants.

By 1600, thousand of species are described, though in disorganized fashion.

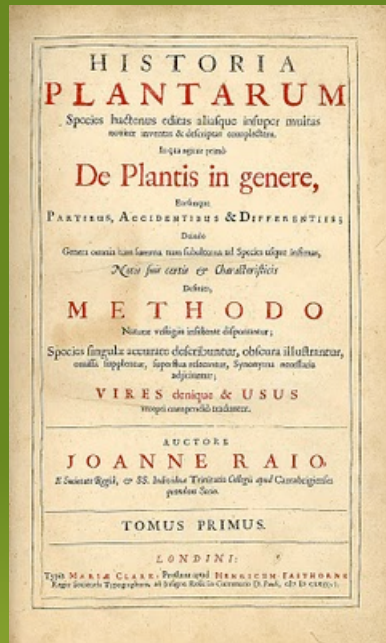
Systems of description (not taxonomies) emerge. Plants bear four names (common, pharmacists' Latin, trad. Latin, Greek)



Drawing annotated by Gestner



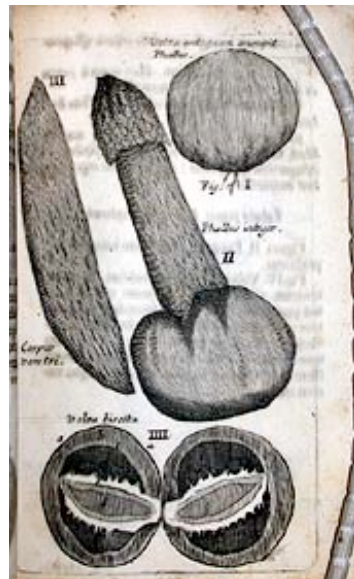
Opening the world of knowledge



John Ray, *Historia generalis plantarum*, 1686-
Classified 6100 plant species by seeds, seeds, fruit and leaves. Produced first modern definition of the species.

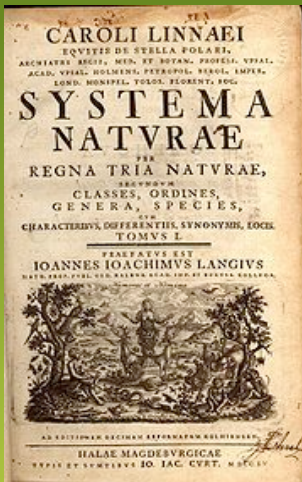
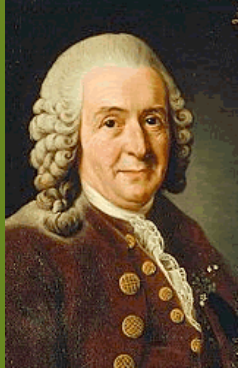
"... no surer criterion for determining species has occurred to me than the distinguishing features that perpetuate themselves in propagation from seed. Thus, no matter what variations occur in the individuals or the species, if they spring from the seed of one and the same plant, they are accidental variations and not such as to distinguish a species..."

"I reckon all Dogs to be of one Species, they mingling together in Generation, and the Breed of such Mixtures being prolifick"



i

The birth of "modern" classification



CAROLI LINNÆI REGNUM ANIMALE.																																																				
I. QUADRUPEDIA	II. AVES	III. AMPHIBIA	IV. PISCES	V. INSECTA	VI. VERMES																																															
<p>CAROLI LINNÆI</p> <p>I. QUADRUPEDIA. Corpus hirsutum. Pedes quatuor. Femina viviparæ, lactiferæ.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Homo.</td> <td>Noſce te ipſum.</td> <td>H Europæus albefc. Americæ rubefc. Aſiæ fufcus. Africæ nigr.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Simia.</td> <td>Avventioſa. Poſteriora. Digni 5. Poſteriores anteriores ſimiles.</td> <td>Simia cauda cærens. Pepio. Satyrus. Cercopitheca. Cynocephalus.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bradypus.</td> <td>Digni 3. vel 2. . . . 3.</td> <td>Al. Iguana. Tardigradus.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urfus.</td> <td>Digni 5. 5. Scandens. Mamma 4. (Ald.) Colicæniſ inſerit. Pelles extus poſitæ.</td> <td>Urfus. Canis Alp. Wickheſii Angl. Leo.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Leo.</td> <td>Digni 5. 4. Scandens. Mamma 2. ventrales. Lingua aculeata.</td> <td>Tigris. Panthera.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tigris.</td> <td>Digni 5. 4. Scandens. Mamma 4. umbilicales. Lingua aculeata.</td> <td>Felis. Catus. Lynx.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Felis.</td> <td>Digni 5. 4. Scandens. Mamma 8. ſc. 4. ped. 4. abdom. Lingua aculeata.</td> <td>Martes. Zibellina. Viverra. Muſtela. Putorius.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Muſtela.</td> <td>Digni 5. 5. Scandens. Dentes molares 4. utriuſque.</td> <td>Philander. Peſum.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Didelphis.</td> <td>Digni 5. 5. Scandens. Mamma 8. intra buſulam abdomin. Palmæ.</td> <td>Lutra.</td> </tr> </table>			Homo.	Noſce te ipſum.	H Europæus albefc. Americæ rubefc. Aſiæ fufcus. Africæ nigr.	Simia.	Avventioſa. Poſteriora. Digni 5. Poſteriores anteriores ſimiles.	Simia cauda cærens. Pepio. Satyrus. Cercopitheca. Cynocephalus.	Bradypus.	Digni 3. vel 2. . . . 3.	Al. Iguana. Tardigradus.	Urfus.	Digni 5. 5. Scandens. Mamma 4. (Ald.) Colicæniſ inſerit. Pelles extus poſitæ.	Urfus. Canis Alp. Wickheſii Angl. Leo.	Leo.	Digni 5. 4. Scandens. Mamma 2. ventrales. Lingua aculeata.	Tigris. Panthera.	Tigris.	Digni 5. 4. Scandens. Mamma 4. umbilicales. Lingua aculeata.	Felis. Catus. Lynx.	Felis.	Digni 5. 4. Scandens. Mamma 8. ſc. 4. ped. 4. abdom. Lingua aculeata.	Martes. Zibellina. Viverra. Muſtela. Putorius.	Muſtela.	Digni 5. 5. Scandens. Dentes molares 4. utriuſque.	Philander. Peſum.	Didelphis.	Digni 5. 5. Scandens. Mamma 8. intra buſulam abdomin. Palmæ.	Lutra.	<p>II. AVES. Corpus plumoſum. Ala duæ. Pedes duo. Roſtrum oſſeum. Femina oviparæ.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>ACCIPITRES. Roſtrum unguiculatum.</td> <td>Pſittacus. Strix. Falco.</td> <td>Digni pedis antici 2. poſtici 2. Digni pedis antici 3. poſtici 7. quorum extimus retroſum flexilis. Digni pedis antici 3. poſtici 2.</td> <td>Pſittacus. Bubo. Noctua. Otus. Ulula. Vultur. Buteo. Falco. Cypſopus. Lanius. Fygargus. Tinnunculus.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PICÆ. Roſtrum ſingulare compendium, convexum.</td> <td>Paradiſica. Coracias. Corvus.</td> <td>Pennis 2. longiſſimæ, ſingulares nec alæ, nec uropygio indiæ. Pes 4dact. Roſtris exteriores gradatim breviores. Pes 4dact. Roſtris æquales.</td> <td>Manucodiata. Avis Paradifiaca. Pica. Corvus. Cornix. Meneſculus. Lupus. Glandia. Caryocata.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MACRORHINI. Roſtrum longum, ſubrotundum.</td> <td>Cuculus. Picus.</td> <td>Digni pedis antici 2. poſtici 2. Roſtrum læve. Digni pedis antici 2. Roſtrum anguſtatum.</td> <td>Cuculus. Torquilla f. Junco. Picus niger. . . . viridis. . . . varius.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Certhia. Sitta. Upupa. Iſpida.</td> <td>Pes 4dact. Roſtr. gracile incurvum. Pes 4dact. Roſtr. triangulare. Pes 4dact. Caput plumis criſtatum. Pes 4dact. cujus digitus extimus medio ſubſectitur tribus articulis.</td> <td>Certhia. Picus cinereus Upupa. Iſpida. Merops.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Grus.</td> <td>Caput ciliatum.</td> <td>Grus.</td> </tr> </table>			ACCIPITRES. Roſtrum unguiculatum.	Pſittacus. Strix. Falco.	Digni pedis antici 2. poſtici 2. Digni pedis antici 3. poſtici 7. quorum extimus retroſum flexilis. Digni pedis antici 3. poſtici 2.	Pſittacus. Bubo. Noctua. Otus. Ulula. Vultur. Buteo. Falco. Cypſopus. Lanius. Fygargus. Tinnunculus.	PICÆ. Roſtrum ſingulare compendium, convexum.	Paradiſica. Coracias. Corvus.	Pennis 2. longiſſimæ, ſingulares nec alæ, nec uropygio indiæ. Pes 4dact. Roſtris exteriores gradatim breviores. Pes 4dact. Roſtris æquales.	Manucodiata. Avis Paradifiaca. Pica. Corvus. Cornix. Meneſculus. Lupus. Glandia. Caryocata.	MACRORHINI. Roſtrum longum, ſubrotundum.	Cuculus. Picus.	Digni pedis antici 2. poſtici 2. Roſtrum læve. Digni pedis antici 2. Roſtrum anguſtatum.	Cuculus. Torquilla f. Junco. Picus niger. . . . viridis. . . . varius.		Certhia. Sitta. Upupa. Iſpida.	Pes 4dact. Roſtr. gracile incurvum. Pes 4dact. Roſtr. triangulare. Pes 4dact. Caput plumis criſtatum. Pes 4dact. cujus digitus extimus medio ſubſectitur tribus articulis.	Certhia. Picus cinereus Upupa. Iſpida. Merops.		Grus.	Caput ciliatum.	Grus.
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PICÆ. Roſtrum ſingulare compendium, convexum.	Paradiſica. Coracias. Corvus.	Pennis 2. longiſſimæ, ſingulares nec alæ, nec uropygio indiæ. Pes 4dact. Roſtris exteriores gradatim breviores. Pes 4dact. Roſtris æquales.	Manucodiata. Avis Paradifiaca. Pica. Corvus. Cornix. Meneſculus. Lupus. Glandia. Caryocata.																																																	
MACRORHINI. Roſtrum longum, ſubrotundum.	Cuculus. Picus.	Digni pedis antici 2. poſtici 2. Roſtrum læve. Digni pedis antici 2. Roſtrum anguſtatum.	Cuculus. Torquilla f. Junco. Picus niger. . . . viridis. . . . varius.																																																	
	Certhia. Sitta. Upupa. Iſpida.	Pes 4dact. Roſtr. gracile incurvum. Pes 4dact. Roſtr. triangulare. Pes 4dact. Caput plumis criſtatum. Pes 4dact. cujus digitus extimus medio ſubſectitur tribus articulis.	Certhia. Picus cinereus Upupa. Iſpida. Merops.																																																	
	Grus.	Caput ciliatum.	Grus.																																																	

Systema naturae 1735 29

"I know no greater man on earth." Jean-Jacques Rousseau

The birth of "modern" classification

Plants classified into 24 classes according to length and number of stamens; further classified into orders etc. Established binary system of naming



Frontispiece to
Linnaeus, *Hortus
Cliffortianus* 1737

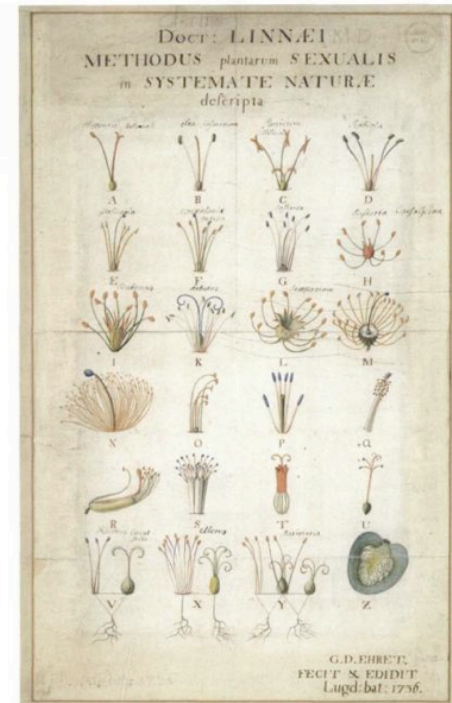


Plate 156: An illustration by Georg Dionysius Ehret for the *Hortus Cliffortianus* (1735–48) in which the Swedish plantsman, Carl Linnaeus, first began to work out his 'methodus plantarum sexualis', grouping plants according to the number and arrangement of their stamens

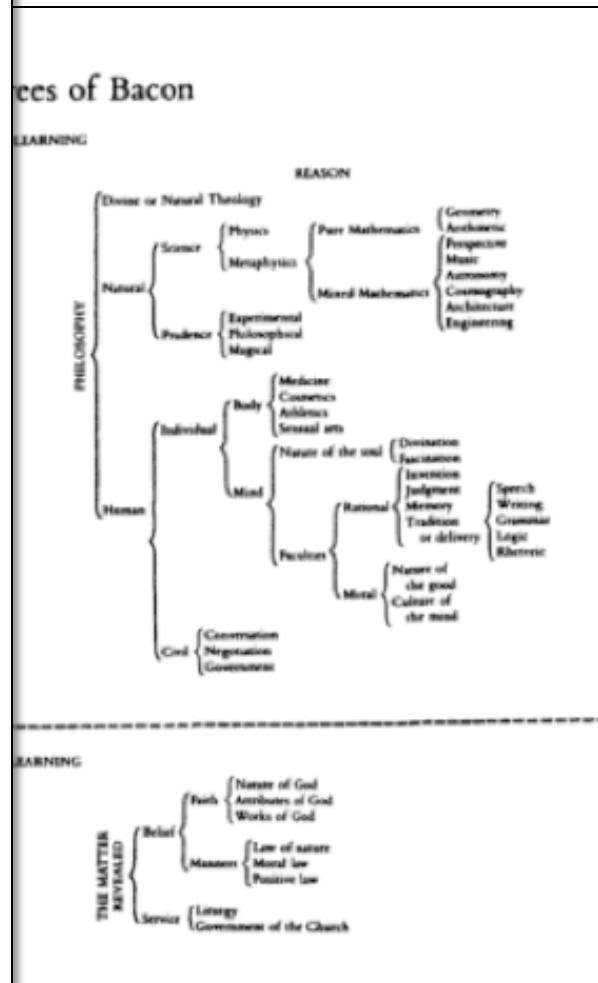
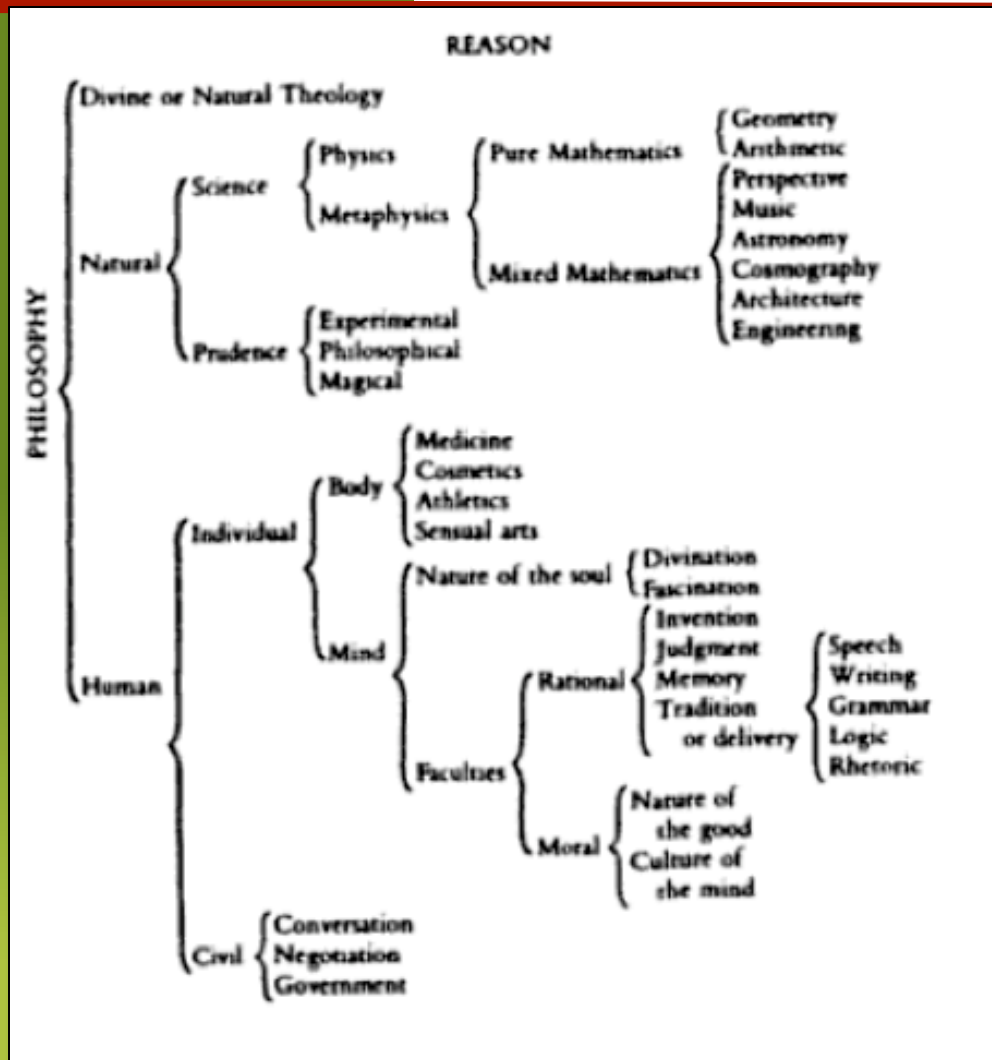


Organizing Knowledge

Early modern solutions



The Tree of Bacon





Pragmatic Forces: Perceptions of "Information Overload"



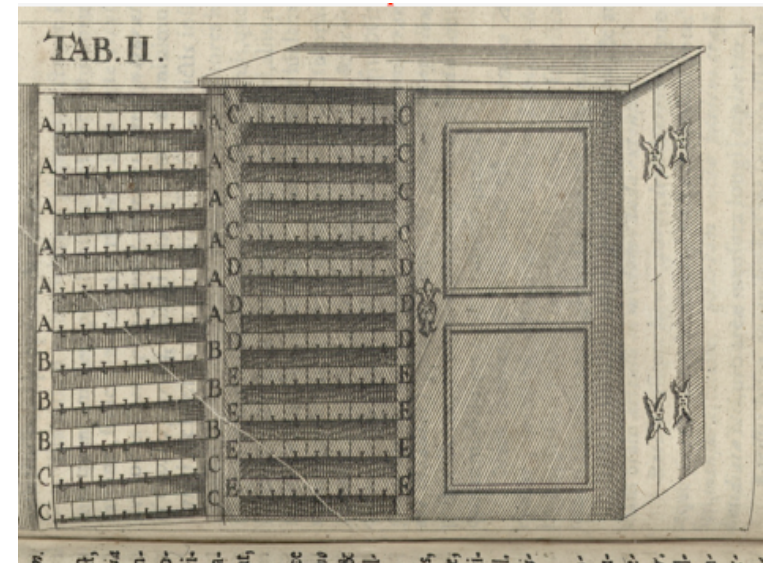
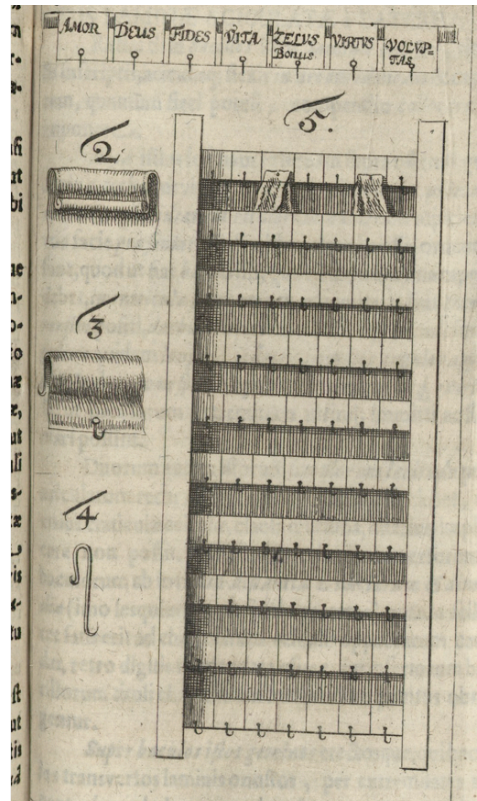
Antonfrancesco Doni, 1550: there are “so many books that we do not have time to read even the titles.”

“That horrible mass of books... keeps on growing, [until] the disorder will become nearly insurmountable.” Gottfried Leibniz, 1680

i

Strategies for Dealing with “Information Overload”

Note-taking system of Vincent Placcius, from *De arte excerpendi*, 1689





The Reorganization of Libraries



Gabriel Naudé proposes library organization scheme to “find books without labor, without trouble, and without confusion.” (1627)



Bibliothèque
Mazarine (1643)





Creation of "reference" works

Compendia and reference books (*répertoires* or *trésors*)

"I esteem these Collections extreamly profitable and necessary, considering, the brevity of our life, and the multitude of things which we are now obliged to know, e're one can be reckoned amongst the number of learned men, do not permit us to do all of ourselves." Gabriel Naudé, 1661

The *Cyclopaedia* will "answer all the Purposes of a Library, except Parade and Incumbrance." Ephraim Chambers, 1728



Creation of "reference" works

Compendia and reference books (*répertoires* or *trésors*)

ENCYCLOPÉDIE,
O U
DICTIONNAIRE RAISONNÉ
DES SCIENCES,
DES ARTS ET DES MÉTIERS,
PAR UNE SOCIÉTÉ DE GENS DE LETTRES.

Mis en ordre & publié par M. DIDEROT, de l'Académie Royale des Sciences & des Belles-Lettres de Prusse; & quant à la PARTIE MATHÉMATIQUE, par M. D'ALEMBERT, de l'Académie Royale des Sciences de Paris, de celle de Prusse, & de la Société Royale de Londres.

*Tantum series juncturaque pollet,
Tantum de medio sumptis accedit honoris? HORAT.*

TOME PREMIER.



A PARIS,

BRIASSON, rue Saint Jacques, à la Science.
DAVID l'aîné, rue Saint Jacques, à la Plume d'or.
LE BRETON, Imprimeur ordinaire du Roy, rue de la Harpe.
DURAND, rue Saint Jacques, à Saint Landry, & au Griffon.

M. DCC. LI.

AVEC APPROBATION ET PRIVILEGE

ENCYCLOPÉDIE
MÉTHODIQUE.

ARTS ACADÉMIQUES.
ÉQUITATION, ESCRIME,
DANSE,
ET ART DE NAGER.



A PARIS,

Chez PANCKOUCKE, Libraire, hôtel de Thion, rue des Poitevins,

A LIÈGE,

Chez PLOMTEUX, Imprimeur des États.

As long as the centuries continue to unfold, the number of books will grow continually, and one can predict that a time will come when it will be almost as difficult to learn anything from books as from the direct study of the whole universe. It will be almost as convenient to search for some bit of truth concealed in nature as it will be to find it hidden away in an immense multitude of bound volumes.

—Denis Diderot, *Encyclopédie*, 1755



Creation of "reference" works



The most accomplished way of using books at present is twofold. Either, first, to serve them as men do Lords, learn their titles exactly and then brag of their acquaintance :—or, secondly, which is indeed the choicer, the profounder, and politer method, to get a thorough insight into the Index, by which the whole book is governed and turned, like fishes, by the tail. For to enter the palace of Learning at the great gate requires an expense of time and forms ; therefore men of much haste and little ceremony are content to get in by the back-door. ... Thus men catch knowledge by throwing their wit on the posteriors of a book, as boys do sparrows by flinging salt upon the tail."

Jonathan Swift, "Tale of a Tub," 1704

...How Index-learning turns no student pale,
Yet holds the eel of Science by the tail.

Pope, "The Dunciad," 1728





Philosophical Issues: Reorganizations of Knowledge



New Schemes of Organization: Philosophical Influences



Francis Bacon's scheme puts man at the center:

Nature (astronomy, meteorology, etc.).

Man (anatomy, powers, actions),

Man acting on nature (medicine, visual arts, arithmetic),,,



Chamber's Cyclopædia 1728

CYCLOPÆDIA: OR, AN UNIVERSAL DICTIONARY OF ARTS and SCIENCES;

CONTAINING
The DEFINITIONS of the TERMS,
AND ACCOUNTS OF

The THINGS signify'd thereby,

In the several ARTS,
AND LIBERAL and MECHANICAL,
And the several SCIENCES,
HUMAN and DIVINE.

The Figures, Kinds, Properties, Productions, Preparations, and Uses,
of Things NATURAL and ARTIFICIAL;

The Rise, Progress, and State of Things HIGHERLY CIVIL, POLITICAL, AND COMMERCIAL;

With the several Systems, Sides, Opinions, &c. among Philosophers, Divines, Mathematicians, Physicians, Astronomers, Geographers, &c.

The Words inserted as a Gloss of Authors and Modern SPEAKERS.

Compiled from the best Authors, ENGLISHMEN, FRENCH, ITALIANS, TRANSLATIONS, SPANISH, &c. in several Languages.

IN TWO VOLUMES

By E. CHAMBERS Esq.

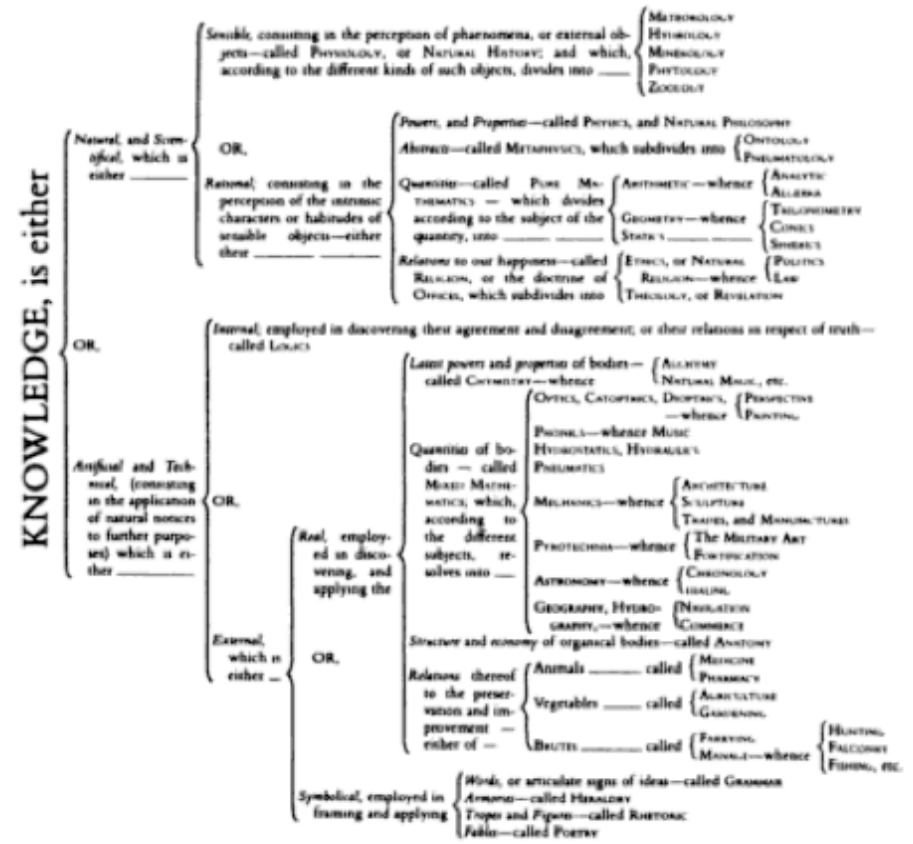
Printed in Great Britain, in the Strand, at the Sign of the Sun, in the Year 1728.

VOLUME THE FIRST.

LONDON.

Sold by James and John Pappe, Stationers, Great Britain; John Churchill, Stationer, Pall Mall; John Baskin, Stationer, St. Dunns Church Lane; John Tonson and The Company, Stationers, Strand; John Walthoe, Stationer, Strand; John W. and J. W. and J. W. Stationers, Strand; and Thomas Bland, Stationer, Strand.

The Tree of Chambers





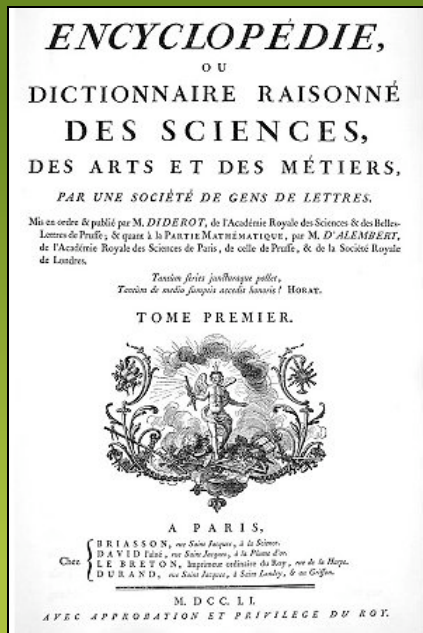
The Encyclopédie



First vol. appears in 1751; last in 1772;

It is only the presence of man that makes the existence of other beings significant... Why should we not introduce man into our Encyclopedia, giving him the same place that he occupies in the universe? Why should we not make him the center of all that is? ...

With man at the center, how lively and pleasing will be the ensuing relations between man and other beings, between other beings and man!" (Diderot, p. 80-81).





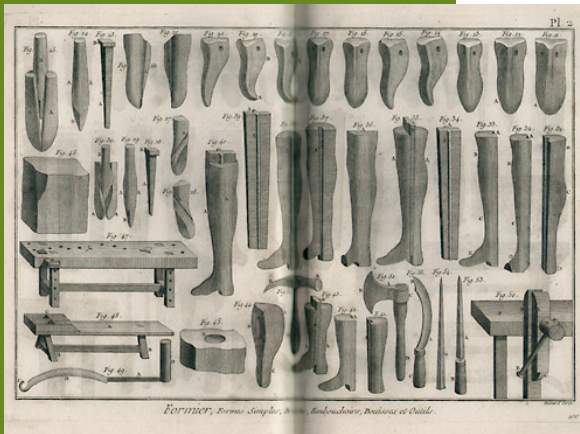
The spatialization of knowledge



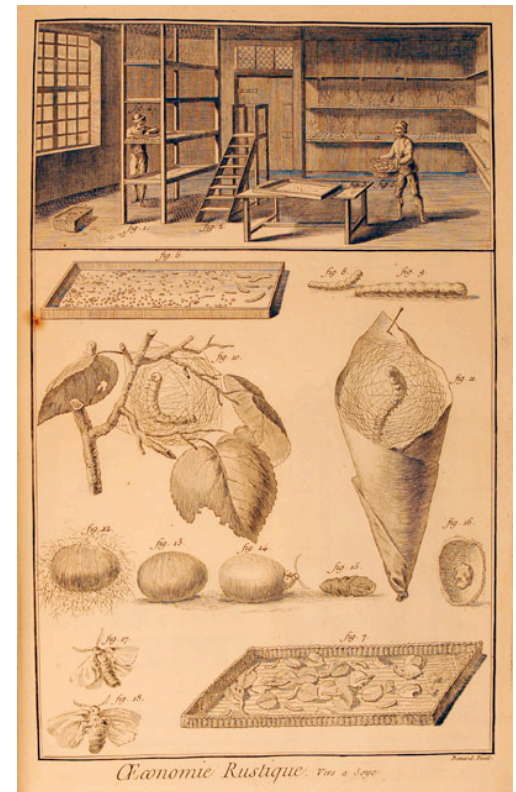
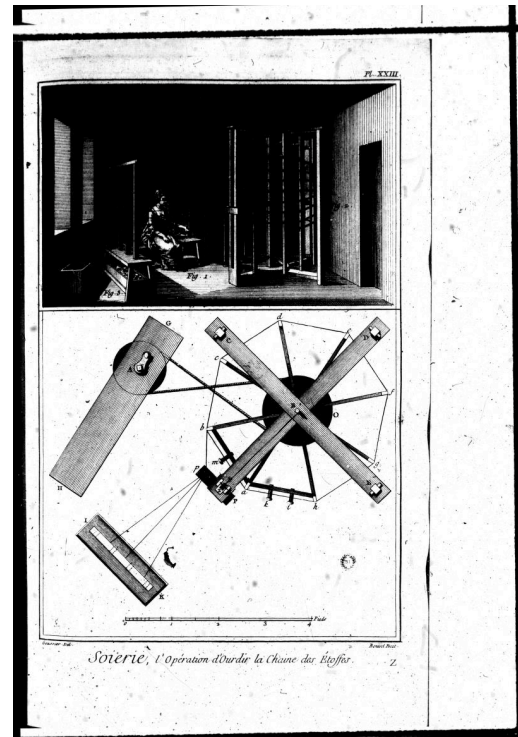
Jean d'Alembert

[T]he encyclopedic arrangement of our knowledge ... consists of collecting knowledge into the smallest area possible and of placing the philosopher at a vantage point, so to speak, high above this vast labyrinth, whence he can perceive the principle sciences and the arts simultaneously. From there he can see at a glance the objects of their speculations and the operations which can be made on these objects; he can discern the general branches of human knowledge, ...and sometimes he can even glimpse the secrets that relate them to one another. It is a kind of world map which is to show the principle countries, their position and their mutual dependence, the road that leads directly from one to the other.

"Sciences, Arts Libéraux, Arts Mécaniques"



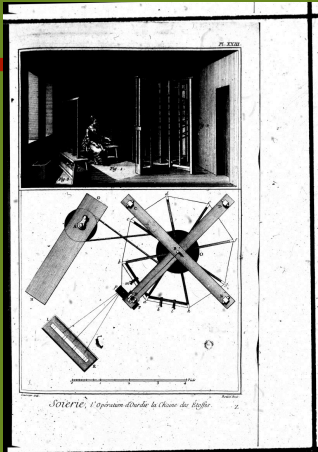
Formier



Economie Rustique (silk-making)



"Sciences, Arts Libéraux, Arts Mécaniques"



...the advantage that the *liberal* arts have over the *mechanical* arts, because of their demands upon the intellect and because of the difficulty of excelling in them, is sufficiently counter-balanced by the quite *superior* usefulness which the latter for the most part have for us....while justly respecting great geniuses for their enlightenment, society ought not to degrade the hands by which it is served”

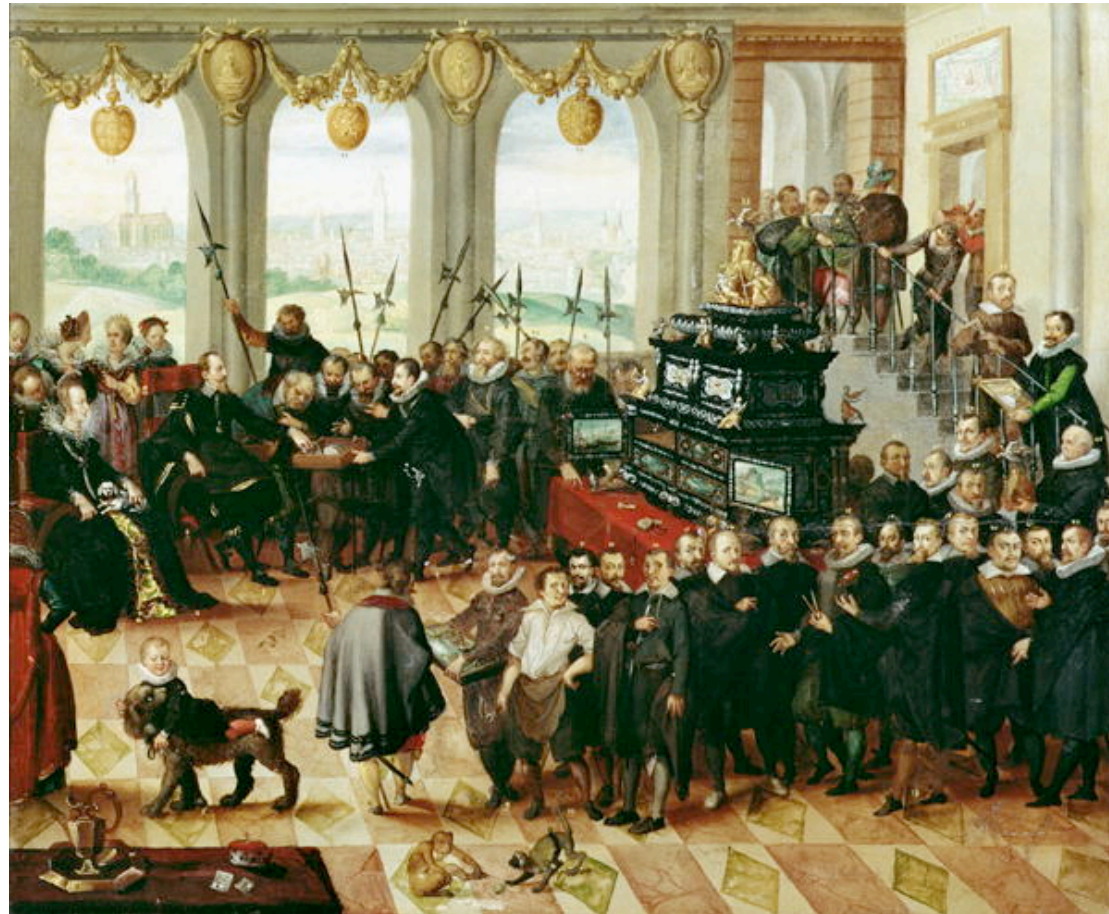
d'Alembert, Preliminary Discourse to the Encyclopédie



Economie Rustique (silk-making)



Material Representations of Knowledge



Presentation of the Pomeranian Kunstschränk to Duke Philip II of Pomerania-Stettin



Material Representations of Knowledge

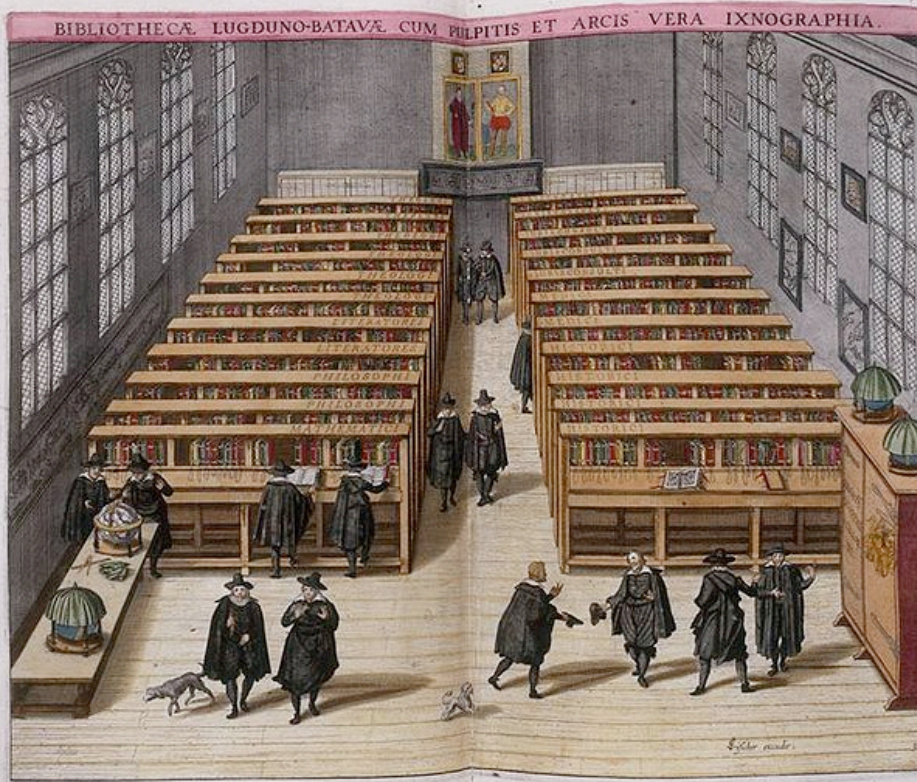
Knowledge and the role of the "trésor"

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



Material Representations of Knowledge



Leiden University Library, 1610

Curriculum mirrored in form of library (bibliographies)



Knowledge and the "Virtuosi"

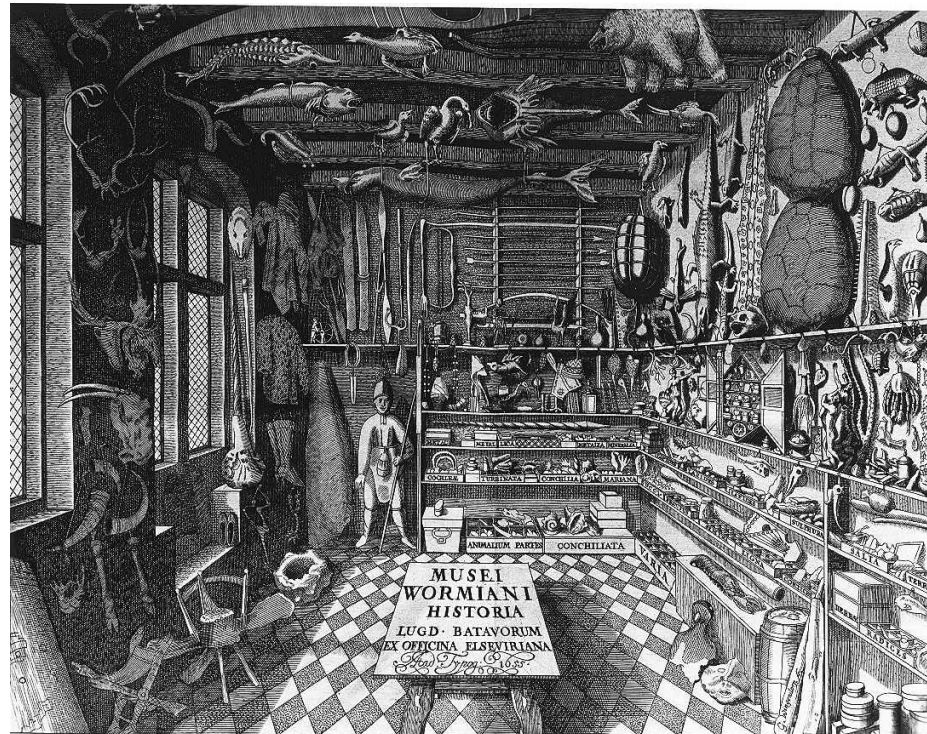
"He Trafficks to all places, and has his Correspondents in every part of the World; yet his Merchandizes serve not to promote our Luxury, nor encrease our Trade, and neither enrich the Nation, nor himself. A Box or two of Pebbles or Shells, and a dozen of Wasps, Spiders and Caterpillars are his Cargoe. He values a Camelion, or Salamander's Egg, above all the Sugars and Spices of the West and East-Indies... He visits Mines, Cole-pits, and Quarries frequently, but not for that sordid end that other Men usually do, viz, gain; but for the sake of the fossile Shells and Teeth that are sometimes found there." (Mary Astell, "Character of a Virtuoso," 1696)





Representations of Knowledge: The Kunstkammer

Organization of knowledge mirrored in form of
Kunstkammer, cabinets of curiosities,
Wunderkammer, etc.



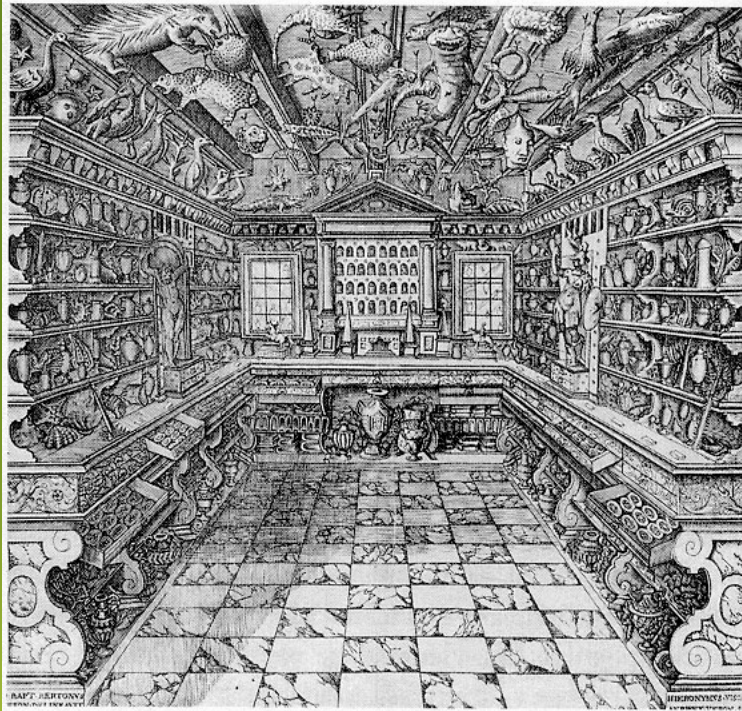
Representations of Knowledge: The Kunstkammer



Natural History Cabinet, Naples, 1599



Representations of Knowledge: The Kunstkammer



The Kunstkammer of Rudolph II was a carefully organized "museum" articulated through an understanding of the world... Its contents were organised to exhibit a world picture, with objects that symbolised all aspects of nature and art, as conceptualized by the occult philosophers... This organisation depended on the concept of resemblance, where the objects and their proximities suggested macrocosmic microcosmic links.

Eilean Hooper-Greenhill, *Museums and the Organisation of Knowledge*



Representations of Knowledge: The Studiolo & the Kunstschränk

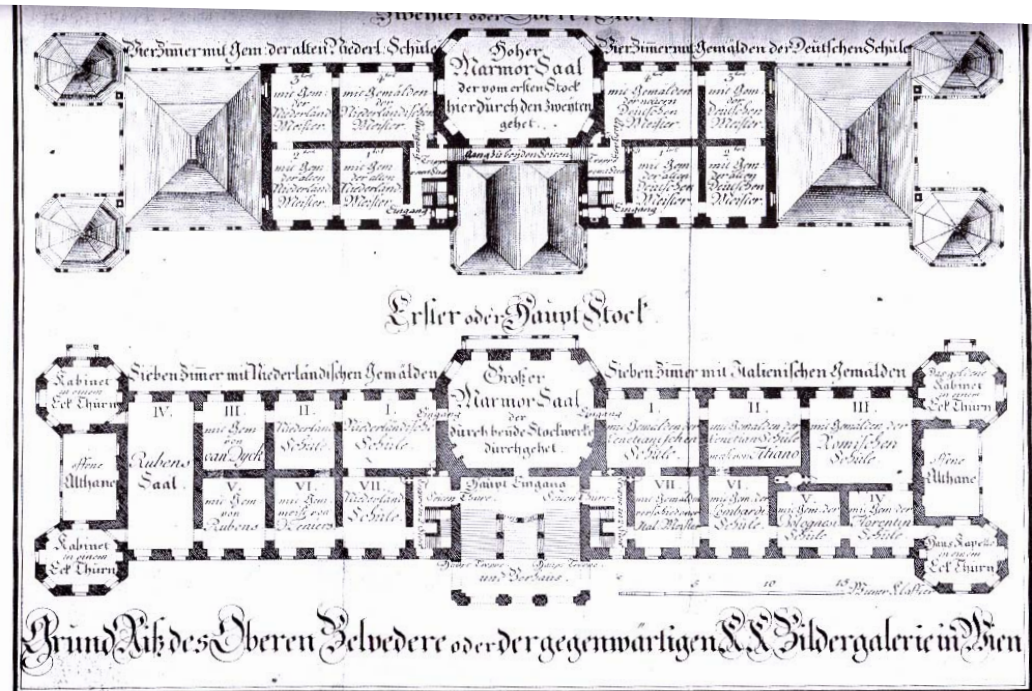
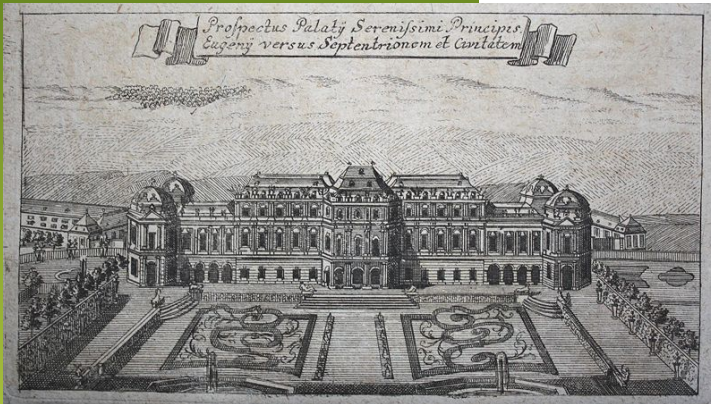


Kunstskammer, 1636

Studiolo of Francesco I
Florence (1570)

18th c. Galleries

Painting Galleries,
Schloss
Belvedere,
Vienna, 1781



29 Histories of Art were created in many of the galleries of Europe. This plan of the paintings gallery in the Schloss Belvedere in 1778, shows how the works were grouped by country, and within that, by date, by (geographical) school, or by individual artist. This is in marked contrast to the form of display shown in Plate 23.



The Enlightenment Plan



Jean d'Alembert

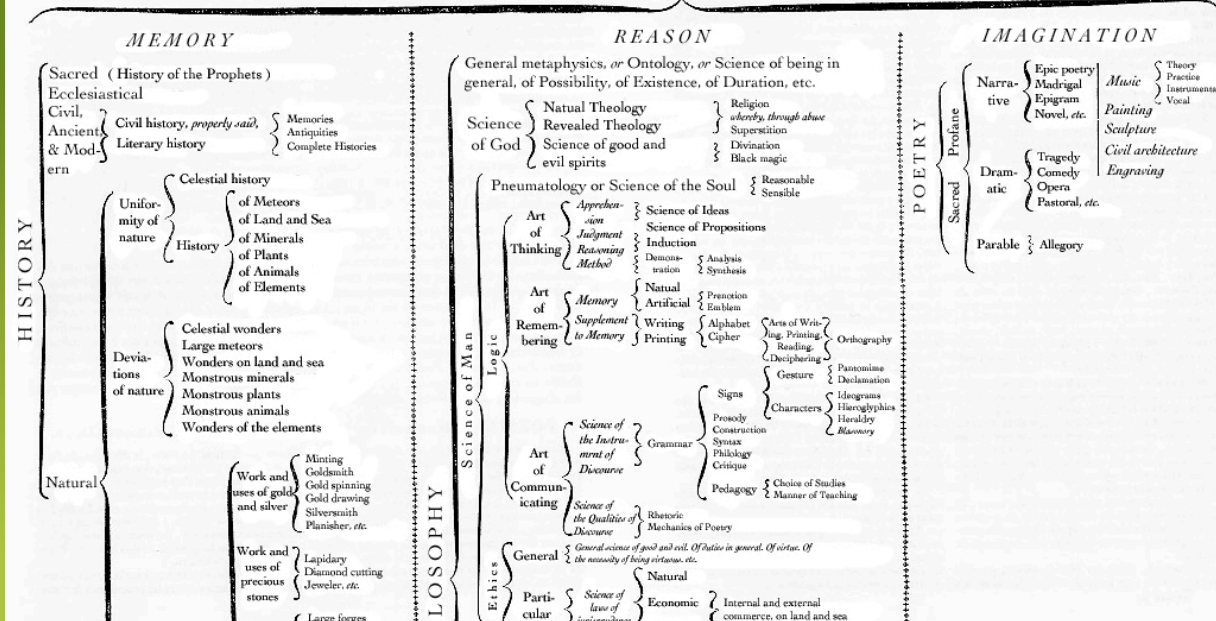
"The tree of human knowledge could be formed in several ways, either by relating different knowledge to the diverse faculties of our mind or by relating it to the things that it has as its object. The difficulty was greatest where it involved the most arbitrariness. But how could there not be arbitrariness? Nature presents us only with particular things, infinite in number and without firmly established divisions. Everything shades off into everything else by imperceptible nuances.



The Tree of Diderot & D'Alembert

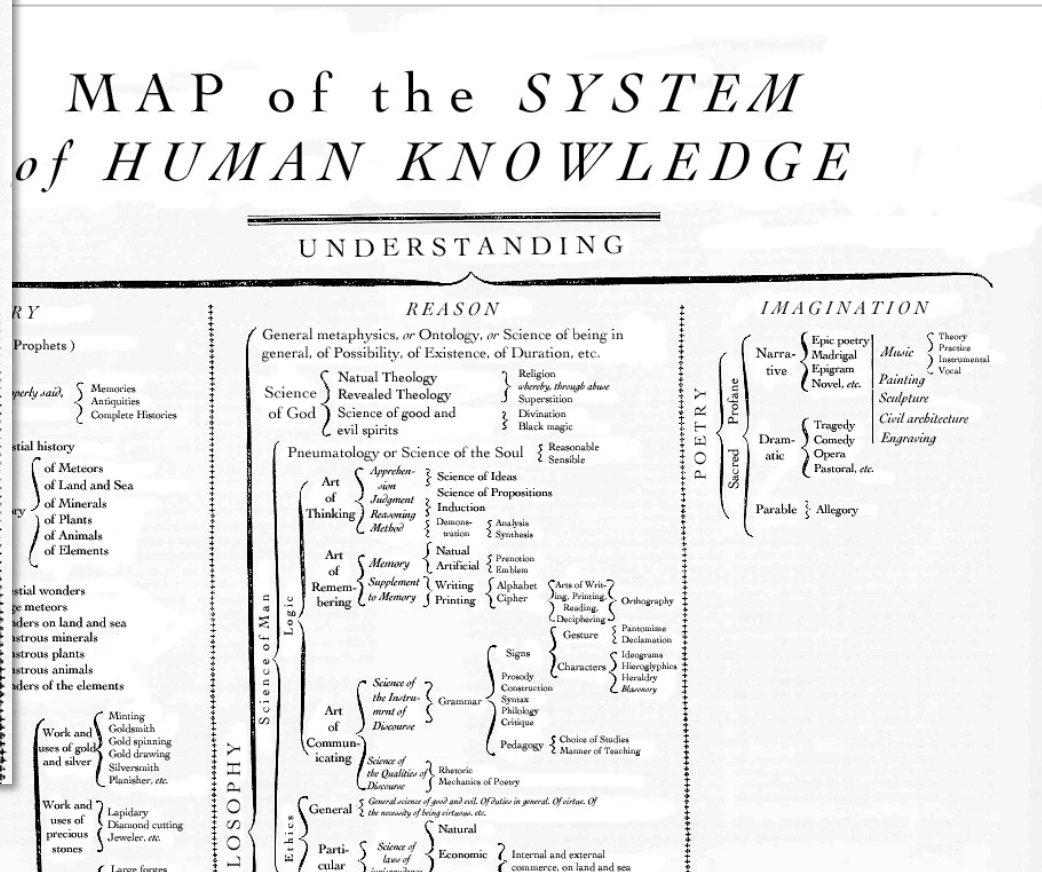
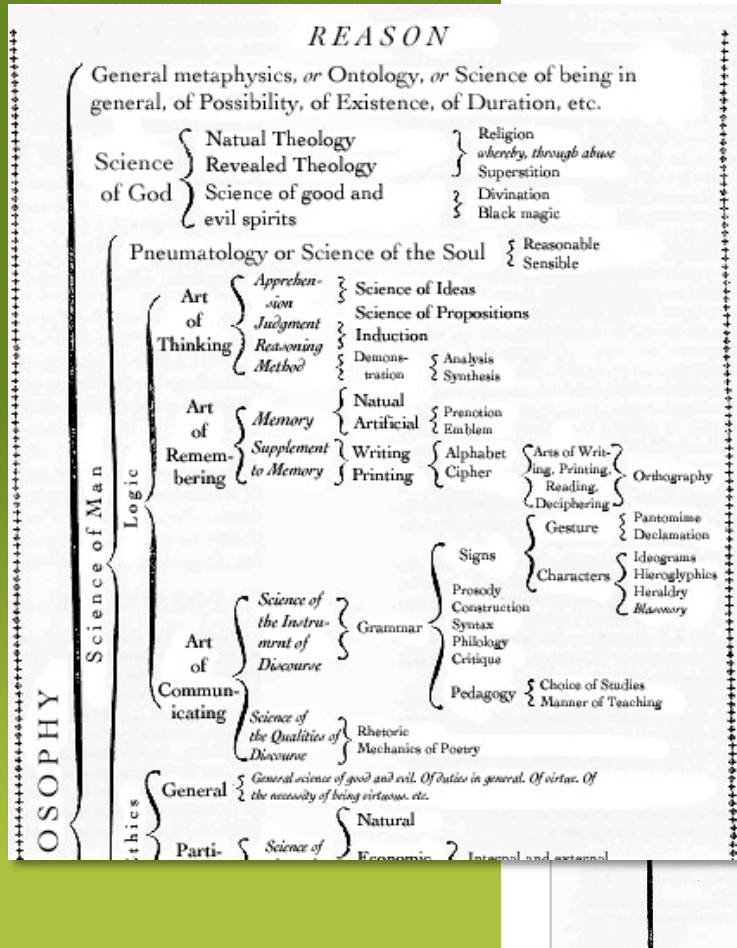
MAP of the SYSTEM of HUMAN KNOWLEDGE

UNDERSTANDING





The Tree of Diderot & D'Alembert



The Tree of Diderot & D'Alembert



ESSAI D'UNE DISTRIBUTION GÉNÉALOGIQUE
DES SCIENCES ET DES ARTS PRINCIPAUX.

Selon l'Explication détaillée du Système
des Connaissances Humaines dans le Discours
préliminaire des Editeurs de l'Encyclopédie
publiée par M. Diderot et M. d'Alembert,
À Paris en 1751

Reduit en cette forme pour
découvrir la connaissance
Humaine d'un coup d'oeil.
Par Chrétien Frederic Guillaume Roth,
À Weimar, 1769



The Politics of Knowledge: The advent of the dictionary



Print, the Public, and Linguistic Anxiety



[Britain] has become a nation of readers. --Samuel Johnson, 1781

The problem of the public sphere:

How to coordinate public opinion via an impersonal print discourse between people who are anonymous to one another, in the absence of context...



The Growing Sense of Crisis



John Dryden (1693): "we have yet no prosodia, not so much as a tolerable dictionary, or a grammar, so that our language is in a manner barbarous.



William Warburton (1747): the English language is "destitute of a Test or Standard to apply to, in cases of doubt or difficulty.... For we have neither Grammar nor Dictionary, neither Chart nor Compass, to guide us through this wide sea of Words."



The Growing Sense of Crisis

Continuing desire to fix ("ascertain") the language:



"Suffer not our Shakespear, and our Milton, to become two or three centuries hence what Chaucer is at present, the study only of a few poring antiquarians, and in an age or two more the victims of bookworms." Thomas Sheridan



Short is the date, alas! of modern rhymes,
And 'tis but just to let them live betimes.
No longer now that Golden Age appears,
When patriarch wits survived a thousand years:
Now length of fame (our second life) is lost,
And bare threescore is all ev'n that can boast:
Our sons their fathers' failing language see,
And such as Chaucer is shall Dryden be.

Cf Alexander Pope, "Essay on Criticism"

An academy to "ascertain" the language?



1712: Swift writes "A Proposal for Correcting, Improving, and Ascertaining the English Tongue in a Letter to Lord Harley

My Lord; I do here in the Name of all the Learned and Polite Persons of the Nation, complain to your Lordship, as First Minister, that our Language is extremely imperfect; that its daily Improvements are by no means in proportion to its daily Corruptions; and the Pretenders to polish and refine it, have chiefly multiplied Abuses and Absurdities; and, that in many Instances, it offends against every Part of Grammar. ...

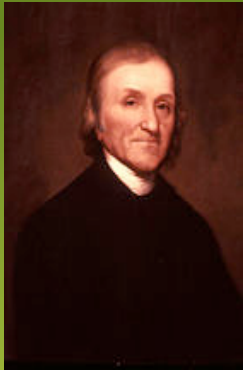




The Rejection of an Academy

If an academy should be established for the cultivation of our stile, which I, who can never wish to see dependance multiplied, hope the spirit of English liberty will hinder or destroy...

Johnson, Preface to the *Dictionary*



As to a publick academy... I think it not only unsuitable to the genius of a *free nation*, but in itself ill calculated to reform and fix a language. We need make no doubt but that the best forms of speech will, in time, establish themselves by their own superior excellence...

Joseph Priestly, *Rudiments of Grammar*, 1761

Contrast the role of the state in French....



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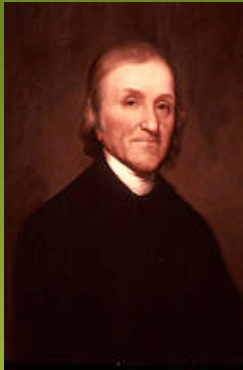




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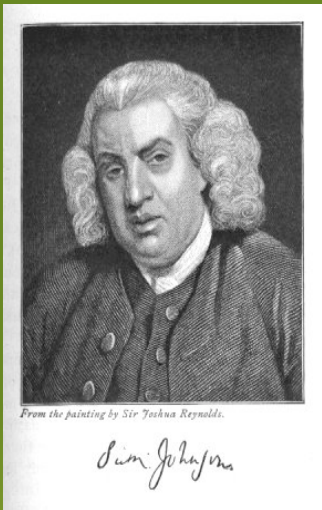
Johnson to the Rescue!

1746: J. approached by "conger" of booksellers to make dict. for 1500 guineas

Johnson installs himself and his amanusenses in Gough Square to begin work on the Dictionary

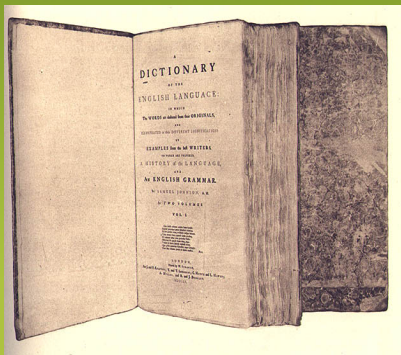
1747: The "Plan of an English Dictionary" appears

1755: Appearance of Johnson's Dictionary of the English Language.



From the painting by Sir Joshua Reynolds.

Sam. Johnson



The Success of the *Dictionary*



Talk of war with a Briton, he'll boldly advance,
That one English soldier will beat ten of France,
Would we alter the boast from the sword to the pen,
Our odds are still greater, still greater our men . . .
First Shakspeare and Milton, like Gods in the fight,
Have put their whole drama and epick to flight...
And Johnson, well-arm'd like a hero of yore,
Has beat forty French, and will beat forty more!"

David Garrick



The Success of the *Dictionary*



The Dictionary being now at length published... the world contemplated with wonder so stupendous a work atchieved by one man, while other countries had thought such undertakings fit only for whole academies. James Boswell, *Life of Johnson*

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

Did the Dictionary really fix the language?

Johnson condemns words like *bully*, *coax*, and *job*.



ADV

He had received advantage for the many, which was fit for his noble mind, but received none such in former years. ... ADVANTAGE, n. f. [advantage, Lat.] The person or thing which adulterates.

To ADULTERATE, v. a. [adulterer, Fr. adultero, Lat.] To corrupt by some foreign admixture; to contaminate.

Common pot-ashes, bought of them that sell it in shops, who are not so foolishly knavish, as to adulterate them with salt-petre, which is much dearer than pot-ashes.

Could a man be composed to such an advantage of constitution,

ADU

ADULTERANT, n. f. [adulterant, Lat.] The person or thing which adulterates. ... ADULTERANT, n. f. [adulterant, Lat.] The person or thing which adulterates.

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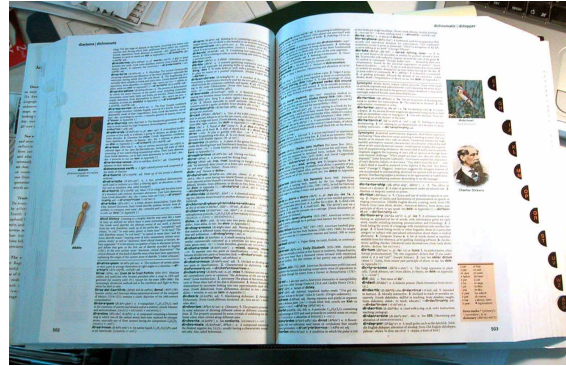
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The Persistence of Form



The dictionary: the most conservative and conventionalized of literary genres.

Cf Adam Makkai: "Nothing significantly new has happened in lexicography since the first printed dictionaries after Gutenberg invented the printing of books."

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2. To corrupt by some foreign admixture; to contaminate.

Common pot-ashes, bought of them that sell it in shops, who are not so foolishly knavish, as to *adulterate* them with salt-petre, which is much dearer than pot-ashes.

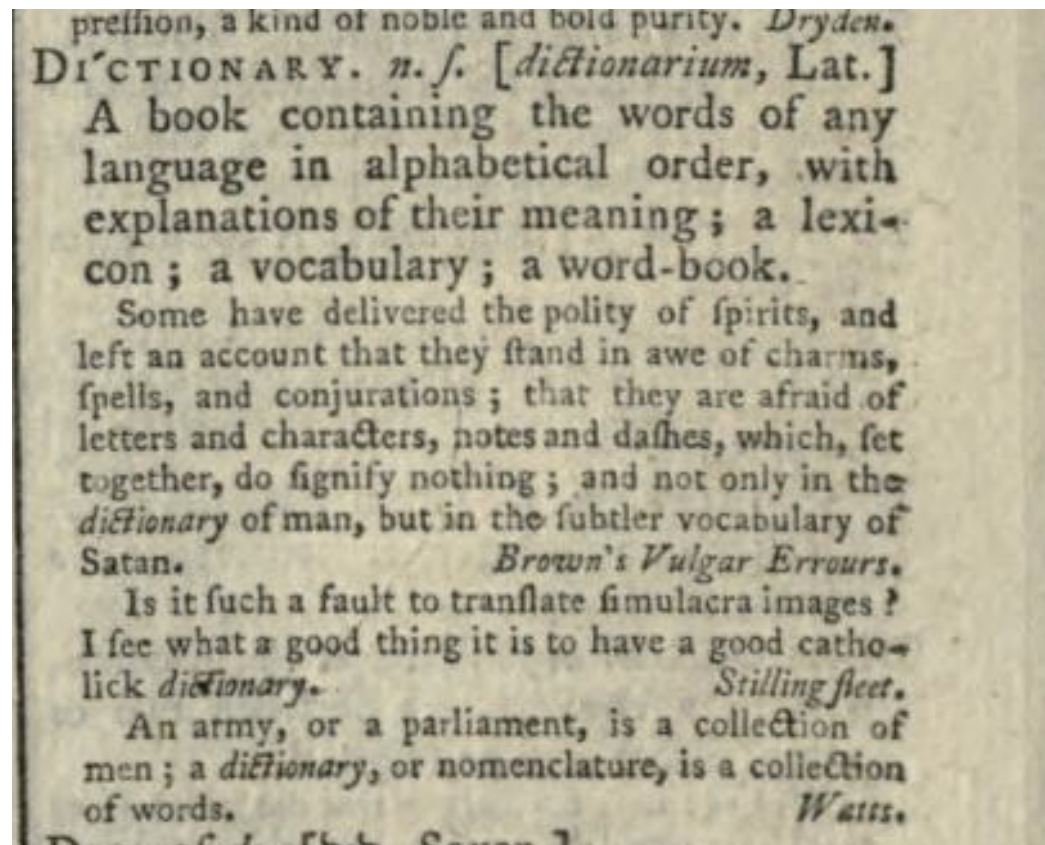
Boyle.

Could a man be composed to such an advantage of constitution,



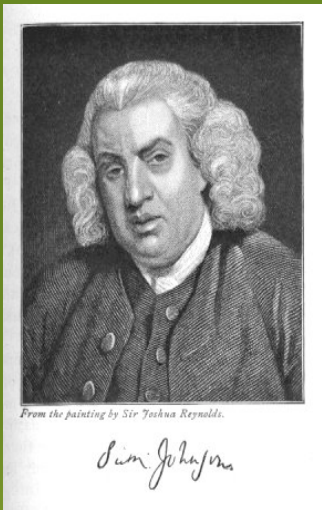
Features of Johnson's Dictionary

Meanings illustrated by citations from English writers:
"The book written by books"





Johnson to the Rescue!



From the painting by Sir Joshua Reynolds.

1746: J. approached by "conger" of booksellers to make dict. for 1500 guineas

Johnson installs himself and his amanusenses in Gough Square to begin work on the Dictionary

1747: The "Plan of an English Dictionary" appears

Hodge





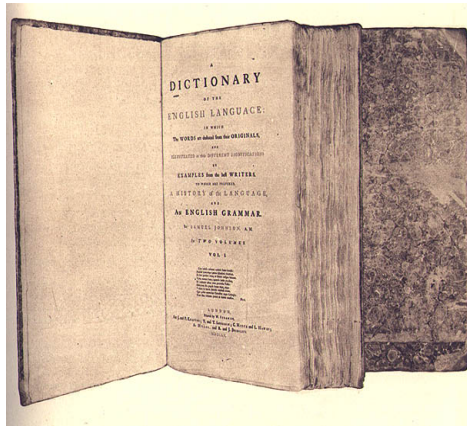
ADV

He had received advertisement for the party, which was first for his adulation from London, had received some letters in former letters, which would not have been so... The form and manner by which... to give a large flow, and in fact... to give a large flow, and in fact... to give a large flow, and in fact...

ADU

He had received advertisement for the party, which was first for his adulation from London, had received some letters in former letters, which would not have been so... I had the great thought (which yet by all allowed me still a proper and almost a quiet one, when he was one... Then shall I have the thought (which yet by all allowed me still a proper and almost a quiet one, when he was one... Then shall I have the thought (which yet by all allowed me still a proper and almost a quiet one, when he was one...)

1755 appearance of Johnson's Dictionary of the English Language.



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Some Johnsonian Definitions

Excise: A hateful tax levied upon commodities, and adjudged not by the common judges of property, but wretches hired by those to whom excise is paid.



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Lexicographer: A writer of dictionaries; a harmless drudge that busies himself in tracing the original, and detailing the signification of words.

Oats: A grain, which in England is generally given to horses, but in Scotland appears to support the people.

The Success of the *Dictionary*



Talk of war with a Briton, he'll boldly advance,
That one English soldier will beat ten of France,
Would we alter the boast from the sword to the pen,
Our odds are still greater, still greater our men . . .
First Shakspeare and Milton, like Gods in the fight,
Have put their whole drama and epick to flight...
And Johnson, well-arm'd like a hero of yore,
Has beat forty French, and will beat forty more!"

David Garrick



The Success of the *Dictionary*



The Dictionary being now at length published... the world contemplated with wonder so stupendous a work atchieved by one man, while other countries had thought such undertakings fit only for whole academies. James Boswell, *Life of Johnson*

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

Did the Dictionary really fix the language?

Johnson condemns words like *bully*, *coax*, and *job*.



ADV

He had received advantage, for the more, which was fit for his skill and conduct, but received none such in former years. *Chaucer*

The first and second, by their former names, were more kinds of government, in military affairs, the latter to govern a city, town, or other place, where the government was a state, province, or other kind of state, viz. the sort of state; the first, the sort of state.

Advantage, n. s. [advantage, Fr.]

1. The gain or benefit of an individual.

2. The gain or benefit of a nation.

3. The gain or benefit of a nation, or other place, where the government was a state, province, or other kind of state, viz. the sort of state; the first, the sort of state.

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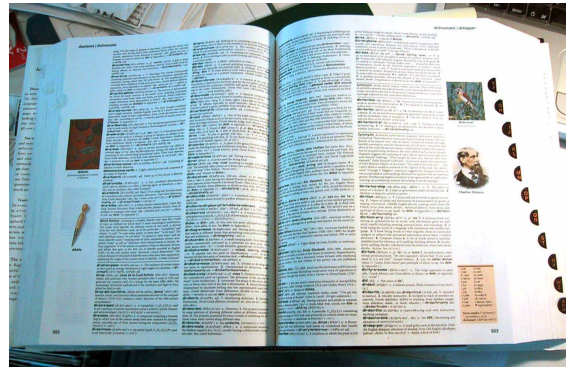
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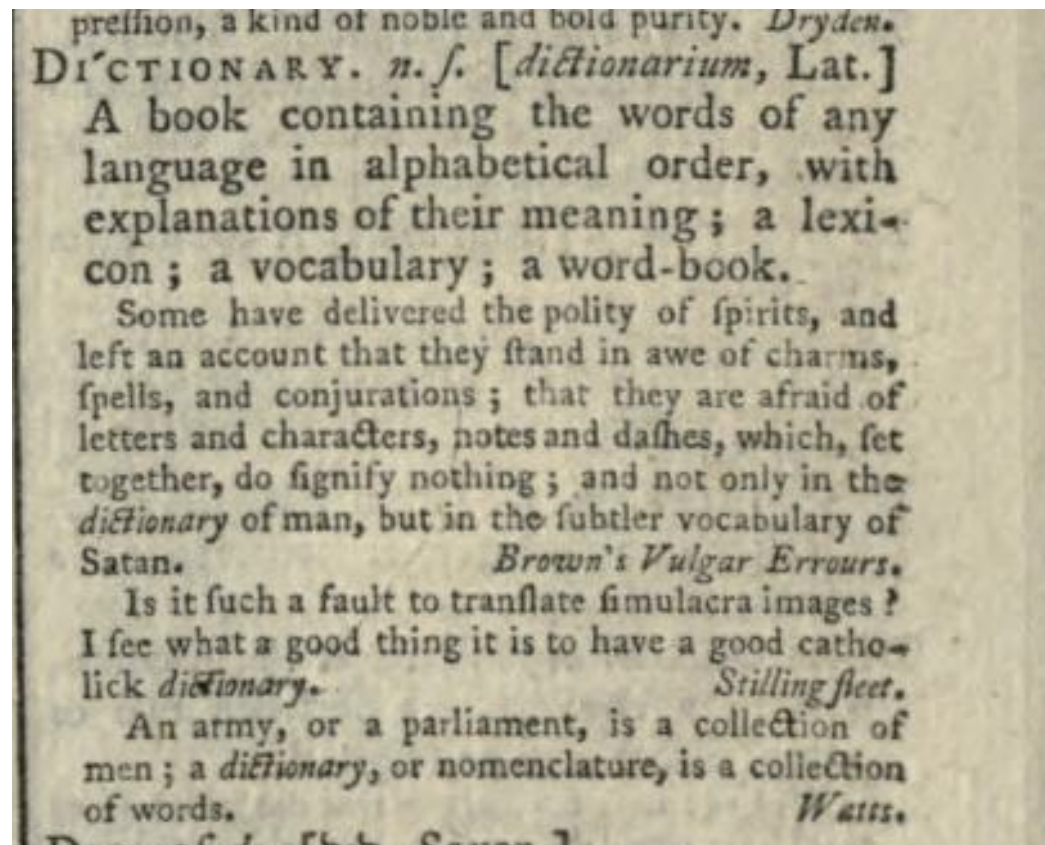
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Meanings illustrated by citations from English writers:
"The book written by books"





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



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 Symbolic Function 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

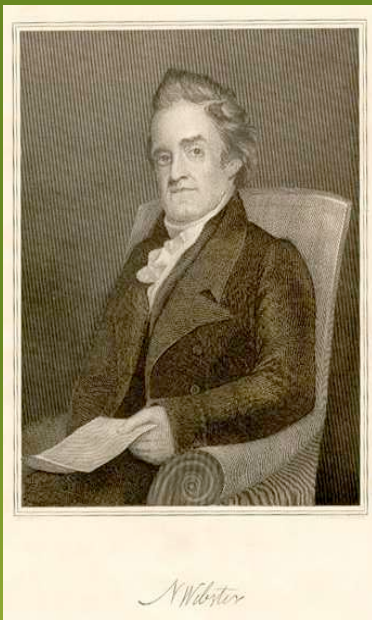
Tag for delivery Clear

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



The Americanization of the Dictionary



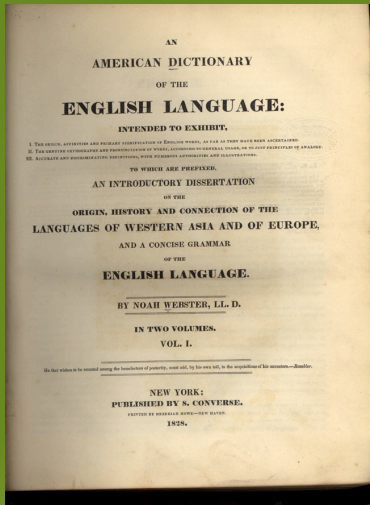
Noah Webster

You have corrected the dangerous doctrines of European powers, correct now the languages you have imported... The American language will thus be as distinct as the government, free from all the follies of unphilosophical fashion, and resting upon truth as its only regulator. William Thornton, 1793.

From the changes in civil policy, manners, arts of life, and other circumstances attending the settlement of English colonies in America, most of the language of heraldry, hawking, hunting, and especially that of the old feudal and hierarchical establishments of England will become utterly extinct in this country; much of it already forms part of the neglected rubbish of antiquity. Noah Webster, 1806



The Americanization of the Dictionary



Cf Webster's Spelling reforms: *honor*, *theater*, etc., but also *tung*, *iz*...

"A capital advantage of this [spelling] reform in these States would be, that it would make a difference between the English orthography and the American.... I am confident that such an event is an object of vast political consequence."

Development of the Dictionary

1857-1928: Preparation of the OED; historical record of the entire language...



Abbreviate (ăbrĭvĭ,ĕt), *v.*, also 5-7 **abbreviate**. [f. ABBREVIATE *ppl. a.*; or on the analogy of *vbs.* so formed; see -ATE. A direct representative of L. *abbreviāre*; as ABRIDGE, and the obs. ABBREVI, represent it indirectly, through OFr. *abregier* and mid. Fr. *abrĕvier*. Like the latter, *abbreviate*, was often spelt *a-breviate* in 5-7.] To make shorter, shorten, cut short in any way.

1530 PALSGR., *Iabrevyate*: I make a thyng shorte, *Jeabrega*. 1625 BACON *Essays* xxiv. 99 (1862) But it is one Thing to Abbreviate by Contracting, Another by Cutting off.

† 1. *trans.* To make a discourse shorter by omitting details and preserving the substance; to abridge, condense. *Obs.*

a 1450 *Chester Pl.* I. 2 (Sh. Soc.) This matter he abbreviated into playes twenty-foure. 159a GREENE *Conny catching* III. 16 The queane abreviated her discourse. 1637 RALEIGH *Mahomet* 34 Abreviated out of two Arabique writers translated into Spanish. 167a MANLEY *Interpreter* pref., I have omitted several Matters . . . contracted and abbreviated Others.

† b. To make an abstract or brief of, to epitomize. *Obs.*

c 1450 TREVISA *Higden's Polychr.* I. 21 (Rolls Ser.) Trogus Pompeius, in hys xl^{iv} iiii. bookes, allemoste of alle the storyes of the worlde, whom Iustinus his disciple did abreviate. 1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* (1634) 627 To reade, to note, and to abbreviate Polibius. 1648-9 *The Kingdome Weekly Intelligencer* Jan. 16 to 23 The high court of Justice did this day sit again concerning the triall of the King. The charge was brought in and abbreviated.

† c. *Math.* To reduce (a fraction) to lower terms. *Obs.*

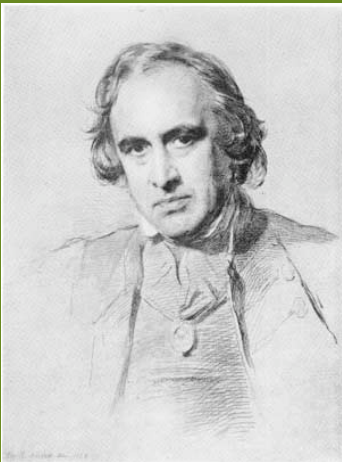
1796 *Mathem. Dict.* I. 2 To abbreviate fractions in arithmetic and algebra, is to lessen proportionally their terms, or the numerator and denominator.



James Murray



Political Significance of the OED

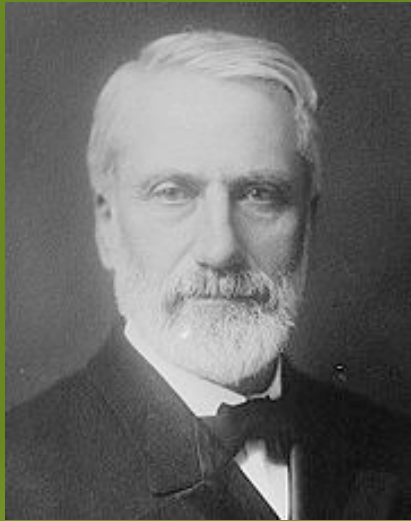


We could scarcely have a lesson on the growth of our English tongue, we could scarcely follow upon one of its significant words, without having unawares a lesson in English history as well, without not merely falling upon some curious fact illustrative of our national life, but learning also how the great heart which is beating at the centre of that life, was being gradually shaped and moulded.

Richard Chevenix Trench



The Popular Dictionary



Isaac Funk

[The dictionary] is the national key to human knowledge.... It behooves all those who are concerned in the education of the young to place this book on the same plane as the churchmen of old placed the English Bible. The dictionary should be placed on a lectern in every school throughout the land. Frank Vizetelly, 1898



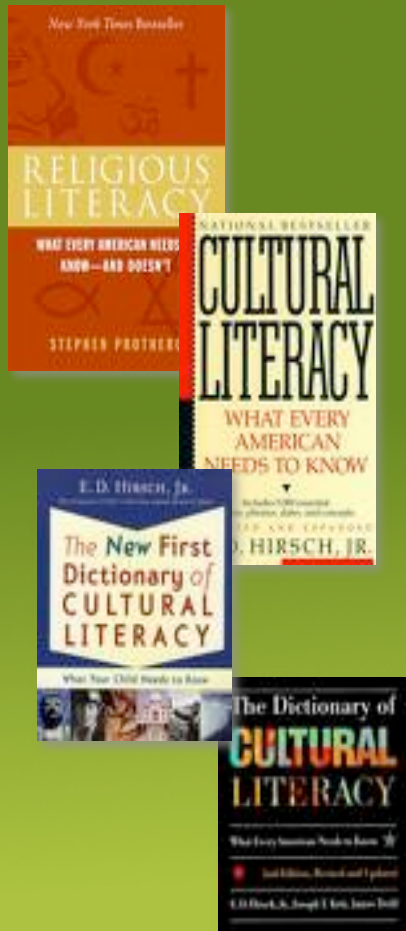
Spatializing the Domain of Knowledge



Circumscribing cultural knowledge

“Cultural literacy” from E. D. Hirsch: “What every American needs to know,” “the basic information needed to thrive in the modern world”

What [Jeanne S. Chall] calls world knowledge I call cultural literacy, namely, the network of information that all competent readers possess. It is the background information, stored in their minds, that enables them to take up a newspaper and read it with an adequate level of comprehension, getting the point, grasping the implications, relating what they read to the unstated context which alone gives meaning to what they read.



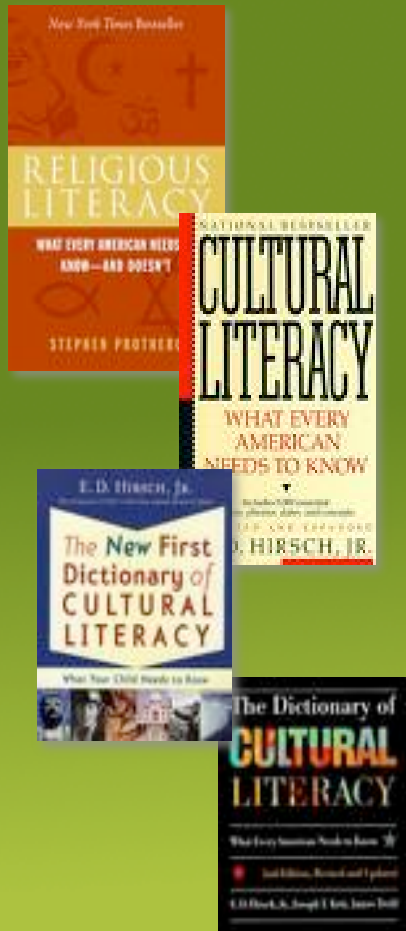


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“Cultural literacy” from E. D. Hirsch: “What every American needs to know,” “the basic information needed to thrive in the modern world”

CULTURAL LITERACY What Every American Needs to Know. By E. D. Hirsch Jr. Appendix: What Literate Americans Know. By E. D. Hirsch Jr., Joseph Kett and James Trefil. 251 pp. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.

List includes: Juno, Sir Galahad, Blarney Stone, apple of discord, “Don’t give up the ship,” “Close, but no cigar,” *éminence grise*, golden parachute, Fabian tactics, ergo, NIMBY, Eucharist, François Rabelais, Tomas de Torquemada, yarmulke, personal pronoun, Count Basie, W.C. Fields, Walter Lippmann, Foggy Bottom...





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"

Are there "undefinable" words? (left, heartburn...)



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 "canonicity" of knowledge.

Canonicity: All elements of all subdomains are ordered with regard to "centrality" of membership (i.e., discursive space is metrical, not just topological)

What defines a "reference book"

words: *civet* > *panther* > *cat*

authors: Michael Crichton > John Updike > Herman Melville

news events: rescued cat > school budget vote > earthquake

Also: tourist attractions (travel guides), artists (national collections), etc.

Buf cf. world records: ??Most hot dogs eaten > largest waistline
> longest kiss



Canonicity, cont.

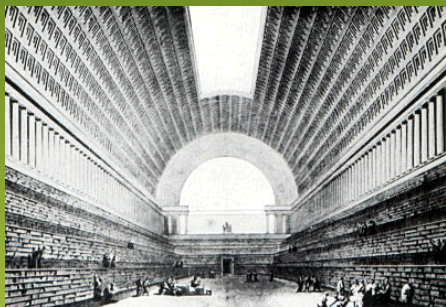
Canonicity permits "essentialist" abridgement:

"[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



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



The Spatialization of the Language



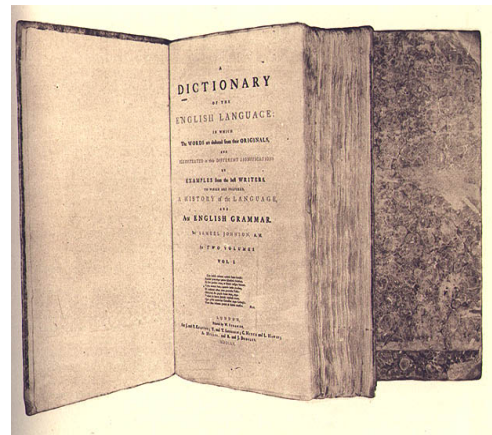
That vast aggregate of words and phrases which constitutes the Vocabulary of English-speaking men presents... the aspect of one of those nebulous masses familiar to the astronomer, in which a clear and unmistakable nucleus shades off on all sides, through zones of decreasing brightness, to a dim marginal film that seems to end nowhere, but to lose itself imperceptibly in the surrounding darkness....

James Murray, "General Explanation" to the OED



Symbolism of the dictionary's form

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)

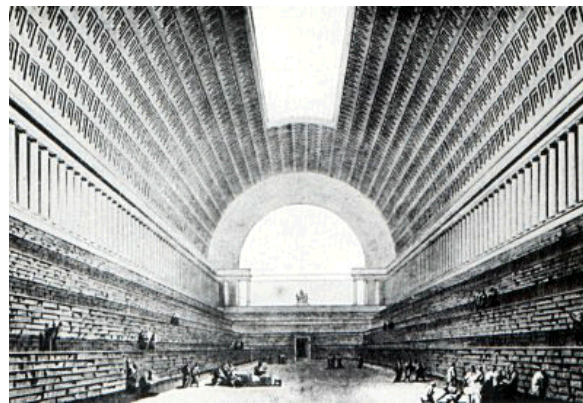




The Form of Collections, 1



Library of the
Escorial, 1543



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

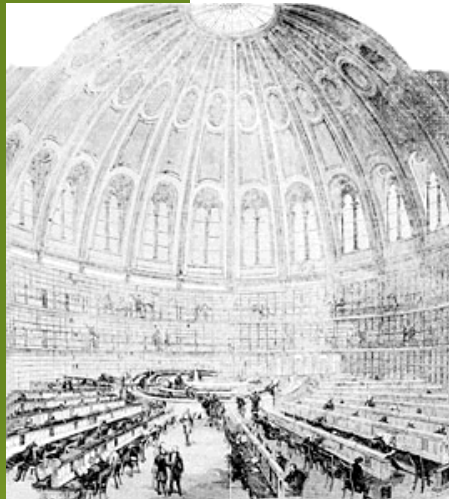


Labrouste, Bibliothèque
Ste. Geneviève, 1851

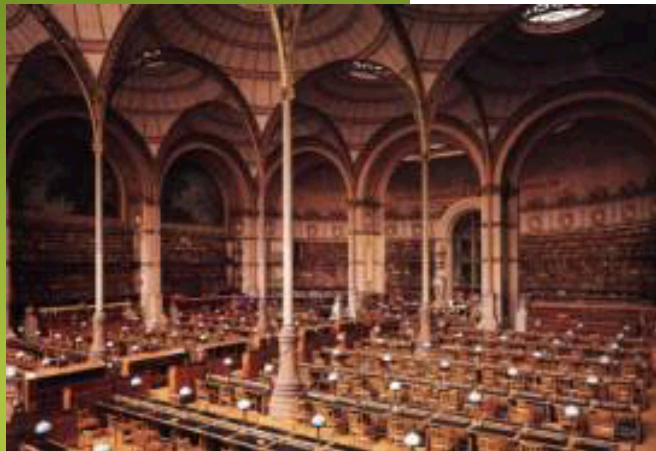


The Form of Collections, 2: The classical version

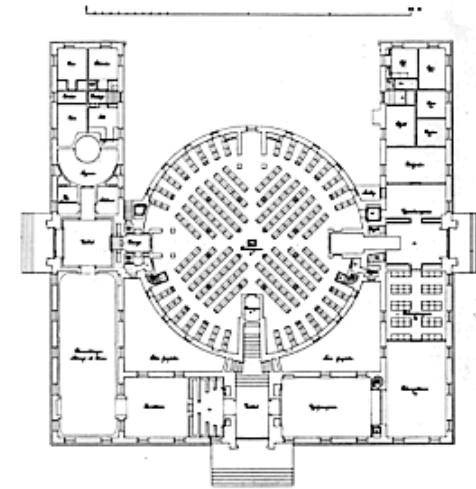
Smirke,
British Museum
Reading
Room, 1851



Pelz/Casey Reading
Room, LOC, ca 1898



Labrouste, Bibliothèque
Nationale 1868



Asplund, Stockholm City
Library, 1928



Circumscription of Knowledge: Modern Interpretations



D. Perrault, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, 1994

- ■ Adult contemporary music
- Adult oriented pop music
- Adult standards
- Afropop
- Arab pop
- Austropop
- Baroque pop
- Britpop
- Bastard pop
- Brazilian pop
- Bubblegum pop
- Chinese pop
- Contemporary Christian
- Country pop
- Dance-pop
- Disco
- Disco polo
- Dream pop
- Electropop/Technopop
- Eurobeat
- Euro disco
- Europop
- Experimental pop music
- French pop
- Greek Laïkó pop
- Hindi pop
- Hong Kong and Cant
- Hong Kong English p
- Hot Adult Contempor

Wikipedia: The logical end destructuring?

Ilma Julieta Urrutia Chang was Guatemala's national representative for the major beauty pageants in 1984.

The N battery is a type of battery. It has a battery. It has a diameter of 12 mm and a height of 30.2 mm. For a typical alkaline battery, the N size weighs 9 grams.

A System Requirements Specification (SRS) is a document where the requirements of a system that is planned to be developed are listed.

Protestants in Eritrea are about 91,232, which are 2% of the population.

Categories: 1926 births | 1991 deaths | African American musicians | American jazz bandleaders | American jazz composers | American jazz trumpeters | American songwriters | Avant-garde trumpeters | Bebop trumpeters | Cool jazz trumpeters | Deaths from stroke | Deaths from respiratory failure | People with sickle-cell disease | Grammy Award winners | Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award winners | Columbia Records artists | Capitol Records artists | Hard-bop trumpeters | Musicians from Illinois | Juilliard School of Music alumni | Miles Davis | Modal jazz trumpeters | People from Madison County, Illinois | People from St. Clair County, Illinois | Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees | St. Louis music | Third Stream trumpeters | Deaths from pneumonia | Burials at Woodlawn Cemetery (The Bronx) | Infectious disease deaths in California



Assignment for 3/15

Wikipedia conceives of itself on the model of a traditional encyclopedia in many respects -- as witness not just its name, but its frequent comparisons of itself to the Britannica. Pick a (small) area of knowledge with which you are familiar and look at a bit of Wikipedia's treatment of the topics in that area. For the present purposes, don't concern yourself with the accuracy or consistency of the articles. The question you want to address, rather, is whether Wikipedia's treatment of this area suggests an implicit picture of the organization of knowledge; what features of Wikipedia reflect or indicate that picture; and how consistent or coherent the picture is.

For purposes of comparison (and because it's pretty interesting) you might to look at the selections I compiled from d'Alembert's Preliminary Discourse to the *Encyclopédie*, which I've added to the readings; these outline the approach to knowledge that the Encyclopedists assumed.