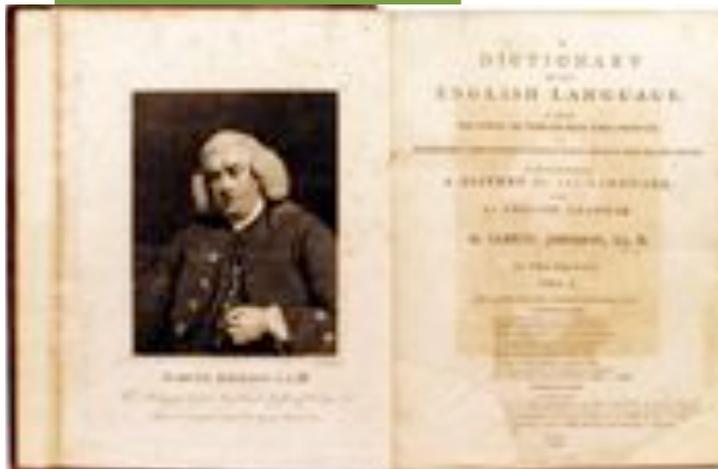


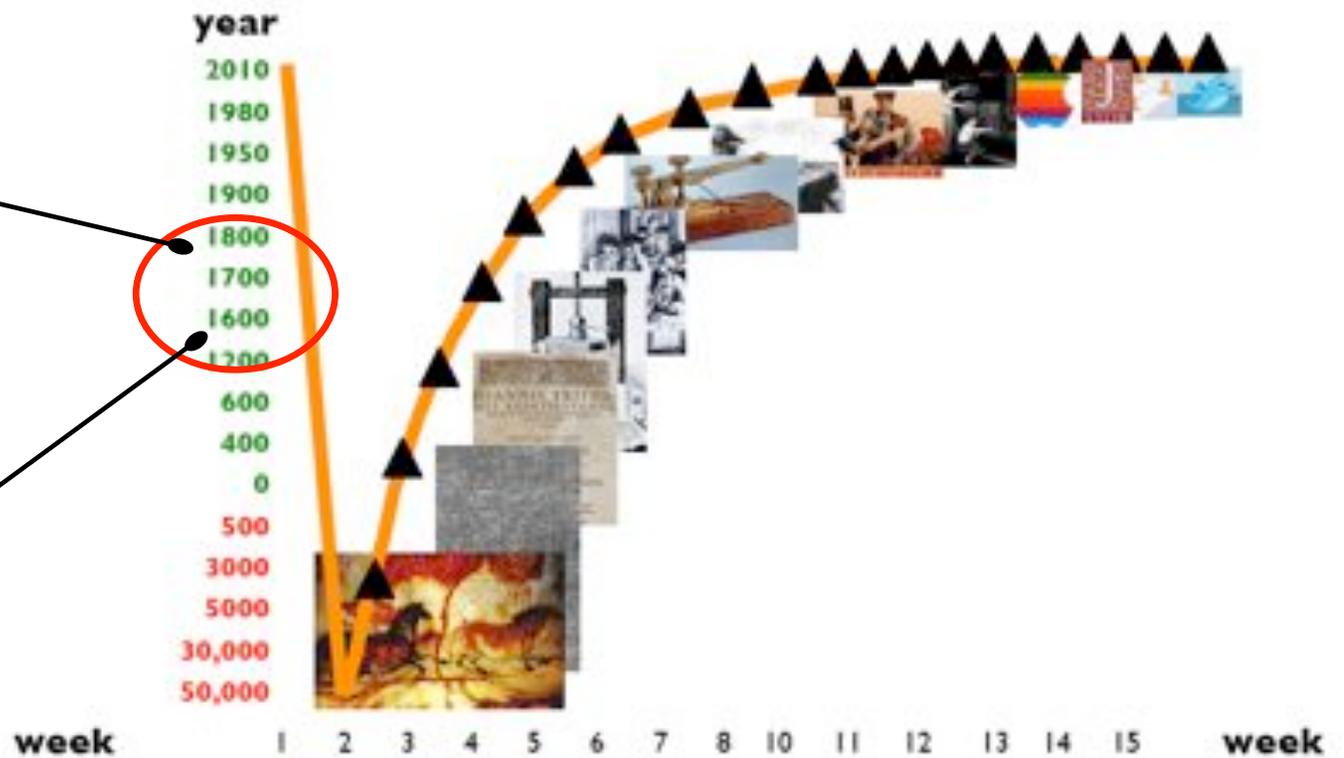
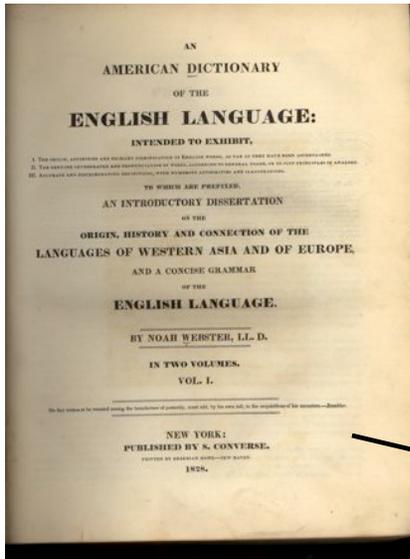
The Organization of Knowledge, 2



History of Information i218
Geoff Nunberg

Feb. 24, 2011

Where We Are





For Tuesday, 3/1

Dan Brownstein, guest lecturer

Wood, Dennis and John Fels. 1992. *The Power of Maps* pp. 4-15, 34-42, 137-140.

Conrad, J. 1899. *Heart of Darkness*, pp. 1-17 (ending with “Dash it all!”)



Paper topics

March 3 -- proposal due

March 10 -- outline due

~~March 17-- 8 am~~ paper due

NOTE: Paper due 3/16 at midnight!

Students can submit a 5-7 page paper instead of a midterm exam. We think you'll get a lot out of the exercise, but be warned it will probably involve more work than preparation for the exam will. If opt to do the paper and then decide at the last minute that you can't, you can always take the midterm.

Students who want to do a paper in place of a midterm should send us a one-paragraph note by March 3 indicating what topic they'll be taking on so that we can sign off on it. A 3/4-page outline of the paper, with a list of sources, will be due on March 11. The paper itself will be due on March 17 by 8 AM. In addition to the readings, the paper should draw on at least three scholarly sources (books or journal articles) not on the readings.



Itinerary: 2/24

Rise of the vernacular

The creation of the modern dictionary

The circles of knowledge

The material representations of knowledge:
libraries, museums, encyclopedias, dictionaries



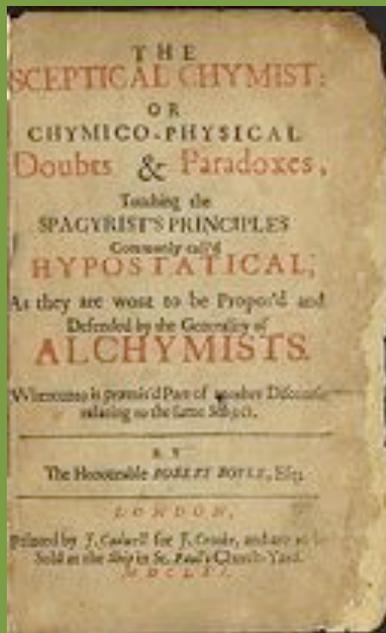
The Emergence of the Vernacular



The decline of Latin

1661 Boyle publishes *New Experiments Physico-Mechanical*, followed by *The Sceptical Chymist* in 1661

later arranges for Latin translations of works to counter piracy



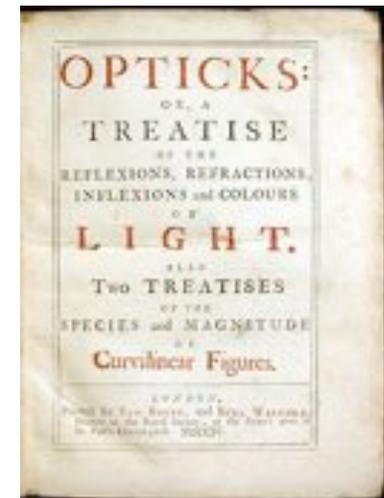
Pct of Latin titles in German-speaking world:

1650: 67%

1700: 38%

1750: 28%

1800 4%



Newton's *Opticks*, 1704



Out of the shadow of Latin

Emergence of standard dialects (London English, Parisian French, Tuscan Italian)

Printing

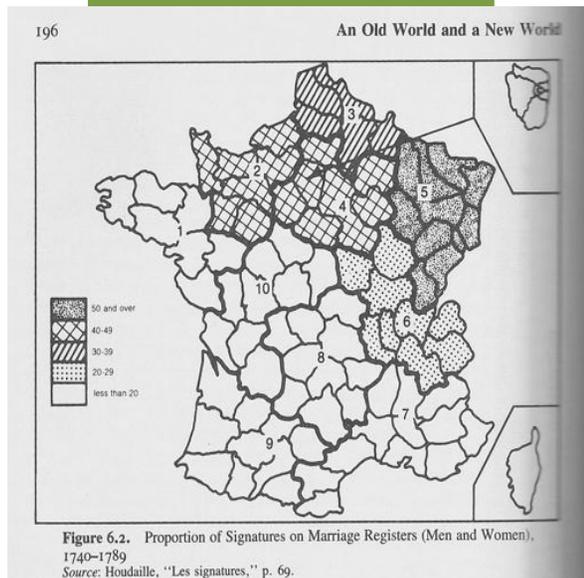
The Reformation

Proto-nationalism

("this sceptered isle...")



Out of the shadow of Latin



Rise of the commercial class/Growth of cities

Growth from 1500-1600:

Paris 100m-200m

London 60m-200m

Growth of literacy & schooling

French literacy rates

	men	women
1680	29%	14%
1780 :	47%	27%

"une France double"



The Emergence of the Vernacular

Concerns that the vernacular (i.e., ordinary spoken) language is not an adequate vehicle for philosophy, history, etc.

Besyde Latyne, our langage is imperfite,
Quhilk in sum part, is the cause and the wyte [fault],
Quhy that Virgillis vers, the ornate bewte
In till our tounge, may not obseruit be
For that bene Latyne wordes, mony ane
That in our leid ganand [suitable language], translation has
nane....

Gawin Douglas, 1553

Shall English be so poore, and rudely-base
As not be able (through mere penury)
To tell what French hath said with gallant grace,
And most tongues else of less facunditie?

John Davies, 1618



Refining the Vernacular



"Inkhorn words" -- learned words coined from Greek or Latin: *absurdity*, *dismiss*, *celebrate*, *encyclopedia*, *habitual*, *ingenious* (but also *eximious*, "excellent"; *obstetate*, "bear witness"; *adnichilate*, "reduce to nothing")

Among all other lessons this should first be learned, that wee never affect any straunge ynkehorne termes, but to speake as is commonly received: neither seeking to be over fine or yet living over-carelesse, using our speeche as most men doe, and ordering our wittes as the fewest have done.
Thomas Wilson, *Arte of Rhetorique*, 1553



Refining & Codifying the Language



Advertisement to

Frontispiece from
Pedantius, 1581,
comedy written by
Edward Forsett (?)
satirizing scholarly
fops

Robert Cawdrey, Table Alphabeticall, 1604:

Some men seek so far for outlandish English, that they forget altogether their mothers language, so that if some of their mothers were alive, they were not able to tell, or understand what they say, and yet these fine English Clearks, will say they speak in their mother tongue; but one might well charge them, for counterfeyting the Kings English. Also, some far journied gentlemen, at their returne home, like as they love to go in forraine apparrell, so they will powder their talke with over-sea language....



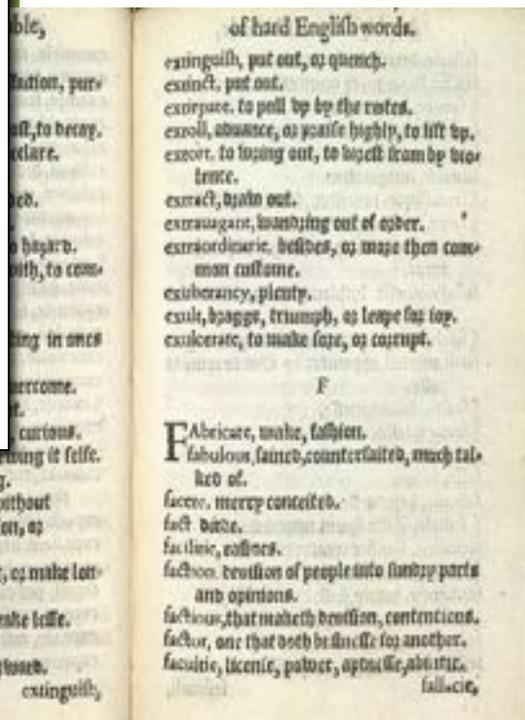
The Creation of the Modern Dictionary



Early Wordbooks

Early dictionaries are usually bilingual (e.g., Latin-Cornish), organized thematically.

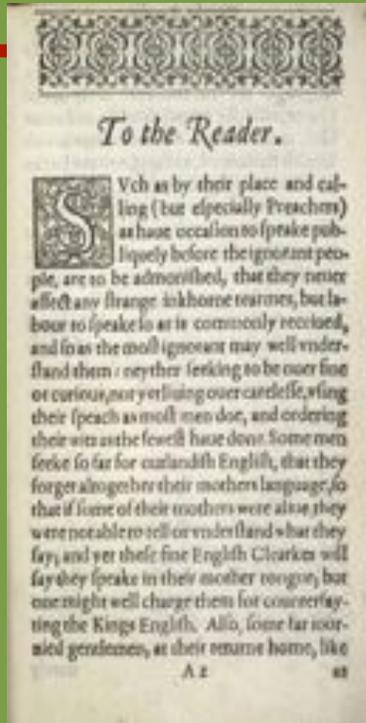
A
 Table Alphabeticall, con-
 teyning and teaching the true
 vwriting, and vnderstanding of hard
 vsuall English wordes, borrowed from
 the Hebrew, Greeke, Latine,
 or French. &c.
 With the interpretation thereof by
 plaine English words, gathered for the benefit &
 helpe of Ladies, Gentlewomen, or any other
 unskillfull persons.
 Whereby they may the more easilie
 and better vnderstand many hard English
 wordes, vvhich they shall heare or read in
 Scriptures, Sermons, or elsewhere, and also
 be made able to vse the same aptly
 themselues.
Legere, et non intelligere, neglegere est.
 As good not read, as not to vnderstand.
 AT LONDON,
 Printed by I. R. for Edmund Wea-
 uer, & are to be sold at his shop at the great
 North doore of Paules Church.
 1604.
 Robert Cawdrey's Table Alphabeticall of 1604, the first English dictionary to explain the
 exotic to the 'unskillfull'.



First monolingual dictionaries appear in early c. 17. with Robert Cawdrey's *Table Alphabeticall of Hard Usual English Words*, 1604 ("for the benefit and helpe of Ladies, Gentlewomen, or other unskillful persons")



Alphabetical Order

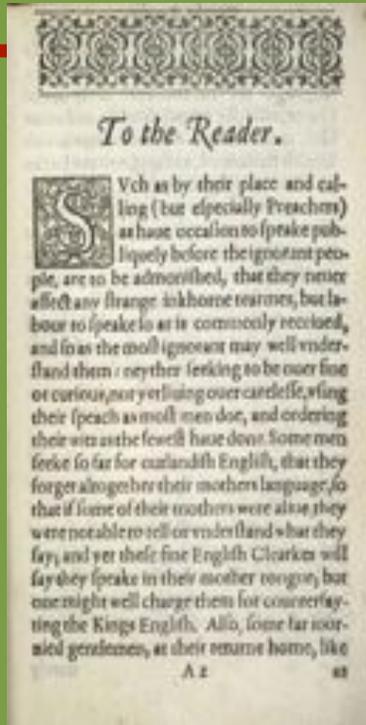


Advertisement to
Cawdrey's Table
Alphabeticall

If thou be desirous (gentle Reader) rightly and readily to vnderstand, and to profit by this Table, and such like, then thou must learne the Alphabet, to wit, the order of the Letters as they stand, perfectly without booke, and where euery Letter standeth: as (b) neere the beginning, (n) about the middest, and (t) toward the end. Nowe if the word, which thou art desirous to finde, begin with (a) then looke in the beginning of this Table, but if with (v) looke towards the end. Againe, if thy word beginne with (ca) looke in the beginning of the letter (c) but if with (cu) then looke toward the end of that letter. And so of all the rest. &c.



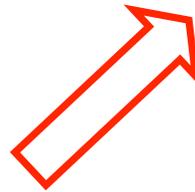
Alphabetical Order



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What is this?





The desire for "illustration" in France

1530: Founding of Collège de France, with French admitted as language of higher education

1539: Ordonnances de Villers-Cotteret (1539) establish use of French in law courts

Percentage of book titles published in Paris in French:

1501	10%
1528	14%
1549	21%
1575	55%

Would to God that some noble heart could employ himself in setting out rules for our French language... If it is not given rules, we will find that every fifty years the French language will have been changed and perverted in very large measure. G. Tory, 1529

Formation of the Académie Française



Modeled on the accademia della Crusca, Florence (1583), which published 1st dict. In 1612

Formed in 1635 by Cardinal Richelieu; 40 members ("les immortels")

1st ed. of dictionary appears in 1694 (6 or 7 others since then).

Model for other language academies in Sweden, Spain, Romania, Portugal, Russia, etc.





The "Reading Revolution"

Book titles published in Britain:

1500-1509: 400

1630's: 6000

1710's: 21,000

1790's: 56,000

Growth of newspapers & periodicals, lending libraries,
reading clubs



The "Reading Revolution"

"Sixty years ago the only people who bought books were scholars, but today there is hardly a woman with some claim to education who does not read. Readers are to be found in every class, both in the towns and the country, even the common soldiers... take out books from the lending libraries." *Deutsches Museum*, 1780

"I cannot help observing that the sale of books in general has increase prodigiously within the last twenty years. The poorer sort of farmers who before that period spent their winter evenings in relating stories of witches, ghosts, hobgoblins, etc. now shorten the winter nights by hearing their sons and daughters read tales, romances, etc. and on entering their homes you may see Tom Jones, Roderick Random, and other entertaining books stuck up on their bacon-racks." James Lackington, 1783



Print, the Public, and Linguistic Anxiety



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

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 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 vicitms of bookworms." Thomas Sheridan



Cf Alexander Pope, "Essay on Criticism"

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 partiarch 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.



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...





The Rejection of an Academy

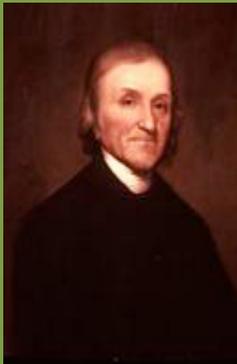
If an academy should be established for the cultivation of our stile, which I, who can never wish to see dependance multiplied, hope the spirit of English liberty will hinder or destroy...

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...

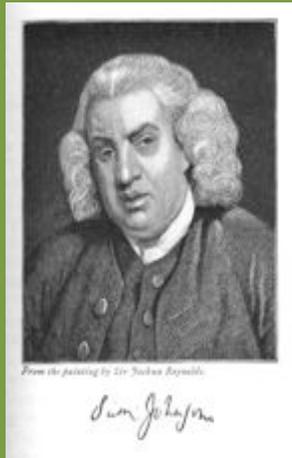
Joseph Priestly, *Rudiments of Grammar*, 1761

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





Johnson to the Rescue



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

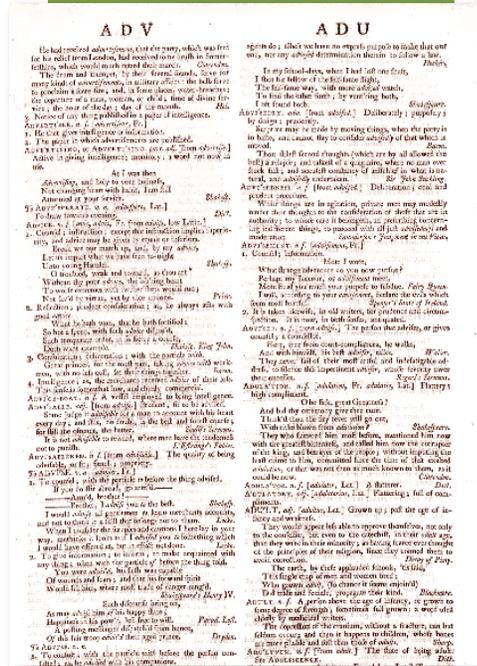
Johnson installs himself and his amensenses in Gough Square to begin work on the Dictionary

1747: The "Plan of an English Dictionary" appears

Hodge



Johnson to the Rescue



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

The English Dictionary was written with little assistance of the learned, and without any patronage of the great; not in the soft obscurities of retirement, or under the shelter of academick bowers, but amidst inconvenience and distraction, in sickness and in sorrow: and it may repress the triumph of malignant criticism to observe, that if our language is not here fully displayed, I have only failed in an attempt which no human powers have hitherto completed.

He adulterates fill: his thoughts lye with a whore. *B. Johnson.*
ADULTERANT. *n. f.* [*adulterans*, Lat.] The person or thing which adulterates.
To ADULTERATE. *v. a.* [*adulterer*, Fr. *adulter*, Lat.]
 1. To commit adultery.
 But fortune, oh!
 Adulterates hourly with thine uncle John;
 And with her golden hand hath pluckt on France.
Shakesp. King John.
 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 compos'd to such an advantage of constitution,
 L



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.

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*

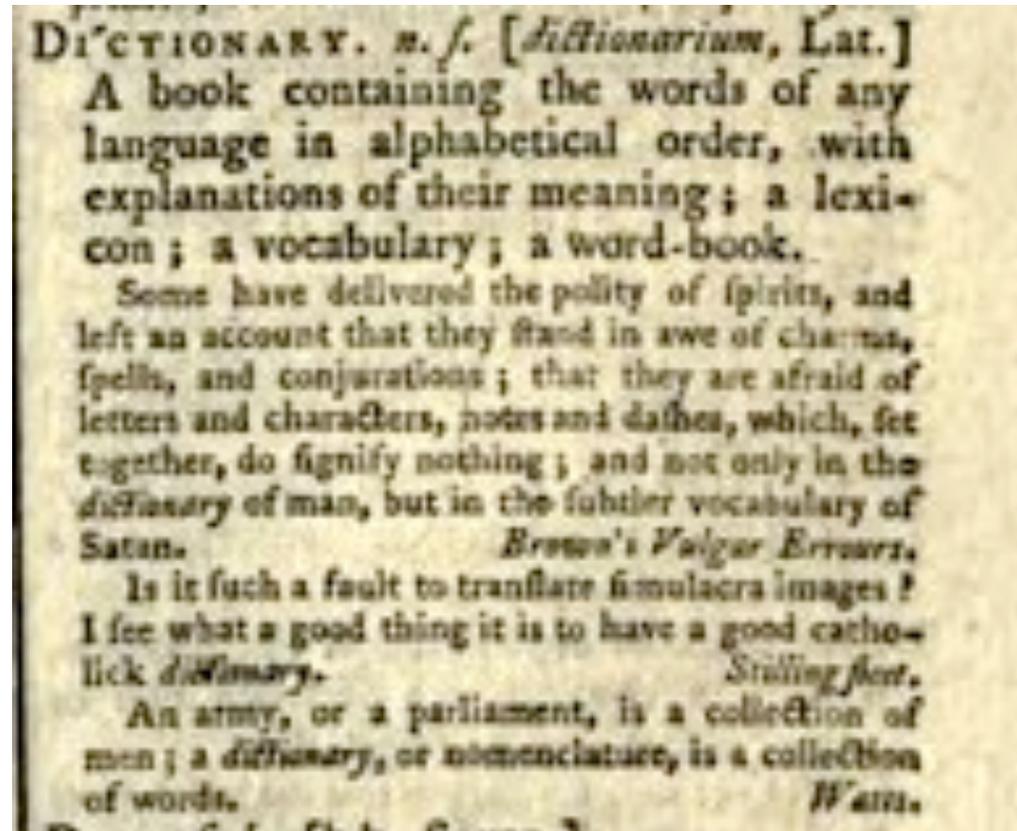
The English Dictionary appeared; and, as the weight of truth and reason is irresistible, its authority has nearly fixed the external form of our language; and from its decisions few appeals have yet been made. Robert Nares, 1782

Did the Dictionary really fix the language?



Features of Johnson's Dictionary

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





The Didactic Uselessness of Definitions

Weakness of genus-differential definitions

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

disappointedMW: 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



The Methodology of Lexicography

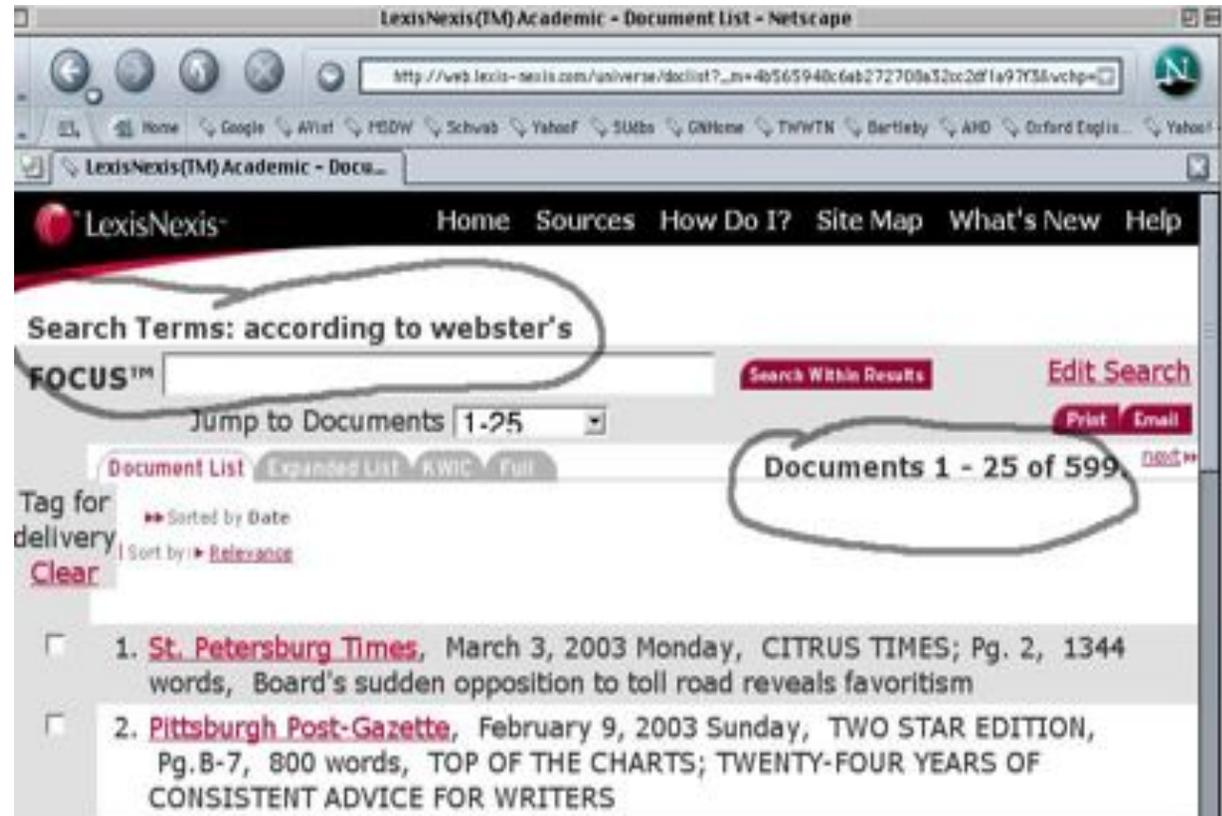
Method for isolation & circumscription of relevant precedents (identification of “the language” in terms of public discourse)

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



The screenshot shows a Netscape browser window displaying the LexisNexis Academic search results page. The search terms are "according to webster's FOCUS™". The results are sorted by date, showing two documents. The first document is from the St. Petersburg Times, and the second is from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. The page includes navigation links like "Home", "Sources", and "How Do I?", and a search bar with "Jump to Documents" set to 1-25. The text "Documents 1 - 25 of 599" is circled in the image.

LexisNexis™ 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

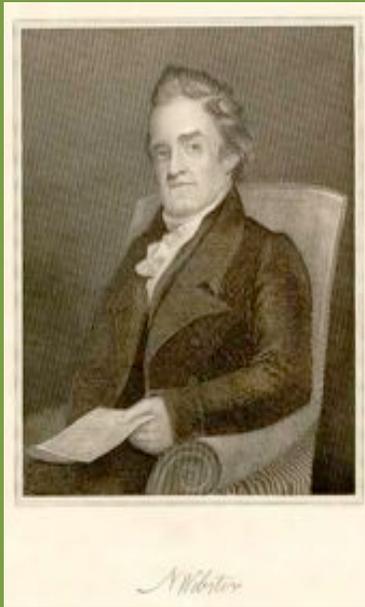
Document List Expanded List KWIC Full Documents 1 - 25 of 599

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



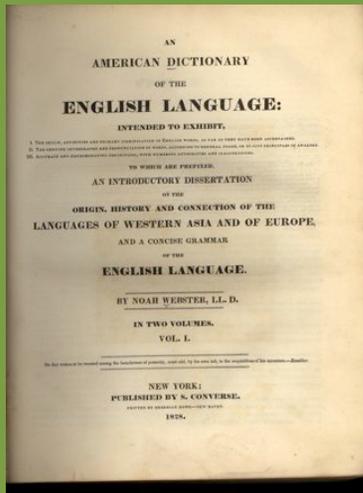
Noah Webster

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

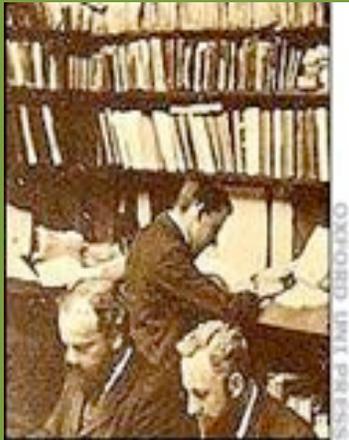


Cf Webster's Spelling reforms: *honor, theater*, etc., but also *tung, iz*...

"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 (äbrī'vi,ēt), *v.*, also 5-7 **abreviate**. [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. ABREVI, represent it indirectly, through OFr. *abregier* and mid. Fr. *abrévier*. Like the latter, *abbreviate*, was often spelt *a-breviate* in 5-7.] To make shorter, shorten, cut short in any way.

1530 PALSGR., *I abrevyate*: I make a thyng shorte, *Je abregz.*

1625 BACON *Essays* xxiv. 99 (1862) But it is one Thing to Abbreviate by Contracting, Another by Cutting off.

† *l. 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. 1592 GREENE *Conny catching* III. 16 The queane abreviated her discourse. 1637 RALEIGH *Mahomet* 34 Abreviated out of two Arabique writers translated into Spanish. 1672 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 xith iiii. bookes, allemoste of alle the stories of the worlde, whom Iustinus his disciple did abreviate.

1603 FLORIO *Montaigne* (1634) 627 To reade, to note, and to abreviate Polibius. 1648-9 *The Kingdomes 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 abreviated.

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

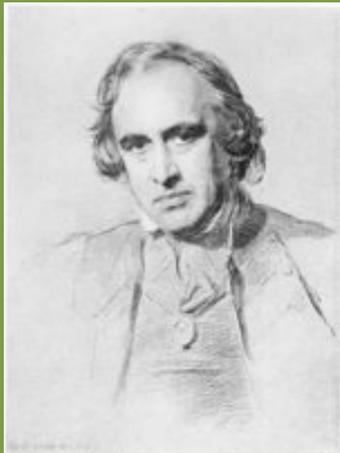
1796 *Mathem. Dict.* I. 2 To abbreviate fractions in arithmetic and algebra, is to lessen proportionally their terms, or the numerator and denominator.



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



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"

To explain, requires the use of terms less abstruse than that which is to be explained, and such terms cannot always be found; for as nothing can be proved but by supposing something intuitively known, and evident without proof, so nothing can be defined but by the use of words too plain to admit a definition.



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*

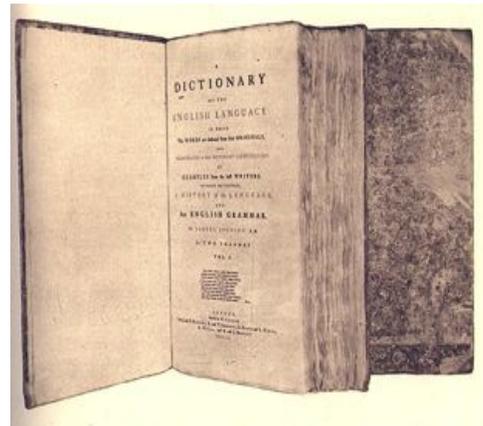
Words have been admitted in the language that are not only disreputable in origin, not only offensive in all their associations, not only vulgar in essence, but unfit at all points for survival. The *New York Herald* (1890) on Funk & Wagnall's inclusion of *chesty "bold"*

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



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)





Material Representations of knowledge

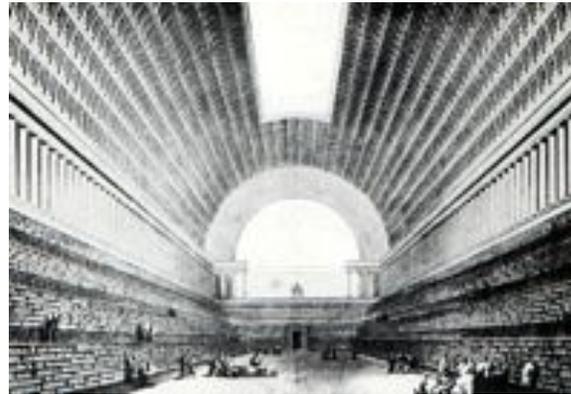




The Form of Collections, 1



Library of the
Escorial, 1543



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

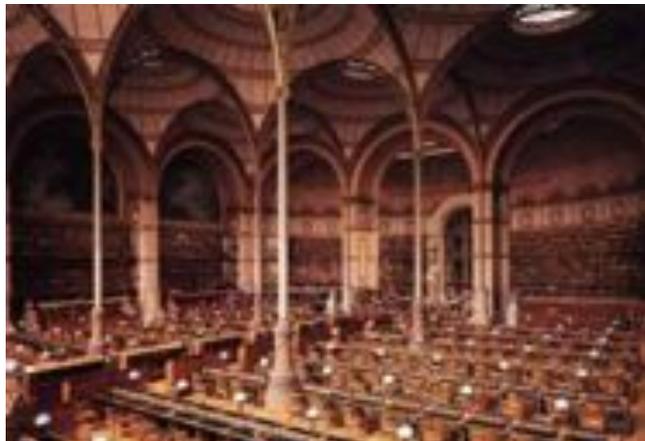


Labrouste, Bibliothèque
Ste. Geneviève, 1851



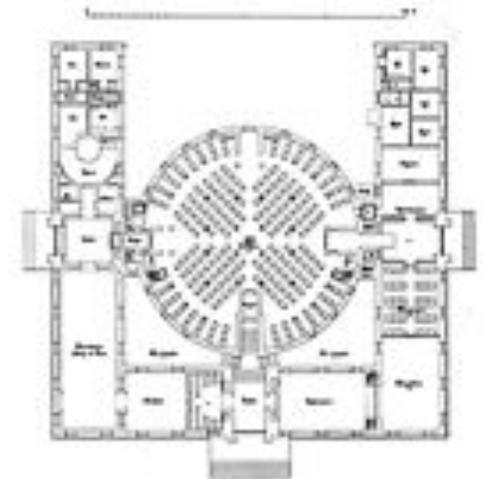
The Form of Collections, 2: The classical version

Smirke,
British Museum
Reading
Room, 1851



Pelz/Casey Reading
Room, LOC, ca 1898

Labrouste, Bibliothèque
Nationale 1868



Asplund, Stockholm City
Library, 1928



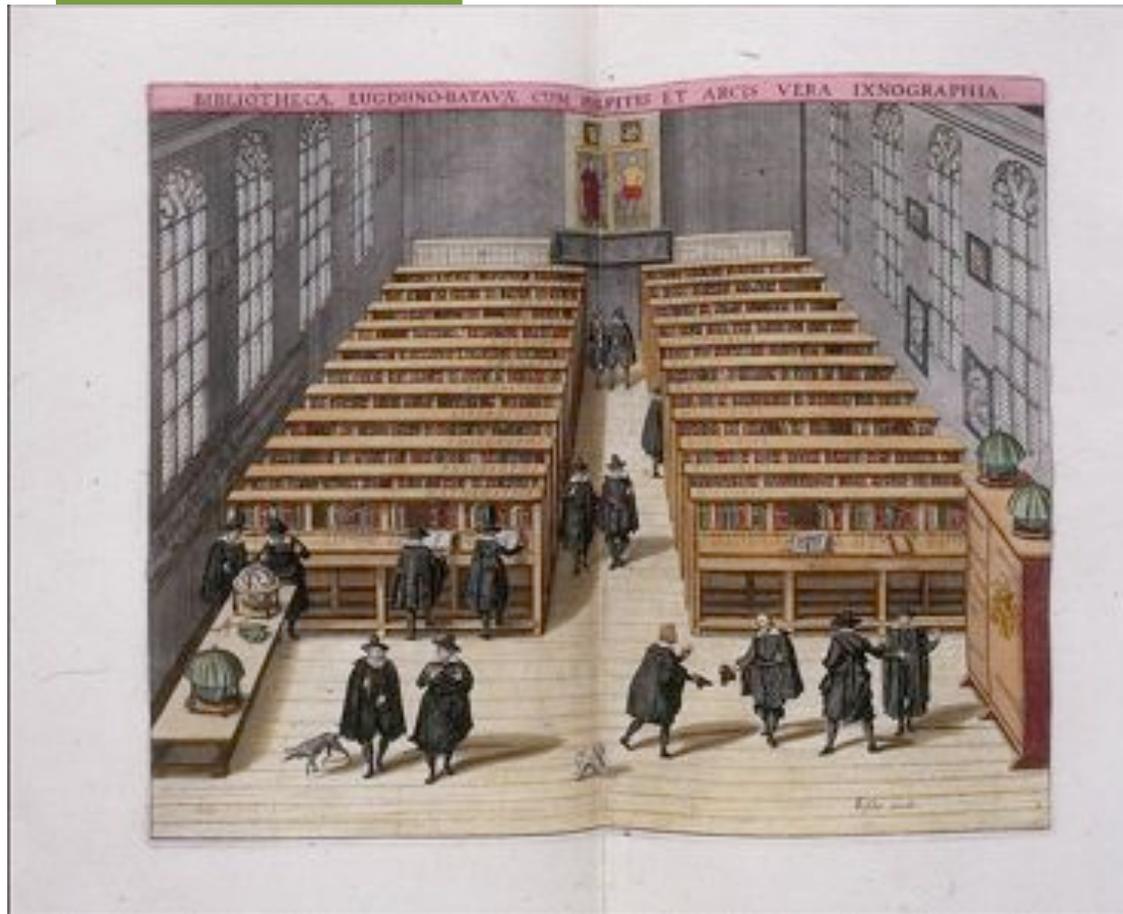
Circumscription of Knowledge: Modern Interpretations



D. Perrault, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, 1994



Material Representations of Knowledge

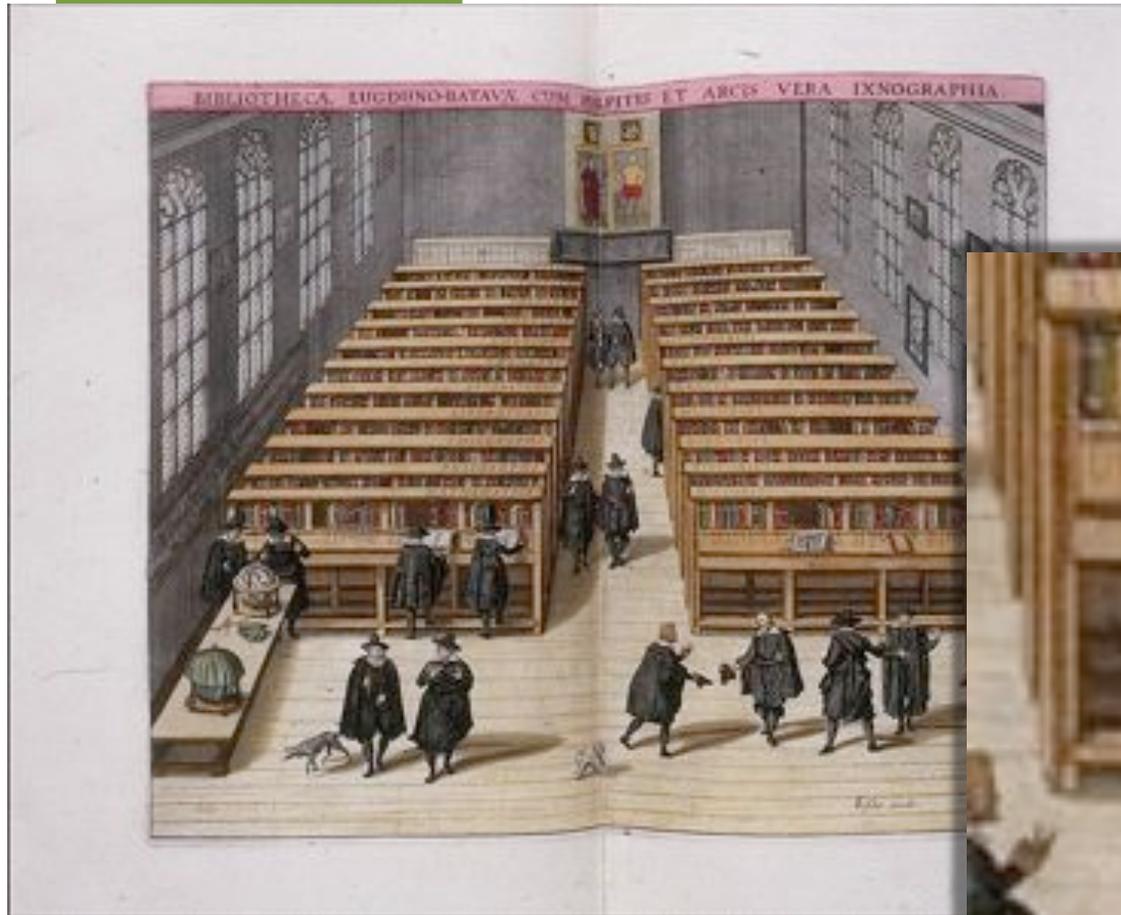


Curriculum mirrored in form of library (bibliographies)

"Il faut qu'une bibliothèque soit une encyclopédie" Leibniz



Material Representations of Knowledge



Curriculum mirrored in form of library (bibliographies)



Leiden University Library 1610,



The Birth of the Museum

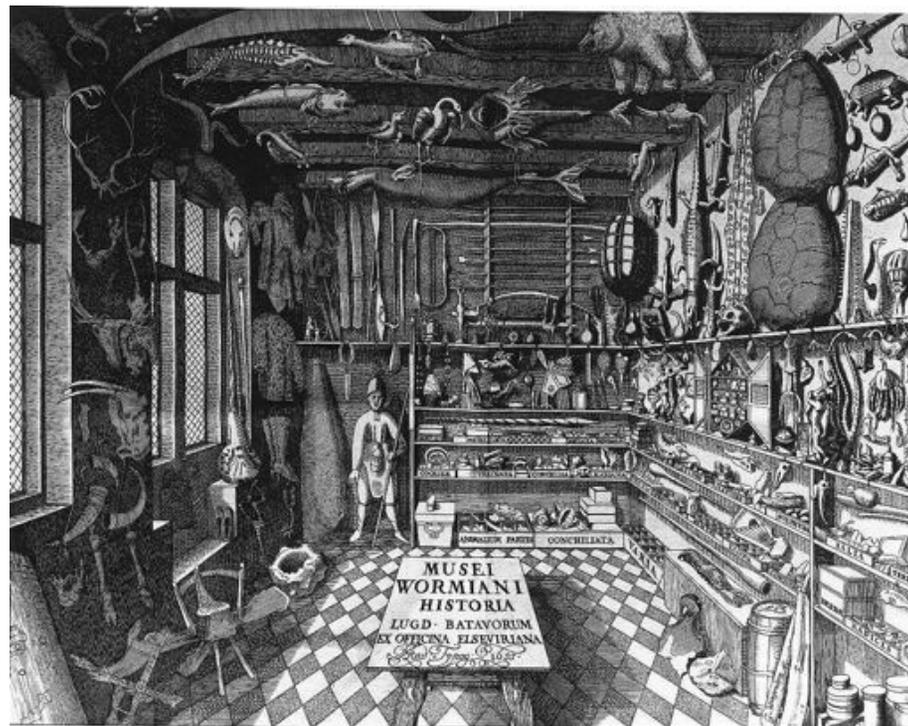
"He Trafficks to all places, and has his Correspondents in every part of the World; yet his Merchandizes serve not to promote our Luxury, nor encrease our Trade, and neither enrich the Nation, nor himself. A Box or two of Pebbles or Shells, and a dozen of Wasps, Spiders and Caterpillers are his Cargoe. He values a Camelion, or Salamander's Egg, above all the Sugars and Spices of the West and East-Indies. (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.



Museum Wormianum, 1655



Representations of Knowledge: The Kunstkammer

This organisation depended on the concept of resemblance, where the objects and their proximities suggested macrocosmic microcosmic links.



Natural History Cabinet, Naples, 1599



Representations of Knowledge: The Studiolo



Studiolo of Francesco I
Florence (1570)



Kunstkammer, 1636



Representations of Knowledge: The Studiolo



Studiolo of Federico da Montefeltro
Urbino (ca. 1460) with wood intarsia
(inlay)



Representations of Knowledge: The Kunstschränk

The Kunstschränk (art cabinet or art shrine)

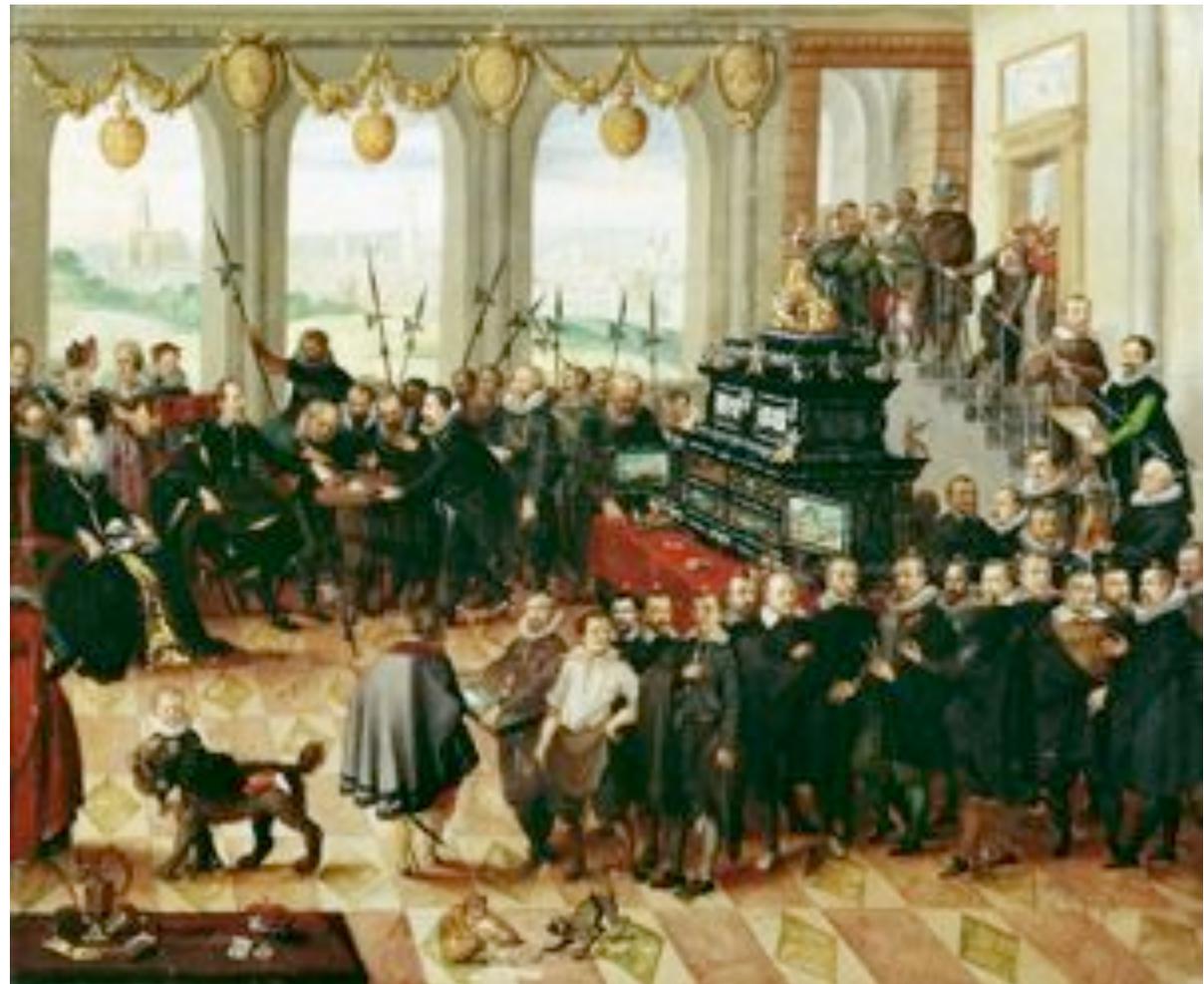




Representations of Knowledge: The Kunstschränk

The Kunstschränk

Presentation of the
Pomeranian Kunstschränk
to Duke Philip II of
Pomerania-Stettin, 1615)





From Cabinets to Museums

Kunstkammers first made available for public viewing in mid-17th. C (Kunstmuseum Basel, 1661)

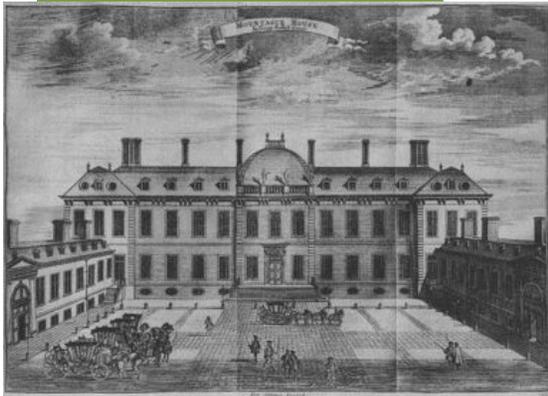
Public museums in 18th c:

British Museum, 1759, containing cabinet of curiosities assembled by Hans Sloan, ms collections, Royal Library. Later: collections of antiquities, etc.

Uffizi Gallery, Florence, 1765

Belvedere Palace, Vienna, 1781

Louvre Palace opened to public in 1793 with royal collections; augmented by Napoleon



Montague House, home of original British Museum in Bloomsbury



17th c. Galleries

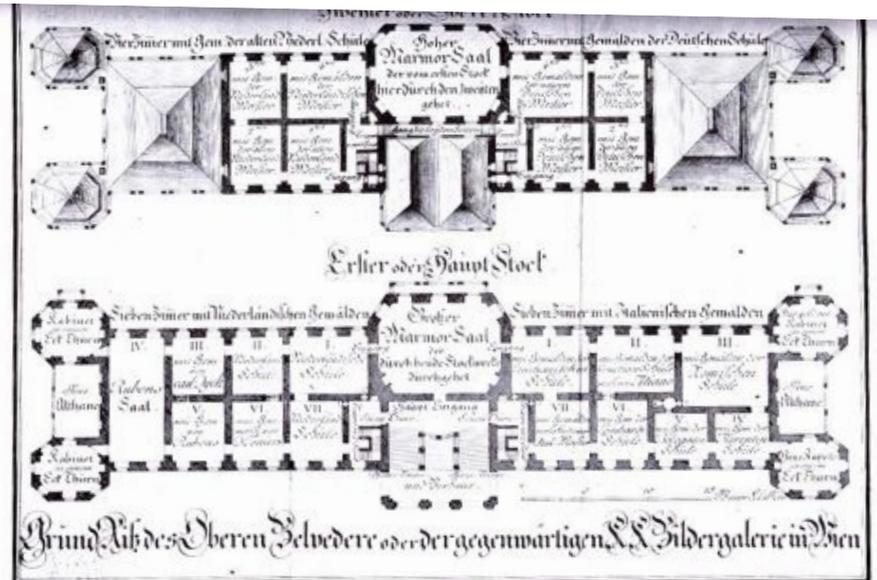


21 *The Imperial Gallery in Prague*, by Johann Betschneider, 1714. The paintings are arranged according to the visual and decorative effect.



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.



Rationalizing the organization of the trésor



For Tuesday, 3/1

Dan Brownstein, guest lecturer

Wood, Dennis and John Fels. 1992. *The Power of Maps* pp. 4-15, 34-42, 137-140.

Conrad, J. 1899. *Heart of Darkness*, pp. 1-17 (ending with “Dash it all!”)