

# Encyclopaedias





- The basic information core of any library is the encyclopaedia. The etymology of the word encyclopaedia is supposedly from “enkyklios-paideia”, Greek for a well rounded education.
- The earliest scholars who compiled information primarily for their own use did not have user friendliness in mind. The information collated was idiosyncratic in both content and arrangement.



- By the eighteenth century , the first prototype of the modern encyclopaedia was presented in the form of John Harris's Lexicon Technicum, a compilation of –
- Alphabetically arranged articles
- Written by multiple experts
- A copious bibliography



- Since then the basic structure has been relatively unvarying, but encyclopedia choices has matured in response to different needs and innovations. Broadly they are-
- Age- Age focused encyclopedias have appeared, such as for elementary school, middle school, high school users.



- Focus- Given the vast demographics that are now the target audience, encyclopedia are now either general or specific. Their breadth of knowledge and ease of reading distinguish them from general titles. Specialized encyclopedias are known for intensity of focus on a single subject and in depth accounting of all aspects related to that subject.



## Scope

- Encyclopedias come in all sizes to suit all needs and all pockets. There are the single volume encyclopedias with brief entries or highly specialized topics. There are also impressive multivolume series that cover anything and everything.



## Format

In the past decade the formats available to encyclopedias have grown from simple print to array of choices. Cheap little diskettes (CD-ROM, DVD, etc.) have been surpassed by online availability that is either free or on subscription.



## Questions answered by Encyclopedias-

- Ready Reference: they provide quick and direct information on any topic.
- Accessibility: Entries in any encyclopedia are geared towards high accessibility i.e. simplicity of entries to the text of writing that is easily understandable.
- Scope : Accessibility encompasses scope as well, so that the users expect to get full outline sketch of any topic.





- One Stop Source: It is frequently used for multifaceted subjects.
- Referrals: For in depth coverage of subjects users rely on bibliographies and cross references. Encyclopedias are frequently used as short cuts to find where specialized information is available by consulting bibliographies.



- **Synopses:** The encyclopedia is also useful in defining the years in which it was produced. As a definitive account of human experience the encyclopedia reports to the various different stages of human thinking.
- **Value Add-ons:** Depending on the encyclopedias users have also come to expect “extras”. Maps, illustrations tables etc.



- The kinds of questions print encyclopedia are less suited to answer:
- Analytical phrases
- Current issues
- New technology



## Types of Encyclopaedias

1. General- covers all area of information. eg. Encyclopaedia Britannica, Encyclopaedia Americana, World Book Encyclopaedia.
2. Specialised- In depth coverage of one area. eg. Encyclopaedia of Leadership.



## **Evaluation**

LURES is a handy mnemonic to remind the librarian to check the:

- Level of user
- Updating policies
- Research aids
- Electronic availability
- Special features

# Encyclopedia Britannica



- The New Encyclopaedia- 15<sup>th</sup> ed.- Chicago; Encyclopaedia Britannica Inc. 1974. 30 volumes.
- The first edition of encyclopaedia was . published in 1768-1771 in 3 volumes. The 14<sup>th</sup> volume published in 1929 was revised and reorganized till 1973. In 1974, the 15<sup>th</sup> edition was published. It has three parts-



- Propaedia- 1 volume- a guide to set, gives outline of knowledge and is a schematic introduction to articles in macropaedia.
- Micropaedia- 10 volumes- a study guide contains brief information for ready reference and acts as detailed index to the set by giving volume and page references to articles in the Macropaedia. Cross references are freely given.



- Macropaedia- 19 volumes- contains knowledge in depth and has lengthy articles. It covers major topics of human interest.
- The 15th edition was given a global perspective by more than 4,000 contributing authors from more than 100 countries. Annual revisions of the set continued into the late 1990s, and those revisions were supplemented by a major revision of the 15th edition for 1985.





- For that printing, the Macropædia was greatly restructured with the amalgamation and regrouping of hundreds of articles; the index function was taken from the Micropædia and placed in a separate two-volume *Index*; and both the Micropædia and the Propædia were redesigned, reorganized, and revised. The entire set consisted of 32 volumes.



- Printings of the 15th edition continued into the 21st century, though at less regular intervals, as the company focused its efforts on digital ventures. In 2012 the company announced that future printings would be discontinued and replaced by more widely used electronic versions.



## Britannica In The Digital Era

- Technological changes, beginning in the 1980s with the development and spread of the personal computer and disc technology and quickening in the 1990s and 2000s through the Internet and widespread diffusion of broadband access, radically altered the publishing world generally and the encyclopaedia business in particular. In 1981, under an agreement with Mead Data Central, the first digital version of the Encyclopædia Britannica was created for the LexisNexis service.



- In the early 1990s Britannica was made available for electronic delivery on a number of CD-ROM-based products, including the Britannica Electronic Index and the Britannica CD (providing text and a dictionary, along with proprietary retrieval software, on a single disc). A two-disc CD was released in 1995, featuring illustrations and photos; multimedia, including videos, animations, and audio, was added in 1997. At first the cost of those electronic products was comparable to the cost of the print encyclopaedia, resulting in relatively tepid sales; over the years, however, the price of the CD-ROM products and later DVD versions, which first appeared in 1999, fell dramatically.



- Also during the early 1990s, under the editorial direction of Robert McHenry , editor in chief, the company developed Britannica Online, an extended electronic reference service for delivery over the Internet. In 1994 Britannica debuted the first Internet-based encyclopaedia. Users paid a fee to access the information, which was located at <http://www.eb.com>.



- In 1996 Britannica was sold to financier Jacob E. Safra, under whose leadership the company began a major restructuring. With declining sales of the print encyclopaedia, the company's vaunted sales force was disbanded, and in 1999 the company launched Britannica.com, a free site featuring an Internet search engine, subject channels, current events, and essays, as well as the complete text of the encyclopaedia.



- Due to heavy traffic Britannica's online distribution was split into two avenues: one, Britannica.com, aimed at consumers and supported by advertisements and subscription fees (from subscribers who wanted an ad-free experience), and the other, at the eb.com domain, for institutions such as schools and libraries.



- In 2006 the company debuted the Britannica Blog, which provided discussion of encyclopaedic topics often in a non-encyclopaedic way and was a forum for debate on various subjects in the arts, geography, history, and science. Smart phones and tablets provided another avenue for the dissemination of Britannica content; in 2008 a mobile site was introduced, and in 2010 the first Britannica apps were released. During this period the company also continued to expand its range of digital educational products.



# Encyclopaedia of Library and Information Science



- The Encyclopaedia of Library and Information Science. First edition, Vol. 1-73. 1968-2003. Edited by Allen Kent, Harold Lancour and Jay E. Daily. New York: Marcel Dekker.
- The Encyclopaedia of Library and Information Science. Second edition, Vol. 1-4. 2003. Edited by Miriam A. Drake. New York: Marcel Dekker. ISBN 0-8247-2075-X. (+ 1 suppl. 2005 ISBN 0849338948)



- Encyclopedia of Library and Information Sciences. Third edition, Vol. 1-7. 2010. Edited by Marcia J. Bates and Mary Niles Maack. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press. ISBN 084939712X <ref>Contents, 3rd. edition, vol. 1-7: Academic Librarianship
- Encyclopedia of Library and Information Sciences Fourth edition, Vol. 1-7. 2017. Edited by John D. McDonald and Michael Levine-Clark. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press. ISBN 146655259X



- The Encyclopaedia of Library and Information Sciences, compiles the contributions of major researchers and practitioners and explores the cultural institutions of more than 30 countries. This major reference presents over 550 entries extensively reviewed for accuracy in seven print volumes or online. The new fourth edition, which includes 55 new entries and 60 revised entries, continues to reflect the growing convergence among the disciplines that influence information and the cultural record, with coverage of the latest topics as well as classic articles of historical and theoretical importance.



- Available in print or as an online subscription, the Encyclopaedia of Library and Information Sciences reflects the growing convergence among the several disciplines that concern themselves with information and the cultural record. Covered are archives, museum studies, informatics, information systems, knowledge management, records management, document and genre theory, bibliography, and social studies of information, in addition to library and information science. It addresses these related disciplines in a way that demonstrates the unities across the fields while also recognizing their uniquely distinguishing characteristics.



- Composed of the contributions of major researchers and practitioners and exploring the cultural institutions of more than 30 countries, this major reference presents hundreds of entries extensively reviewed for accuracy. This encyclopaedia is also available through online subscription, offering a variety of extra benefits for researchers, students, and librarians, including:
  - Citation tracking and alerts
  - Active reference linking
  - Saved searches and marked lists
  - HTML and PDF format options



The End