

OXFORD REFERENCE ONLINE

About this Database

Oxford Reference Online (Core Collection) has over 100 *quick reference* titles published by Oxford University Press. This is an excellent place to begin *any* search because of the breadth of information found here. There are links to highly recommended Web sites. The database is updated throughout the year. New titles and new editions are added three times per year. The subjects and *some* of the subcategories are:

- Art and Architecture
- Bilingual Dictionaries - French, Spanish, German, Italian, Latin
- Biological Sciences
- Classics - Who's Who in the Classical World
- Computing
- Earth and Environmental Sciences
- Economics and Business
- English Dictionaries and Thesauruses
- English Language Reference - Abbreviations, Etymology, Idioms, Proverbs, Usage
- Food and Nutrition
- General Reference
- History - Dynasties, Popes, Saints, Kings & Queens of Britain
- Law
- Medicine
- Military History
- Mythology and Folklore
- Performing Arts - Dance, Music, Opera, Theater
- Physical Sciences and Mathematics
- Politics and Social Sciences
- Quotations
- Religion and Philosophy
- Science - Sciences, Scientists, Weights, Measurements

Searching Oxford Reference Online

Quick Search

This is a keyword search. There are four levels of searching: entry headings and other key elements of an entry, full-text, one or more of your search terms in full-text and other spellings of your term. If nothing is found in the first step, the search automatically broadens to the second step, then to the third and then to the fourth step. At the top of the results page, the level is indicated.

Widen Search

Let's say your initial search brings back 16 entries (searching entry headings) and you want to see more results. You can quickly broaden that search by **clicking Widen Search** to arrive at the second level and assess those results. If you want to search at the next level, **click Widen Search** again, etc. through the fourth level.

Advanced Search

You may select a subject or many subjects, limit by Full-Text, Entry Headings, People or Dates [*Ex. "1964" "(1900-1920)"* – *Include the parentheses and choose Boolean search. "Mar. 1985" will also find March 1985.*] Choose one of three types of search – **Standard** (plurals and derivatives of your term), **Boolean** (AND, OR and NOT searching) or

Pattern (exact or similar matches, correct spellings for your possible misspelled terms or terms spelled in the American way).

Browsing Oxford Reference Online

Browsing the Whole Database

Click **Browse Whole Database** at the bottom of the second column on the Home Page. Click a letter of the alphabet. Click the **Next page** or **Previous page** links to go forward and back. Another way is to enter a term in the **Go to** box. Click **Go**. Ex. "London" – To read specific titles about London, **click a topic on the results page**. Note the source – history, literature, proverb, etc.

Browsing by Subject

Click a subject under **Search within a subject** on the Home Page. Ex. "Art and Architecture" – You may click **Browse this subject** or **click a letter of the alphabet** or enter a term in the **Go to** box and **click Go**.

Browsing within a Book

From the subject Home Page, **click** the title of a book. Ex. On the **Politics & Social Sciences Home Page**, **click A Dictionary of Psychology**. Click **Browse this book**, or **click a letter of the alphabet** or enter a term in the **Go to** box and **click Go**.

Links, Links, Links

Instant Cross-Referencing

Highlight any word in any entry, **click the Cross-Reference** icon and a search across the database will be done automatically.

Links within the Text

Click any highlighted term within an entry to link to a related entry within the same book.

External Links

From the Home Page **click Links** in the red toolbar, then **click** a subject. Links to sites on the Internet that **Oxford Reference Online** has chosen will appear. Choose a link and **click** it.

From a subject Home Page, **click Links for this subject**.

To see more specific links, **click Refine links by book**.

Entering Terms

Use quotation marks around a phrase. If you enter more than one search term without quotation marks, the search engine defaults to AND searching. Searches are not case sensitive.

"*" stands for zero or more characters. Ex. **photo will find photo, photogenic, photosynthesis, etc.*

"?" stands for any single character. Ex. *Waterm?n will find Waterman, Watermen, Watermun, etc.*

"#" stands for one number. Ex. *Section ### finds Section 212, but not Section 2491.*

"@" stands for a single alpha character. Ex. *F@ finds FO, FA, but not F1.*

Combining symbols is also possible. Ex. *@@# will find WW1 (World War 1) and MP3, the music compression system.*

Using the Results

You may choose the number of results to view per page. You may sort the results alphabetically, by relevance, size of entry or book title. **Clicking** the title of the entry takes you to your term in the text, printed in red. To search the results from just one book, **click** the name of the book on the left side of the page. **Click Abbreviations** to see definitions of abbreviations in the text.

Saving or Printing the Results

You may e-mail articles, print or save them. There is no way to mark all entries to batch the e-mailing/printing/saving.

Citing the Database

Use the information found in **How to cite this entry** at the bottom of the article.