

# List of online encyclopedias

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Jump to: [navigation](#), [search](#)

This is a **list of notable [online encyclopedias](#)** that are accessible on the [Internet](#).

## Contents

- [1 General reference](#)
- [2 Biography](#)
- [3 Antiquities, arts, and literature](#)
- [4 Culture and country-specific](#)
- [5 Pop culture and fiction](#)
- [6 Mathematics](#)
- [7 Music](#)
- [8 Philosophy](#)
- [9 Politics and history](#)
- [10 Religion and theology](#)
- [11 Science](#)
  - [11.1 Biology-Life science](#)
  - [11.2 Medicine and surgery](#)
- [12 See also](#)
- [13 References](#)
- [14 External links](#)

## General reference

Site	Language	Description	Access
<a href="http://Archimedes-lab.org">Archimedes-lab.org</a>	English	<a href="#">Edutainment</a>	Free
<a href="#">Baidu Baike</a>	<a href="#">Chinese</a>	Collaborative online encyclopedia hosted by the major Chinese search engine <a href="#">Baidu</a>	Free
<a href="#">Banglapedia</a>	<a href="#">Bengali</a> , English	General interest	Free
<a href="#">The Canadian Encyclopedia</a>	English, French	General interest (original content of the hard copy Canadian Encyclopedia)	Free
<a href="#">Citizendium</a>	English	General interest,	Free

Site	Language	Description	Access
		wiki	
<a href="#">Classify Everything</a>	English	General interest list encyclopaedia, wiki	Free, copyleft
<a href="#">Columbia Encyclopedia</a>	English	General interest	Free
<a href="#">Compton's Encyclopedia</a>	English	General interest	Free
<a href="#">Conservapedia</a>	English	Semi-open wiki written from politically <a href="#">right-wing</a> and its own re-translation of the Bible <sup>[1]</sup> perspectives	Free
<a href="#">Credo Reference</a>	English	General interest and subject-specific encyclopedias	Subscription
<a href="#">Crnogorska Enciklopedija</a>	<a href="#">Montenegrin</a>	General interest (hopes to encourage a Montenegrin language Wikipedia)	Defunct
<a href="#">Den Store Danske Encyklopædi</a>	<a href="#">Danish</a>	General interest	Free
<a href="#">Deu Sözlük</a>	<a href="#">Turkish</a>	General interest	Free
<a href="#">Digital Universe</a>	English	Collection of articles on educational, cultural, and scientific topics	Free
<a href="#">Diplopedia</a>	English	<a href="#">US State Department</a> internal encyclopedic wiki, available for diplomats and overseas US agents to use	Access only through the State Department
<a href="#">Doosan Encyclopedia</a>	<a href="#">Korean</a>	General interest	Free
<a href="#">EcuRed</a>	Spanish	General interest. Cuban	Free
<a href="#">Ekşi Sözlük</a>	Turkish	General interest	Free
<a href="#">Encarta</a>	English	General interest	Defunct
<a href="#">Encyclopædia</a>	English	General interest	Limited free

Site	Language	Description	Access
<a href="#">Britannica</a>			access and features, <a href="#">subscription</a> for full access
<a href="#">Encyclopædia Britannica –1911 Edition</a>	English	General interest	Public domain: completely free access from several online sources
<a href="#">Encyclopedia of China</a>	Chinese	General interest	Subscription
<a href="#">Encyklopedia Internautica</a>	<a href="#">Polish</a>	General interest	Free
<a href="#">Enciclopedia Libre</a>	Spanish	Fork of the Spanish Wikipedia, using <a href="#">wiki</a> software, released under the <a href="#">GFDL</a>	Free
<a href="#">Enciclopedia Treccani</a>	<a href="#">Italian</a>	General interest	Free
<a href="#">Encyclopædia Universalis</a>	French	General interest encyclopedia published by Encyclopædia Britannica	Subscription
<a href="#">Everything2</a>	English	General interest, users can submit articles on the topic of essentially anything	Free
<a href="#">FAQ</a>	English	A collection of searchable FAQs	Free
<a href="#">GNUPedia</a>	English	General interest articles are released under a GNU license	Free
<a href="#">Gran Enciclopèdia Catalana</a>	Catalan	General interest	Free
<a href="#">Grand Larousse encyclopédique</a>	French	General interest	Free
<a href="#">Great Soviet Encyclopedia</a>	Russian, English	General interest, often from the former official Soviet viewpoint.	Free

Site	Language	Description	Access
<a href="#">Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia</a>	English	Targeted at the younger researcher, it contains the text of the <a href="#">Academic American Encyclopedia</a>	Subscription
<a href="#">Holocaust Encyclopedia</a>	English, Arabic, Persian, French, Spanish	Holocaust-related articles	Free
<a href="#">Hudong</a>	Chinese	General interest. China's largest wiki	Free
<a href="#">Hutchinson Encyclopedia</a>	English	General interest	Free
<a href="#">Infoplease</a>	English	General interest	Free
<a href="#">Internetowa encyklopedia PWN</a>	<a href="#">Polish</a>	General interest	Free
<a href="#">Interpedia</a>	English	General interest, the first site to propose a free encyclopedia written by users	Defunct
<a href="#">Iron Chariots<sup>[2]</sup></a>	English	A semi-open counter-apologetics wiki, to provide thorough resource for responding to <a href="#">theistic arguments</a> . <sup>[3][4]</sup>	Free
<a href="#">Enciklopedio Kalblanda</a>	<a href="#">Esperanto</a>	General interest. The first online Esperanto encyclopedia	Defunct
<a href="#">Kdo byl kdo</a>	<a href="#">Czech</a>	Biographies on notable <a href="#">Czech</a> and <a href="#">Slovak people</a>	Free
<a href="#">Keyinpedia</a>	Chinese	General interest	Free
<a href="#">Knol</a>	English	General interest	Free
<a href="#">Kussmaul Encyclopedia</a>	English	General interest with emphasis on science and the arts. First commercial online encyclopedia (1981–93).	Subscription

Site	Language	Description	Access
<a href="#">Marefa</a>	<a href="#">Arabic</a>	General interest	Free
<a href="#">Metapedia</a>	Hungarian, German, English, Spanish, Swedish, Romanian, Estonian, French, Slovenian, Czech, Portuguese, Norwegian, Croatian, Danish, Greek, Dutch	Far <a href="#">right-wing</a> , <a href="#">white nationalist</a> and <a href="#">neo nazi</a> encyclopedia	Free
<a href="#">Meyers Konversations-Lexikon 4. ed. 1888 - 1892</a>	German	General interest	Free
<a href="#">Nationalencyklopedin</a>	Swedish	General interest, the most comprehensive contemporary Swedish language encyclopedia	Subscription
<a href="#">New World Encyclopedia</a>	English	General interest	Free
<a href="#">Nupedia</a>	English	Combined with GNUpedia	Free
<a href="#">Open Site</a>	English	Categorized community-built encyclopedia, inspired by the <a href="#">Open Directory Project</a>	Free
<a href="#">Private Sözlük</a>	<a href="#">Turkish</a>	Collaborative hypertext Turkish dictionary and encyclopedia site that shares a similar concept with Everything2 or H2G2	Free
<a href="#">Probert Encyclopaedia</a>	English	General interest	Free
<a href="#">Proleksis Encyclopedia</a>	<a href="#">Croatian</a>	General and national encyclopedia	Free with registration
<a href="#">Quid</a>	French	General interest	Free

Site	Language	Description	Access
<a href="#">Sarvavijnanakosam</a>	<a href="#">Malayalam</a>	General interest	Free
<a href="#">Scholarpedia</a>	English	Articles are written by scholars and peer-reviewed for accuracy	Free
<a href="#">Store norske leksikon</a>	<a href="#">Norwegian (Bokmål)</a>	General interest	Free
<a href="#">Superpedia</a>	Bahasa Indonesia	Indonesian, based on MediaWiki	Free
<a href="#">Susning.nu</a>	Swedish	A Swedish language wiki 2001–2009	Defunct
<a href="#">Từ điển Bách khoa toàn thư Việt Nam</a>	Vietnamese	General interest. State-sponsored encyclopedia.	Free
<a href="#">Veropedia</a>	English, Dutch, Spanish	Mirrors stable versions of selected <a href="#">English Wikipedia</a> articles	Defunct
<a href="#">Vikidia</a>	French, Spanish	Articles designed for children ages 8–13	Free
<a href="#">WIEM Encyklopedia</a>	<a href="#">Polish</a>	General interest	Free
<a href="#">Wikipedia</a>	See list <a href="#">here</a>	General interest <a href="#">wiki</a>	Free, <a href="#">copyleft</a>
<a href="#">Winkler Prins encyclopedie</a>	Dutch	General interest, three different age levels	Subscription
<a href="#">World Book Encyclopedia</a>	English	General interest	Subscription
<a href="#">Wikinfo</a>	English	Holds multiple articles on subjects from different points of view	Free
<a href="#">Zuhlool</a>	Arabic	An Arabic language wiki	Free
<a href="#">Tamil Encyclopedia</a>	<a href="#">Tamil</a>	General Interest	Free
<a href="#">Marathi Vishwakosh</a>	<a href="#">Marathi</a>	General Interest	Free

## Biography

Site	Language	Description	Access
<a href="#">Australian Dictionary of Biography</a>	English	Entries on notable Australians who have died	Free
<a href="#">Dictionary of Canadian Biography</a>	English, French	Entries on notable Canadians	Free
<a href="#">Dictionary of Greek and Roman Biography and Mythology</a>	English	Focuses on topics dealing with Greek and Roman mythology and people	Free
<a href="#">Oxford Dictionary of National Biography</a>	English	Comprehensive 66-volume reference work on notable dead figures from British history in every profession from politics to art	Subscription
<a href="#">Dictionary of National Biography</a>	English	The original 19th century version of the above. Available free in a variety of places, either as transcriptions or images of the printed volumes	Free (see left)
<a href="#">Dictionary of New Zealand Biography</a>	English, Māori	Entries on notable New Zealanders who have died	Free
<a href="#">gltq.com</a>	English	Entries on notable homosexuals	Free
<a href="#">MacTutor History of Mathematics archive</a>	English	Biographies of mathematicians	Free
<a href="#">MyWikiBiz</a>	English	A wiki encyclopedia that allows people and enterprises to write about themselves	Free
<a href="#">Who's Who</a>	English	General biographies, mainly of British people	Subscription

## Antiquities, arts, and literature

Site	Language	Description	Access
<a href="#">A Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities</a>	English	Incorporates text from the 19th century encyclopedia of the same name. Focuses on topics of cultural and historical <a href="#">Greek</a> and <a href="#">Roman</a> significance.	Free
<a href="#">Encyclopedia Mythica</a>	English	Contains articles on <a href="#">mythology</a> , <a href="#">folklore</a> , and <a href="#">religion</a>	Free

<a href="#">Grove Art Online</a>	English	Visual art; formerly the "The Dictionary of Art" but usually known as The Grove Dictionary of Art, which had 34 printed volumes, published in 1996	Subscription
<a href="#">Harpers Dictionary of Classical Antiquities</a>	English	Covers subjects of classical antiquity	Free
<a href="#">The Literary Encyclopedia</a>	English	<a href="#">Literature</a> related articles	Subscription
<a href="#">SIKART</a>	English, German, French, Italian	Biographical dictionary and database of Swiss visual art	Free

## Culture and country-specific

Site	Language	Description	Access
<a href="#">Aeiou Encyclopedia</a>	<a href="#">German</a> , <a href="#">English</a>	Online database of Austrian culture	Free
<a href="#">Encyclopedia of Alabama</a>	English	Articles on the state of <a href="#">Alabama</a>	Free
<a href="#">Encyclopedia of Arkansas</a>	English	A project of the <a href="#">Central Arkansas Library System</a> and is the only U.S. state encyclopedia sponsored by a public library	Free
<a href="#">Dictionary of Greek and Roman Geography</a>	English	Focuses on topic relating to Greek and Roman geography	Free
<a href="#">Encyclopædia Iranica</a>	English, plans for a future <a href="#">Persian</a> version	Topics on the influence of the <a href="#">Iranian peoples</a> throughout history	Free
<a href="#">Encyclopedia of Korean Culture</a>	Korean	Korea-related topics	Free
<a href="#">Enciclopedia României</a>	<a href="#">Romanian</a>	A <a href="#">MediaWiki</a> based <a href="#">Romanian Language</a> encyclopedia concerning Romania-related topics.	Free
<a href="#">Gazetteer for Scotland</a>	English	Articles on the geography and locations of <a href="#">Scotland</a>	Free



<a href="#">Jewish Encyclopedia</a>	English	The state of <a href="#">Judaism</a> and the <a href="#">Jews</a> (as of 1901)	Free, Public domain
<a href="#">Jewish Virtual Library</a>	English	Portals to essential <a href="#">Jewish</a> topics	Free
<a href="#">Kodansha Encyclopedia of Japan</a>	English	Comprehensive articles on <a href="#">Japanese</a> arts and culture, history and politics, etc.	Subscription
<a href="#">Looklex Encyclopaedia (about)</a>	English (based in <a href="#">Norway</a> )	<a href="#">Middle East</a> and <a href="#">North African</a> topics (known as CiAS 1996-1999)	Free
<a href="#">New Georgia Encyclopedia</a>	English	Articles on the U.S. state <a href="#">Georgia</a>	Free
<a href="#">Oregon Blue Book</a>	English	Articles pertaining to <a href="#">Oregon</a>	Free
<a href="#">The Oregon Encyclopedia</a>	English	Articles pertaining to <a href="#">Oregon</a>	Free
<a href="#">Panyathai</a>	<a href="#">Thai</a> , limited English	General interest. Designed to honor the Thai king <a href="#">Bhumibol Adulyadej</a>	Free
<a href="#">TAGIPEDIA</a>	Arabic, English	Articles on <a href="#">Arab</a> heritage and content	Free with registration
<a href="#">Te Ara: The Encyclopedia of New Zealand</a>	English, <a href="#">Māori</a>	The New Zealand government site with content on the country	Free
<a href="#">Encyclopedia of Ukraine</a>	Ukrainian	<a href="#">Ukraine</a> related articles	Free
<a href="#">Venciclopedia</a>	Spanish	Articles on <a href="#">Venezuelan</a> topics	Free
<a href="#">Encyclopedia Virginia</a>	English	Articles on <a href="#">Virginia</a> 's history and culture	Free
<a href="#">Wikanda</a>	Spanish	Andalusian encyclopedia	Free

## Pop culture and fiction

Site	Language	Description	Access
<a href="#">Don Markstein's Toonopedia</a>	English	Focuses on articles pertaining to print and animated cartoons	Free
<a href="#">Fringepedia</a>	English	Contains articles pertaining to the American television drama <a href="#">Fringe</a> .	Free
<a href="#">H2G2</a>	English	Collection of sometimes humorous encyclopedia	Free

		articles, based on Douglas Adams's <i>The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy</i> .	
<a href="#">Heroes Wiki</a>	English, Dutch, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish	Contains articles pertaining to the American television drama <a href="#">Heroes</a> .	Free
<a href="#">Lostpedia</a>	English, German, Spanish, French, Italian, Japanese, Dutch, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Chinese	Contains articles pertaining to the hit drama <a href="#">Lost</a>	Free
<a href="#">Memory Alpha</a>	English, Bulgarian, Chinese, Czech, Dutch, Esperanto, French, German, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian, Spanish and Swedish	Articles about <a href="#">Star Trek</a>	Free
<a href="#">The Rocklopedia Fakebandica</a>	English	Articles on fake bands from popular entertainment	Free
<a href="#">TV Tropes</a>	English, German, Esperanto, Spanish, French, Norwegian, Finnish, Swedish, Al Bhed, Quenya	Articles related to the devices and conventions that a fiction writer can reasonably rely on as being present in the audience members' minds and expectations	Free
<a href="#">Wookieepedia</a>	English, German, Spanish, <a href="#">Bulgarian</a> , <a href="#">Danish</a> , <a href="#">Finnish</a> , French, <a href="#">Croatian</a> , <a href="#">Hungarian</a> , Italian, Japanese, Dutch, <a href="#">Norwegian</a> , <a href="#">Polish</a> , Portuguese, Russian, <a href="#">Romanian</a> , <a href="#">Slovak</a> , <a href="#">Slovene</a> , Swedish, Chinese	<a href="#">Star Wars</a> -related articles	Free
<a href="#">WoWWiki</a>	English, German, Spanish, French, Czech, Danish, <a href="#">Greek</a> , <a href="#">Persian</a> , Finnish, <a href="#">Hebrew</a> , Hungarian, <a href="#">Icelandic</a> , Italian, <a href="#">Lithuanian</a> , <a href="#">Latvian</a> , Dutch, <a href="#">Nynorsk</a> , <a href="#">Bokmål</a> , Polish, Portuguese, <a href="#">Brazilian Portuguese</a> , Russian, <a href="#">Slovak</a> , Korean, Japanese, Chinese	<a href="#">World of Warcraft</a> -related articles	Free

<a href="#">Wowpedia</a>	English, Spanish, French, Czech, Russian	<a href="#">World of Warcraft</a> and <a href="#">Warcraft Universe</a> - related articles	Free
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## Mathematics

Site	Language	Description	Access
<a href="#">Cut-the-knot</a>	English	<a href="#">Mathematics</a> related topics	Free
<a href="#">Encyclopedia of Mathematics</a>	English	Encompasses articles on the topic of <a href="#">mathematics</a>	Free
<a href="#">EqWorld</a>	English, Russian	Articles on <a href="#">mathematical equations</a>	Free
<a href="#">MathWorld</a>	English	Articles on a wide variety of math related topics	Free
<a href="#">On-Line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences</a>	English	Encyclopedia of number sequences (what is next term after 1,2,4,9,20,48,115, ..., say?)	Free
<a href="#">PlanetMath</a>	English	Math related topics and articles	Free/GNU
<a href="#">The QED Project</a>	English	A project to establish a "distributed, computerized repository that rigorously represents all important, established mathematical knowledge."	Free

## Music

Site	Language	Description	Access
<a href="#">Allmusic</a>	English	Music-related topics	Retail sites
<a href="#">Babyblaue Seiten</a>	German	German encyclopedia of <a href="#">progressive rock</a> with album reviews	Free
<a href="#">Discogs</a>	English	Database of audio releases	Free
<a href="#">Encyclopaedia Metallum</a>	English	Archives of <a href="#">heavy metal</a> bands	Free
<a href="#">Grove Music Online</a>	English	Mostly on historic and classical music worldwide; in print form is <a href="#">The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians</a> , which has 20 printed volumes, and was first published in 1980	Subscription
<a href="#">LyricWiki</a>	English	Encyclopedic database of song lyrics	Free
<a href="#">MetalBandWiki</a>	English	Articles on all metal music,	Free

		musicians, musical instruments used in metal, and articles related to those bands and musicians	
<a href="#">MOOMA</a>	<a href="#">Hebrew</a>	Articles on Israeli music and musical artists	Free
<a href="#">MusicBrainz</a>	English	Database of audio albums	Free
<a href="#">MusicMight</a>	English	Bio- and discographies of rock bands	Free
<a href="#">Prog Archives</a>	English	Comprehensive community-created artist info and album reviews database especially of progressive rock music	Free
<a href="#">Rock in China</a>	English	Encyclopedia on Chinese contemporary underground music (rock, punk, metal, jazz, hiphop, etc.)	Free

## Philosophy

Site	Language	Description	Access
<a href="#">Encyclopedia of Marxism</a>	multi-lingual	Topics related to the study of <a href="#">Marxism</a>	Free
<a href="#">Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy</a>	English	<a href="#">Philosophy</a> related articles	Free
<a href="#">Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy</a>	English	Philosophy articles	Subscription
<a href="#">Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</a>	English	Philosophy subjects	Free

## Politics and history

Site	Language	Description	Access
<a href="#">Campaigns Wikia</a>	English	Political issues and campaigns	Free
<a href="#">Congresspedia</a>	English	Seeks to improve on public information through articles about <a href="#">US Congress</a> specifics	Free
<a href="#">Cyclopaedia of Political Science</a>	English	Articles pertaining to <a href="#">science</a> , <a href="#">economics</a> , and American authors. The 1899 edition is available online	Free
<a href="#">dKosopedia</a>	English	A political encyclopedia written from a left/progressive/liberal/Democratic point of view	Free
<a href="#">Encyclopedia of</a>	English	Presents articles on perceived human	Free

<a href="#">World Problems and Human Potential</a>		problems	
<a href="#">HistoryLink</a>	English	Articles on the history of <a href="#">Washington State</a>	Free
<a href="#">JurisPedia</a>	Arabic, English, Chinese, French, German, Spanish, Dutch	An academic encyclopedia on the concepts of <a href="#">law</a>	Free

## Religion and theology

Site	Language	Description	Access
<a href="#">Boston Collaborative Encyclopedia of Western Theology</a>	English	Articles on Western Christian theology	Free, Public domain
<a href="#">Catholic Encyclopedia</a>	English	Topics relating to <a href="#">Catholicism</a>	Free, Public domain
<a href="#">Christian Cyclopedia</a>	English	A collection of historical and theological information	Free
<a href="#">Easton's Bible Dictionary</a>	English	Articles on Christianity and theology	Free, Public Domain
<a href="#">Encyclopaedia Biblica</a>	English	Contains articles pertaining to "the Literary, Political and Religious History, the Archaeology, Geography, and Natural History of the Bible" <sup>[5]</sup>	Free
<a href="#">Encyclopedia of Mormonism</a>	English	Articles by Mormon academics on history and doctrine of <a href="#">The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints</a> (Mormon or LDS Church).	Free
<a href="#">Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online</a>	English	Topics relating to <a href="#">Anabaptism</a> and <a href="#">Mennonites</a>	Free
<a href="#">Jewish Encyclopedia</a>	English	Topics relating to <a href="#">Judaism</a>	Free
<a href="#">New Advent</a>	English	Articles on <a href="#">Catholicism</a> and <a href="#">apologetics</a>	Free

## Science

Site	Language	Description	Access
<a href="#">APpedia</a>	Chinese	Contains articles on the subject of <a href="#">general animal protection</a>	Free
<a href="#">Encyclopedia Astronautica</a>	English	Contains articles on the subject of <a href="#">space exploration</a> and <a href="#">astronomy</a>	Free
<a href="#">Encyclopedia of Earth</a>	English	Articles on the Earth and its ecosystems	Free
<a href="#">Javapedia</a>	English	Coverage of all topics related to the <a href="#">Java platform</a>	Free
<a href="#">ScienceWorld</a>	English	Covers astronomy, scientific biography, chemistry, and physics. Like <a href="#">MathWorld</a> , it is edited by Eric Weisstein.	Free

## Biology-Life science

Site	Language	Description	Access
<a href="#">Animal Diversity Web</a>	English	Student wiki-type database at the <a href="#">University of Michigan</a> of animal natural history, distribution, classification, and conservation biology.	Free
<a href="#">ARKive</a>	English	Visual and audio recordings of the world's species	Free
<a href="#">Encyclopedia of Life</a>	English, French	Seeks to categorize all 1.8 million known species on the planet	Free
<a href="#">Encyclopedia of Life Sciences</a>	English	<a href="#">Biology</a> related articles	Subscription
<a href="#">Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems</a>	English	Articles about the <a href="#">natural</a> and <a href="#">social sciences</a>	Subscription
<a href="#">Erowid</a>	English	Information about <a href="#">psychoactive</a> substances	Free
<a href="#">FishBase</a>	English, Spanish, Portuguese, French,	Articles on fish species	Free

German, [Italian](#), Dutch,  
[Chinese \(Simplified Han\)](#),  
[Chinese \(Traditional Han\)](#),  
[Bahasa Malay](#), [Indonesian](#),  
[Greek](#), [Swedish](#), [Russian](#),  
[Persian](#), [Vietnamese](#), [Thai](#),  
[Lao](#), [Hindi](#), [Bengali](#)

<a href="#">Flora Europaea</a>	English	Covers different plant species	Free
<a href="#">Macroscopic Observatory</a>	English	Covers <a href="#">Flora</a> and <a href="#">Fauna</a>	Free
<a href="#">Palaeos</a>	English	Covers <a href="#">palaeontology</a>	Free
<a href="#">The Plant List</a>	English	Covers <a href="#">Flora</a>	Free
<a href="#">Wikispecies</a>	English	Seeks to create a catalogue of all living things	Free

## Medicine and surgery

At least 70 [online medical wiki encyclopedias](#) has been created.<sup>[6]</sup> Some include:

Site	Language	Description	Access
<a href="#">Ganfyd</a>	English	Medical content	Free
<a href="#">Medcyclopaedia</a>	English	Articles on <a href="#">medical imaging</a> used in <a href="#">radiology</a> and <a href="#">radiography</a>	Free
<a href="#">Medpedia</a>	English	Medical content	Free
<a href="#">Radiopaedia</a>	English	Articles on <a href="#">medical imaging</a> used in <a href="#">radiology</a> and <a href="#">radiography</a>	Free
<a href="#">WikiSurgery</a>	English	Surgical content	Free

## See also

- [List of academic databases and search engines](#)
- [List of blogs](#)
- [List of encyclopedias by branch of knowledge](#)
- [List of online databases](#)
- [List of online dictionaries](#)
- [List of wikis](#)
- [List of Danish online encyclopedic resources](#)

## References

1. [^ Conservapedia Bible Project](#). Retrieved from Conservapedia 5/10/2012.
2. [^ http://atheism.about.com/b/2011/02/11/vote-agnosticism-atheism-2011-readers-choice-award-for-best-atheist-site-of-2010.htm](http://atheism.about.com/b/2011/02/11/vote-agnosticism-atheism-2011-readers-choice-award-for-best-atheist-site-of-2010.htm)
3. [^ http://wiki.ironchariots.org/index.php?title=Main\\_Page](http://wiki.ironchariots.org/index.php?title=Main_Page)
4. [^ http://www.secularthinker.com/2009/08/iron-chariots-wiki.html](http://www.secularthinker.com/2009/08/iron-chariots-wiki.html)
5. [^ Encyclopaedia Biblica](#)
6. [^ Heilman JM, Kemmann E, Bonert M, et al. \(2011\). "Wikipedia: a key tool for global public health promotion". \*J. Med. Internet Res.\* \*\*13\*\* \(1\): e14. DOI:10.2196/jmir.1589. PMC 3221335. PMID 21282098.](#)

## External links

- ["Encyclopedic Knowledge, Then vs. Now", \*The New York Times\*, May 3, 2009](#)



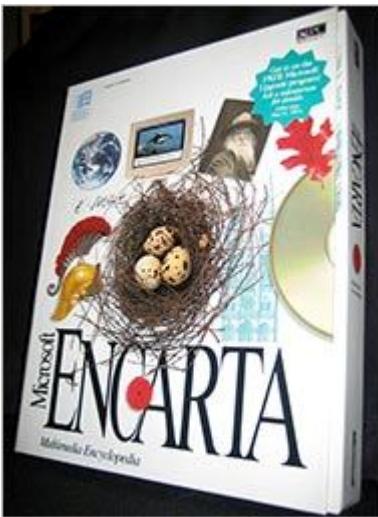
## Encyclopedic Knowledge, Then vs. Now

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- [Linkedin](#)
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- [Print](#)

- [Reprints](#)
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By RANDALL STROSS  
Published: May 2, 2009

THIS is the end of the line for Encarta, the encyclopedia that [Microsoft](#) introduced in 1993 and still describes boastfully on its Web site as “the No. 1 best-selling encyclopedia software brand for the past eight years.” Microsoft recently announced that sales would soon cease and that the [Encarta Web site](#), supported by advertising, would be shut down later this year.



Microsoft says sales of Encarta, its encyclopedia, will soon cease. Above is a 1993 version.

It's hard to look at the end of the Encarta experiment without the free and much larger [Wikipedia](#) springing immediately to mind. But Encarta arguably would have failed even without that competition. The [Google](#)-indexed Web forms a virtual encyclopedia that Encarta never had a chance of competing against.

Encarta was conceived pre-Web and had a long gestation. In 1985, [Bill Gates](#) envisioned a CD-ROM encyclopedia as a "high-price, high-demand" product with the potential of becoming as profitable to Microsoft as Word or Excel. Microsoft tried unsuccessfully to license rights to Encyclopedia Britannica's text, then World Book's. It finally found a willing licensor in Funk & Wagnalls.

Microsoft's Encarta team concentrated on developing nontext supplements that would make it a multimedia extravaganza. The team developed illustrations and maps, a timeline and an atlas, assembled and wrote captions for 11,000 photographs and digitized eight hours of sound clips.

Early in the project's history, a focus group of prospective customers was convened, and participants said they would happily pay \$1,000 to \$2,000 for a multimedia encyclopedia on CD-ROM. But at the time, no one foresaw the collapse of prices in the information economy. When Encarta was finally ready, Microsoft set its price at \$395, the same price as other CD-ROM encyclopedias that had beaten it to the market.

Encarta sold poorly, gaining only 3 percent of the market six months after its release, according to Microsoft. But the leader was Compton's, which sold its CD-ROM Interactive Encyclopedia, nominally priced at \$395, for just \$129 to any customer who claimed to own a competing product. Retailers did not ask to see proof, and the boxes flew off the shelf.

Microsoft's sales managers were frantic, begging the team to give them a "\$99 Encarta." The Encarta team relented, but said it was to be only a temporary reduction for the 1993 holiday sales season. Martin Leahy, a Microsoft sales manager, told any colleague who would listen, "You realize, don't you, the price is never going up again, right?" It never did.

The \$99 Encarta was a smashing success: it quickly sold 350,000 units, making it the best-selling CD-ROM encyclopedia by the end of 1993. Its sales passed a million units the next year.

In 2000, a free Web version, which included less than half the full version, was introduced; to get online access to the complete encyclopedia, one had to buy Encarta on CD-ROM or DVD. Online-only subscription plans came later.

Over time, the price of the product fell even more. Earlier this year, Microsoft sold Encarta as a downloadable product for \$29.95; most recently, it was marked down to \$22.95.

I contacted some of the people who worked on Encarta during its early days to collect their reflections. Gary Alt, who joined Microsoft in 1995 after working as an editor at World Book and at Encyclopedia Britannica, spoke with pride of the editorial work that he and his Encarta team had done. Fifty people — editors, fact-checkers and indexers — were on the team in 2000, at the peak of Microsoft’s editorial investment in Encarta, he said.

That investment, however, seems to have gone unnoticed by Encarta’s users. Tom Corddry, a senior manager at Microsoft from 1989 to 1996 who headed up its multimedia publishing unit, said, “The editors overestimated the way students would say, ‘This has been carefully edited! And is very authoritative!’”

Encarta would have been discontinued long before now if it hadn’t extended its natural life span by finding a market in international spots beyond the reach of the Internet, Mr. Corddry said. “That bought Encarta some time,” he added.

Encarta could not compete, however, against the Web and Google. The Google search engine is an automated, continuously updated, always-expanding guide to information that is completely free. Authority now comes not from a small group of encyclopedia editors and famous contributors but from Google’s algorithms, which analyze links that point to Web pages elsewhere and other clues to make an educated guess about trustworthiness.

Google has effectively enlisted millions of Web page authors, whose links serve as recommendations for the largest editorial board ever assembled. Many Google search results lead off with a pointer to Wikipedia. The crowd-curated Web may have been what Microsoft had in mind when it vaguely explained Encarta’s closing this way: “People today seek and consume information in considerably different ways than in years past.”

IN 1985, when Microsoft was turned down by Britannica, the conventional wisdom in the encyclopedia business held that a sales force that knocked on doors was indispensable, that encyclopedias were “sold, not bought.” Encarta showed that with a low-enough price — it was selling for \$99 when Britannica introduced its own CD-ROM encyclopedia in 1994 for \$995 — it could become the best-selling encyclopedia.

But the triumph was short-lived. Microsoft soon learned that the public would no longer pay for information once it was available free. Other information businesses, of course, are now confronting the same fact, but without the Windows and Office franchises to fall back upon.

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