



Assignment on Oxford English Dictionary

Subject: Information Sources and Services (Practice)

Department of Library and Information Science

Panjab University, Chandigarh

Class- M. Lib.

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Submitted to:

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Submitted by:

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Authority:

Title	Oxford English Dictionary
Publisher	Clarendon Press Oxford
Place of publication	Oxford, United Kingdom
Editor	John Simpson and Edmund Weiner
First Edition	1933
Second Edition	1989
Online Version	2000
Language	English

Introduction

The Oxford English Dictionary (OED), is the most comprehensive dictionary of the English language. The Oxford English Dictionary was originally published between 1884 and 1928 under the name of ‘A New English Dictionary on Historical Principles’, in 10 volumes. In 1933, a single volume supplement to the Dictionary was published. Also at this time the original Dictionary was reprinted in twelve volumes and the work was formally given its current title, the Oxford English Dictionary. More supplements came over the years until 1989, when the second edition was published. The second edition was published in 20 volumes.

The OED is now for the first time being completely revised, with the aim of producing an updated Third Edition. Since 2000, third edition of the dictionary has been underway.

Review by Anthony Burgess “The OED has been to me a teacher, a companion, a source of endless discovery. I could not have become a writer without it.”

Review by Annie Proulx “The greatest treasure of words all the raw material a writer needs for a life time of work.”

Scope

- The OED traces the development of English from the earliest records and formally from 1150 AD, up to the present day.
- The OED has varieties of English covered British, American, Australian, New Zealand, and sub continentals of the southern Caribbean, among others.

- At present the dictionary is in the process of being revised and updated. The first revised entries were published in 2000, and further new and revised entries are now published in every three month.
- The OED contains 291500 entries, although this number increase with each update.
- So wide is its scope and so intensive its treatment that it has served for students, both native and foreign, as a lexicon of many languages.
- It has about 600,000 words and 3.5 million quotations.
- In online format, its periodicity is quarterly.

Treatment

- It has detailed information on pronunciations using the International Phonetic Alphabet.
- It provides listing of variant spellings used throughout each word's history and their origin.
- It has extensive treatment of etymology; and details of area of usage and of any regional characteristics.
- Homographs (words spelled same but having different meaning and origins) are treated as separate entries.
- The OED typically also treats major parts of speech as separate entries: thus *party* as a noun and *party* as a verb are two entries: *party*, n. and *party*, v.
- It includes both main entries and cross reference entries.
- The headword shows most common spelling of the word. The status symbol also given which indicate whether a term is obsolete or foreign.
- It contains idioms, abbreviations

Arrangement

The entries in OED are arranged alphabetically by the letter arrangement.

Format

Print format: print format is in hard binding that makes it robust; paper is bright and smooth the font is clear and readable. The printing is clear and legible. It has pictures and illustrations.

2nd edition of the Oxford English Dictionary is available in 20 volumes set or in a single volume compact edition.

Review by Amo.s: "The print is smaller".

Online format: The online version has been available on www.oed.com, since 2000. The online database contains the entire OED2 and is updated quarterly with revisions that will be included in the OED3.

CD-ROM format: The OED CD-ROM was originally released in 1992, but it was not functioning on the new operating systems so it is discontinued in 2017.

Special features

Features of Online format:

1. Word of day- it displays meaning of one different word daily.
2. Personal OED- anyone can subscribe it online individually.
3. Recent list- helps to find recently searched words.

Features of Print format:

1. The OED has pictures and illustration.
2. The OED is different from other dictionaries of current English because it focuses on the present day meaning.
3. List of abbreviations.

Limitations

- The OED web site is not optimized for mobile devices.
- Its printed edition has stopped after 2nd edition.

Conclusion

OED has set its standard to a great level. This is the dictionary for excellence for the general reader and hence should be acquired by every library. It ensure that the OED is an even more authoritative record of the English language in the current time. It is not only providing an important records of the evolution of the English language, but also documents the continuing development of our society. This is the dictionary for excellence for the general reader.

References

1. <http://www.oed.com>
2. The Oxford English Dictionary
3. <http://www.amazon.in>