

## INLS 111: INFORMATION RESOURCES AND SERVICES I

### School of Information and Library Science University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

#### DICTIONARIES AND WORD SOURCES

NOTE: The following list represents a selection of some of the most important English-language word sources. Numerous worthy sources have been omitted for the sake of space and clarity. Please feel free to suggest additions to this list as you encounter interesting and significant sources. Also, if you find any errors, especially in call numbers, please let me know.

#### I. BIBLIOGRAPHIES AND GUIDES.

- \* *ARBA Guide to Subject Encyclopedias and Dictionaries*. 2d ed. Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 1997. [Davis Ref. AE1 .A72 1997]
- \* Karp, Rashelle S. *Dictionaries for Adults and Children*. Chicago, IL: Booklist Publications, ALA, 1991. [SILS PE1611 .K377 1991]
- \* Kister, Kenneth. *Dictionary Buying Guide: A Consumer Guide to General English-Language Wordbooks in Print*. New York: Bowker, 1977. [Davis Ref.; SILS Z2015 .D6K57 1977]
- \* \_\_\_\_\_. *Kister's Best Dictionaries for Adults and Young People: A Comparative Guide*. Phoenix, AZ: Oryx Press, 1992. [SILS Ref. PE1611 .K57 1992]
- \* Reference Books Bulletin Editorial Board of the American Library Association. *Reference Books Bulletin*. Chicago: American Library Association, 1983- . Annual. [Davis Ref. Z1035.1 .S922]
- \* Wynar, Bohdan S, ed. *American Reference Books Annual*. Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 1970- . Annual. [SILS Ref. Z1035.1 .A55]

#### II. UNABRIDGED DICTIONARIES.

- \* *Oxford English Dictionary* (New English Dictionary on Historical Principles). 2nd ed. 20 vols. and supplement. New York: Oxford University Press, 1989. [Davis Ref. PE1625 .O87 1989; Davis Ref. Electronic Resource: CD-ROM 10-22]

The principle behind the OED is to trace the use of every word of Middle and Modern English from its earliest written occurrence. The OED today is the largest reference work on the English language produced, and is regarded as the final authority on the subject.

- \* *Random House Unabridged Dictionary*. 2nd ed., newly rev. and updated. New York: Random House, 1993. [Davis Ref., Row 1, PE1625 .R3 1993; Davis Ref Electronic Resource: CD-ROM 10-77]
- \* *Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language Unabridged*. Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, 1993. [Davis Ref. PE1625 .W36 1993] *12,000 Words: A Supplement to*

*Webster's Third New International Dictionary*. Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, 1986 [Davis Ref., UL Ref. PE1630 .A17 1986]

### III. SEMI-ABRIDGED DICTIONARIES.

- \* *The World Book Dictionary*. 2 vols. Chicago: World Book, 1992. [Davis Ref. PE1625 .W73 1987; SILS Juv. Ref. Coll., not catalogued, 1992 ed.]

### IV. DESK (COLLEGE) DICTIONARIES.

- \* *American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*. 3rd ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1992. [Davis Ref. Desk PE1628 .A623 1992]

- \* *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*. 10<sup>th</sup> ed. Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, 1997. [Davis Ref. Desk PE1628 .M36 1997]

OneLook Dictionaries. *The Faster Finder*. [<http://www.onelook.com/> ]

Search 490 general and specialized English dictionaries simultaneously, or select the ones you want to search. Over 2 million words now indexed.

- \* *Random House Webster's College Dictionary*. New York: Random House, 1997. [UL Ref. PE1628 .R28 1997]

- \* *Webster's New World College Dictionary*. 3rd ed. New York: Prentice-Hall, 1997. [Davis Ref. PE1628 .W5628 1997]

*WWWebster Dictionary* [<http://www.m-w.com>]

Merriam-Webster's free dictionary of 160,000+ entries is the Web's most commonly available dictionary. It is no more inclusive than the average college dictionary but it is adequate for a quick "look-up," which is what many people want. Also available at the same URL address is the *WWWebster Thesaurus*. Each time you search the dictionary, you are offered the thesaurus. It will pull up words that have a similar sound to what is typed in; if you type a misspelling, i.e., ascerbic, will give you the choices acerbic and ascorbic.

### VI. ETYMOLOGICAL DICTIONARIES.

- \* *American Heritage Dictionary of Indo-European Roots*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1985. [Davis Ref. Desk P615 .A43 1985]

- \* *Oxford English Dictionary* (New English Dictionary on Historical Principles). 2nd ed. 20 vols. and supplement. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1989. [Davis Ref. PE1625 .O87 1989] CD-ROM also.

### VII. DICTIONARIES OF SLANG.

- \* Chapman, Robert L., ed. *New Dictionary of American Slang*. Rev. ed. New York: Harper & Row, 1986. (Revision of Wentworth and Flexner) [Davis Ref. Desk PE2846 .C46 1986]

- \* Lewin, Esther and Albert E. Lewin. *The Thesaurus of Slang*. Rev. and exp. ed. New York: Facts on File, 1994. [Davis Ref. PE3721 .L45 1994]

Partridge, Eric. *A Concise Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English*. London: Routledge, 1989 [Davis PE3721 .P32 1989]

### VIII. CONTEMPORARY USAGE, AND DIALECT.

*The Barnhart Dictionary of New English Since 1963*. Bronxville, NY: Barnhart/Harper & Row, 1973. [Davis Ref. PE1630.B3]; *The Second Barnhart Dictionary of New English*. 1980. [Davis Ref., UL Ref. PE1630 .B3 1980]; *Third Barnhart Dictionary of New English*. 1990. [Davis Ref., UL Ref. PE1630 .B3 1990]

\* *The Columbia Guide to Standard American English*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1993. [Davis Ref. PE2835 .W55 1993].

With about 6,500 alphabetically arranged entries covering many aspects of word choice, pronunciation, grammar, and idiomatic usage, this guide emphasizes contemporary American usage rather than British usage.

\* *Dictionary of American Regional English*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, vol. 1- , 1985- . [Davis Ref., UL Ref. PE2843 .D52 1985] (Vol. 3, "I-O" now out)

\* *Encyclopedic Dictionary of English Usage*. 2nd ed. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1993. [Davis Ref. PE1628 .M23 1993].

This guide is intended as a single-volume ready reference for the educated professional who needs to write. It combines the elements of a dictionary, a style manual, and a grammar guide, and also includes a "typical problem this book can solve" section. This combination makes it unlike any other reference work, and more immediately useful.

\* Fowler, Henry W. *The New Fowler's Modern English Usage*. 3rd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996. [Davis Ref. Desk PE1628 .F65 1996]

\* *The Oxford Dictionary of New Words..* New York: Oxford University Press, 1997. [Davis Ref. PE1630 .O94 1997].

### IX. SYNONYMS, ANTONYMS, AND USAGE.

\* *Chamber's Dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms*. New York: Chambers, 1989. [Davis Ref., UL Ref. PE1591 .C425 1989]

\* *Roget's International Thesaurus: Fifth Edition*. New York: HarperCollins, 1992. [Davis Ref. Desk PE1591 .R73 1992]

\* *Roget's II: The New Thesaurus*. 3rd ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1995. [Davis Ref. Desk PE1591 .R715 1995; Davis Ref. Electronic Resource CD-ROM: 10-70]

### X. PRONUNCIATION.

\* Ehrlich, Eugene H. *NBC Handbook of Pronunciation*. 4th ed. rev. New York: HarperPerennial, 1991. [Davis Ref. PE1137 .E52 1991]

\* Noory, Samuel. *Dictionary of Pronunciation*. 3d ed. South Brunswick, NJ: A.S. Barnes, 1979. [Davis Ref. PE1137 .N65 1979]

**XI. ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYM DICTIONARIES.**

\* *Acronyms, Initialisms, and Abbreviations Dictionary*. Detroit, MI: Gale Research, 1960- . 23<sup>rd</sup> ed. [Davis Ref. Desk PE1693 .G3]

\* *Reverse Acronyms, Initialisms, and Abbreviations Dictionary*. Detroit, MI: Gale Research, 1972- . Annual. [Davis Ref. PE1693 .G32]

**XII. QUOTATION BOOKS.**

\* Andrews, Robert. *The Columbia Dictionary of Quotations*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1993. [Davis Ref., UL Ref. PN6081 .A652 1993; Davis Ref. Electronic Resource CD-ROM #10-165]

This collection of 18,000 quotations is arranged by fairly narrow subject headings. There is an index of personal names but no keyword or subject index. Because it lacks a keyword index, it won't be the first place to try to identify a specific quotation before you try *Bartlett's* or *Oxford*.

\* Bartlett, John. *Familiar Quotations*. 16th ed. Boston: Little, Brown, 1992. [Davis Ref. Desk PN6081 .B27 1992]

In this comprehensive work, authors appear chronologically in the order of their birth dates. The index of authors provides birth and death dates and the page number for the quotations by each author, as well as the page numbers for any additional quotations by that author in the footnotes. The keyword index makes it easy to locate terms in a keyword group.

*Gale's Quotations: Who Said What?* Detroit: Gale Research, 1995. [Davis Ref. Electronic Resource: CD-ROM 10-61]

This is a database of approximately 117,000 quotations drawn from a variety of sources but most notably from *Gale's Almanac of Famous People*. Most but not all entries provide the source of the quotation. The principal indexes allow for searching by author/speaker, keyword, or by a listing of quotations

\* *The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*. Rev. 4th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996. [Davis Ref. Desk PN6081 .O9 1996]

This expansion of the 1979 edition includes 17,500 quotations from roughly 2,500 authors. A major area of expansion was the representation of non-English authors, thinkers, and public figures. It has a keyword index, which is very helpful.

*Respectfully Quoted: A Dictionary of Quotations Requested from the Congressional Research Service*. Washington, DC: Library of Congress, 1989. [Davis Ref., UL Ref. PN6081 .R435 1989; 1992 ed. in Law Ref.]

**XIII. REVERSE DICTIONARIES.**

\* Bernstein, Theodore M. *Bernstein's Reverse Dictionary*. 2nd ed. New York: Times Books, 1988. [Davis Ref. Desk PE1591 .B45 1988]

When you know the definition, but can't think of the term, this volume is very useful. a few words of descriptive text are followed by a specific term. It also functions indirectly as a thesaurus, although that isn't its main purpose.

#### **XIV. VISUAL/PICTURE DICTIONARIES.**

\* *The Macmillan Visual Dictionary*. Multilingual Edition. New York: Macmillan, 1997 [Davis P361 .M28 1997]

This is a wonderful tool for comparison of terminology in four language – English, French, Spanish, and German. Each page is an illustration of some sort, mostly of everyday items, such as clothing, but also including cut-away illustrations of engines, spacecraft, etc. Each item on the page is labeled with up to four terms for the item, in the different languages.

#### **XV. FOREIGN-LANGUAGE DICTIONARIES.**

[Several publishers, such as Cassell's, Collins, Larousse, Harrap's and Oxford-Duden produce several (French, German, Italian, Spanish, etc.) foreign language dictionaries.]

\* *Cassell's French-English, English-French Dictionary*. London: Cassell's, 1988. [Davis Ref. PC2640 .C3 1988]

#### **XVI. LIBRARY AND BOOK TRADE.**

\* *Encyclopedia of the Book: Terms Used in Papermaking, Printing, Bookbinding and Publishing with Notes on Illuminated Manuscripts and Private Presses*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New Castle, DE: Oak Knoll Press, 1996. [Davis Ref. Z118 .G55 1996; SILS Ref. has the 1<sup>st</sup> ed., 1979, Z118 .G55]

\* *ALA Glossary of Library and Information Science*. Chicago: ALA, 1983 [Davis Ref., SILS Ref. Workroom Z1006 .A48 1983]

\* *Harrod's Librarians' Glossary: 9,000 Terms Used in Information Management, Library Science, Publishing, the Book Trades and Archive Management*. Aldershot, Hants, Eng.: Gower; Ashgate, 1995. [SILS Ref. Workroom Z1006 .H32 1995]