17th and 18th Century Encyclopedism

Resource Guide

Editions of Diderot's Encyclopédie, Chambers Cyclopædia (and related material) in the Sheridan Libraries

The desire to gather all the world's knowledge into one book is as old as civilization itself. The period of The Enlightenment gave birth to many such enterprises, as the rapid expansion of scholarship made it impossible to keep up with the increase in publishing and the numbers of original sources to consult. Drawing on the tradition of commonplace books, and responding to a need for easy access to a compendium of knowledge, encyclopedias flourished during the late 17th and throughout the 18th centuries.

The Sheridan Libraries own important editions of these pivotal works, including Diderot's Encyclopédie, and its predecessors such as Chambers' Cyclopædia, as well as its successors such as the Encyclopédie Méthodique.

This guide is in six parts:
1. Editions of Chambers' Cyclopædia
2. Editions of Diderot's Encyclopédie
3. Editions of other 17th and 18th century encyclopedias
4. Artifacts and specialized teaching resources
5. Selected Bibliography of Secondary materials
6. Relevant Electronic Resources and Web sites

Editions of Chambers' Cyclopædia

Cyclopædia: or, an universal dictionary of arts and sciences. The whole intended as a course of ancient and modern learning. E. Chambers. 2 volumes. Chambers called his work "the best book in the universe." It would, he said, "answer all the Purposes of a Library."

Special Collections: AE 5.C44

Cyclopædia: or, an universal dictionary of arts and sciences. The whole intended as a course of ancient and modern learning. E. Chambers. 2 volumes

Special Collections: AE 5.C43 1751 FOLIO
Dizionario universale delle arti e delle scienze. Efraimo Chambers. 9 volumes
Venice : Presso Giambatista Pasquali, 1749.
Institute of the History of Medicine: R.B.R. .C4446c 1749

Supplemento di Giorgio Lewis al Dizionario universale delle arti e scienze di Efraimo
Chambers. 6 volumes
Venice : Per Giambatista Pasquali, 1765
Institute of the History of Medicine: R.B.R. .C4446s 1765

Editions of Diderot's Encyclopédie

Encyclopédie, ou, Dictionnaire raisonée des sciences, des arts et des métiers: par une société
de gens de letters. M. Diderot et M. d’Alembert. 17 volumes
Paris : Briasson, 1751-65 (Original edition)
George Peabody Library: Rare Books Room, 034 D555 QUARTO

Encyclopédie, ou, Dictionnaire raisonée des sciences, des arts et des métiers: par une société
Panckoucke. 17 volumes
Geneva : Printed by Gabriel Cramer, 1772
Special Collections: AE 25 .E53 1772 FC

Encyclopédie, ou, Dictionnaire raisonée des sciences, des arts et des métiers. 36 volumes
Geneva : Pellet, 1777-79
Special Collections: AE 25 .E53 1777

Encyclopédie, ou, Dictionnaire raisonée des sciences, des arts et des métiers. 36 volumes
Lausanne et Berne : Sociétés Typographiques, 1779-82
Special Collections: AE 25 .E53 1779

Encyclopédie, ou, Dictionnaire raisonnée des sciences, des arts et des métiers. Table analytique
et raisonnée des matières continues dans les 39 volumes in-quarto du Dictionnaire des sciences,
des arts et de métiers.
Lyon : 1780-81
Special Collections: AE 25 .E53 1777 table

Table analytique et raisonnée des matières contenues dans les 33 volumes in-folio du
Dictionnaire des sciences, des arts et des métiers et dans son supplement. Pierre Mouchon. 2
volumes
Paris : Chez Panckoucke, 1780
George Peabody Library: Rare Books Room, 035 D555 QUARTO
Encyclopédie. **Recueil de planches**, sur les sciences, les arts libéraux, et les arts mécaniques. 11 volumes
  Geneva, 1772-76
  *Special Collections: AE 25 .E53 1772 FC*

Encyclopédie. **Recueil de planches**, pour la nouvelle edition du Dictionnaire raisonné des sciences, des arts, et des métiers. 3 volumes
  Geneva : Pellet, 1777-79
  *Special Collections: AE 25 .E53 1777 Atlas*

Encyclopédie. **Recueil de planches**, pour la nouvelle edition du Dictionnaire raisonné des sciences, des arts, et des métiers. 3 volumes
  Lausanne et Berne : Sociétés Typographiques, 1780-82
  *Special Collections: AE 25 .E53 1779 Atlas*

  New York : Readex Microprint Co., 1969
  *General Reference: AE 25 .E53 1751f FOLIO*

**Encyclopédie de Diderot et d'Alembert**: 4 CD-ROM's (circulating); of the original edition published in Paris, including 17 volumes of text, 4 supplemental volumes, 2 volumes of tables, 13 volumes of plates, and 50,000 articles.
  *Audio/Visual Center: COMP FILE 2560*

**Editions of other notable 17th and 18th century encyclopedias**

Le grand dictionnaire historique, ou, Le mélange curieux de l'histoire sacrée et profane… **Louis Moréri**. Originally published 1674 in 1 volume. Moréri’s encyclopedia was an immediate success, and went through more than 20 editions by 1759.
  1701 English translation, The great historical, geographical, genealogical and poetical dictionary. 2 volumes, 2nd edition in English
  *Special Collections: D 9 .M84 1701 FOLIO*

1702 edition. 4 volumes, 10th edition
  *Special Collections: D 9 .M83 1702 FOLIO*

  *Special Collections: D 9. M83 1732 FOLIO*

1740 edition (Amsterdam), the edition owned by Voltaire. 8 volumes, 22nd edition
  *George Peabody Library: Rare Books 903 M843b QUARTO*
Dictionnaire universel, contenant généralement tous les mots français, tant vieux que modernes, et les termes des sciences et des arts. Antoine Furetière. First published in 1690 in The Hague. A rival publication to the Académie Française's Dictionnaire, Furetière's work was more than a lexicon; it was an all-embracing reference work, including information on natural history, religion, medicine, the arts. 1727 (last) edition. 4 volumes

Special Collections: PH 619.F99 1727 FOLIO

Dictionnaire des arts et des sciences. Thomas Corneille. 1694, 2 volumes. Designed to supplement the Académie Française's dictionary so that it could compete with Furetière's recently published Dictionnaire universel, which it resembles in content and structure.

D Level Stacks: PC 2620.C6 1968 FOLIO (Reprint)

Dictionnaire historique et critique. Pierre Bayle. 1697, 2 volumes. Originally conceived as a response to the errors in Moréri's Grand dictionnaire, it grew in scope and was called the "Arsenal of the Enlightenment". Bayle painstakingly compiled, compared, questioned, always seeking some degree of historical certainty, however small. 8 French editions in 50 years, with 2 English translations and 1 German.

1820, 11th (last) edition. 16 volumes

George Peabody Library: 920.01 B358 1820

Projet et fragments d'un dictionnaire critique. Bayle's preliminary work to the Dictionnaire

Special Collections: CT 95.B35 1692 C

Grosses vollständiges Universal-Lexicon aller Wissenschaften und Künste. Johann Heinrich Zedler. 64 volumes, 1732-50. One of the largest and best encyclopedias ever completed. Zedler ran into opposition in publishing his work from publishers and booksellers who feared so comprehensive and up-to-date a work would discourage the sale of all other books. The first encyclopedia to include living people.

George Peabody Library: Rare Books 903 Z43 QUARTO

The cyclopaedia, or, Universal dictionary of arts, sciences, and literature. Abraham Rees. 5 volumes, 1778. Originally conceived as an updating and enlargement of Chambers' Cyclopaedia, this work was in fact more than merely a revised edition. Rees added many plates and expanded the subjects covered. It first appeared in weekly installments from 1778 to 1785.

1810 edition, first American edition. 41 volumes, and 6 volumes of plates.

Special Collections: AE 5.R32 1810 QUARTO (Johns Hopkins' copy)

Encyclopédie, ou, Dictionnaire universel raisonné des connaissances humaines. Mis en ordre par Fortuné Barthélemy de Félicie. Published in Yverdon, Switzerland. 42 volumes, 6 volumes Supplement, and 10 volumes of plates, 1775-80. While directly borrowing a number of articles from Diderot's work, this successor, which began to appear even before the last volumes of the Encyclopédie were delivered, added much new material. It also deviates from its predecessor in its religious slant, Félicie being a former priest and Protestant convert.

Special Collections: AE 25.E56 1770C (Same call number for Plates and Supplement)
Encyclopédie Méthodique, ou par order de matières. Number of volumes vary according to binding, 1781-1832. Charles Panckoucke's attempt to update Diderot's work. Arranged by subject, rather than alphabetically, the work took over 50 years to complete, spanning the years of the French Revolution, and ran to 200 volumes.

George Peabody Library: Rare Books 034 .E56...(last part of call number will vary according to the part)

Artifacts and specialized teaching resources

L'esprit de L'encyclopédie, ou, Choix des articles les plus agréables, les plus curieux et les plus piquans de ce grand dictionnaire. A set of 12 volumes from 1798, all in original paper wrappers, with paper spine labels. A striking illustration of the physical state of books as they were sold and bought in the 18th century, as well as the popularization of the Encyclopédie.

Cage AE4.E56 1799

Leaves from Johnson’s Dictionary of the English language
Several individual, loose, leaves from a folio edition of the dictionary. Handmade paper. watermarks, 18th century typography are easily illustrated with these leaves.

Cage, with teaching materials

Copper engraved plates.
Examples of how most book illustrations were made in the 18th century:
- Reliquary of St Martha/Holy family, French, c18. Line-engraved.

Cage, with teaching materials

Type and Composing Sticks / Galley tray and Furniture
Artifacts from hand-press printing, illustrating how books were printed in the 18th century.

Cage, with teaching materials

Selected bibliography of secondary materials

Enlightening the world: Encyclopédie, the book that changed the course of history. Philipp Blom. AE 25 .E6 B58 2005

Notable encyclopedias of the 17th and 18th centuries: nine predecessors of the Encyclopédie. Frank Kafker. (Studies on Voltaire and the 18th century, vol. 194) Moravia Park: PQ 2105 .A2 S8

Notable encyclopedias of the late 18th century: eleven successors of the Encyclopédie. edited by Frank A. Kafker. (Studies on Voltaire and the 18th century, vol. 315) PQ 2105 .A2 S8 v.315

Using the Encyclopédie: ways of knowing, ways of reading. edited by Daniel Brewer and Julie Candler Hayes. AE 25 .E6 U85 2002


Table analytique et raisonnée des matières contenues dans les XXXIII volumes in-folio du Dictionnaire des sciences, des arts et des métiers et dans son supplément. Pierre Mouchon. George Peabody Library, Rare Books 034 D555 QUARTO

Inventory of Diderot's Encyclopédie. Richard Schwab. (Studies on Voltaire and the 18th century, vol.'s 80, 83, 85, 91, 92, 93, 223) Moravia Park PQ 2105 .A2 S8


"A solution to the multitude of books: Ephraim Chambers's Cyclopaedia (1728) as "the best book in the Universe". by Richard Yeo (Online article from Project MUSE) http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_the_history_of_ideas/v064/64.1yeo.pdf

"Ephraim Chambers's Cyclopaedia (1728) and the Tradition of Commonplaces". by Richard Yeo (Online article from Project MUSE) http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_the_history_of_ideas/v057/57.1yeo.html


Encyclopedias: their history throughout the ages. Robert Collison. AE 1 .C6 1964
Relevant Electronic Resources and Web sites

L'Encyclopédie Électronique: an ongoing project from ARTFL (University of Chicago) to digitize all the text and plate volumes of Diderot's Encyclopédie.
http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/efts/ARTFL/projects/encyc/

The Encyclopédie of Diderot: a collaborative translation project. No complete English translation of the Encyclopédie has ever been printed. This is a Web site that is being built by volunteers (à la Wikipedia), where English translations are added by faculty and other specialists.
http://quod.lib.umich.edu/d/did/

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/efts/ARTFL/projects/dicos/BAYLE/

Chamber’s Cyclopaedia. Full text searching of the 2 volumes of the first edition (1728), and the 2 volume Supplement (1753).

cyclopaedia.org: "Dedicated to the 1728 "CYCLOPAEDIA" of Ephraim Chambers as well as the spin off publications and Encyclopaeas that evolved out of Chambers's original Cyclopaedia or Universal Dictionary."
http://www.cyclopaedia.org/

Encyclopédie de Diderot et d'Alembert: 4 CD-ROM's (circulating); of the original edition published in Paris, including 17 volumes of text, 4 supplemental volumes, 2 volumes of tables, 13 volumes of plates, and 50,000 articles.
Audio/Visual Center: COMP FILE 2560

Dictionnaires des XVIe et XVIIe siècles. A CD-ROM containing the text of 10 16th and 17th century dictionaries, including Furetière and Thomas Corneille.
Audio/Visual Center: COMP FILE 1602

Dictionnaire historique des arts, métiers et professions exercés dans Paris depuis le treizième siècle: contains explanations and the history of every conceivable occupation found in France and French Canada throughout the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.
Audio/Visual Center: COMP FILE 2805

Grand dictionnaire universel du XIXe siècle: DVD version of the original Larousse encyclopedia.
Audio/Visual Center: DVD-ROM 1

Encyclopædia Britannica online.
http://search.eb.com/
Other Resource Guides available:

The Scholar's Bookshelf: The Middle Ages
Samuel Johnson and his Dictionary
French Theater Collections
Manuscript Books in The Sheridan Libraries

Forthcoming:
German Theater Collections
Dante
Don Quixote
The Scholar's Bookshelf: The Renaissance

Revised: 23 June 2008