CS 5306
INFO 5306:
Crowdsourcing and Human Computation

Lecture 12
10/3/17
Haym Hirsh
It is probable that the idea of an encyclopaedia may undergo very considerable extension and elaboration in the near future. Its full possibilities have still to be realized. The encyclopaedias of the past have sufficed for the needs of a cultivated minority. They were written "for gentlemen by gentlemen" in a world wherein universal education was unthought of, and where the institutions of modern democracy with universal suffrage, so necessary in many respects, so difficult and dangerous in their working, had still to appear.
Throughout the nineteenth century encyclopaedias followed the eighteenth-century scale and pattern, in spite both of a gigantic increase in recorded knowledge and of a still more gigantic growth in the numbers of human beings requiring accurate and easily accessible information. ... [M]odern facilities of ... are rendering practicable a much more fully succinct and accessible assembly of fact and ideas than was ever possible before.
Throughout the nineteenth century encyclopaedias followed the eighteenth-century scale and pattern, in spite both of a gigantic increase in recorded knowledge and of a still more gigantic growth in the numbers of human beings requiring accurate and easily accessible information. ... [M]odern facilities of ... are rendering practicable a much more fully succinct and accessible assembly of fact and ideas than was ever possible before.
There is not only this sharpening and refinement of the brain going on, but there has been what our great grandparents would have considered an immense increase in the amount, the quality, and the accessibility of knowledge. As the individual brain quickens and becomes more skilful, there also appears a collective Brain, the Encyclopædia, the Fundamental Knowledge System which accumulates, sorts, keeps in order and renders available everything that is known.
The Encyclopædic organization, which centres upon Barcelona, with its seventeen million active workers is the Memory of Mankind. Its tentacles spread out in one direction to millions of investigators, checkers and correspondents, and in another to keep the educational process in living touch with mental advance. It is growing rapidly as the continual advance in productive efficiency liberates fresh multitudes of workers for its services.
It seems possible that in the near future, we shall have microscopic libraries of record, in which a photograph of every important book and document in the world will be stowed away and made easily available for the inspection of the student.... The time is close at hand when any student, in any part of the world, will be able to sit with his projector in his own study at his or her convenience to examine any book, any document, in an exact replica.
H.G. Wells, World Brain, 1938
(Based on lecture from 1936)

This World Encyclopaedia would be the mental background of every intelligent man in the world. It would be alive and growing and changing continually under revision, extension and replacement from the original thinkers in the world everywhere. Every university and research institution should be feeding it. Every fresh mind should be brought into contact with its standing editorial organization.
And on the other hand, its contents would be the standard source of material for the instructional side of school and college work, for the verification of facts and the testing of statements -- everywhere in the world. Even journalists would deign to use it; even newspaper proprietors might be made to respect it
H.G. Wells, "As I See It", December 1937

We want a Henry Ford today to modernize the distribution of knowledge, make good knowledge cheap and easy in this still very ignorant, ill-educated, ill-served English-speaking world of ours.
H.G. Wells, "As I See It", December 1937

The phrase "Permanent World Encyclopaedia" conveys the gist of these ideas. As the core of such an institution would be a world synthesis of bibliography and documentation with the indexed archives of the world. A great number of workers would be engaged perpetually in perfecting this index of human knowledge and keeping it up to date.
H.G. Wells, "As I See It", December 1937

There is no practical obstacle whatever now to the creation of an efficient index to all human knowledge, ideas and achievements, to the creation, that is, of a complete planetary memory for all mankind. And not simply an index; the direct reproduction of the thing itself can be summoned to any properly prepared spot.
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The whole human memory can be, and probably in a short time will be, made accessible to every individual. ... It need not be concentrated in any one single place. It need not be vulnerable as a human head or a human heart is vulnerable. It can be reproduced exactly and fully, in Peru, China, Iceland, Central Africa, or wherever else seems to afford an insurance against danger and interruption.
I do not think it at all probable that aeronautics will ever come into play as a serious modification of transport and communication— the main question here under consideration. Man is not, for example, an albatross, but a land biped, with a considerable disposition towards being made sick and giddy by unusual motions, and however he soars he must come to earth to live.
H.G. Wells, Anticipations, 1901

I must confess that my imagination, in spite even of spurring, refuses to see any sort of submarine doing anything but suffocate its crew and founder at sea. ... At the utmost the submarine will be used in narrow waters, in rivers, or to fluster or destroy ships in harbour or with poor-spirited crews ....
Paul Otlet (1868-1944)
Paul Otlet (1868-1944)

• "Un peu de bibliographie", Paul Otlet, *Extraits de Palais*, 1891
• "Sur la création d'un répertoire bibliographique universel", H. La Fontaine, P. Otlet, 1895
• 1896: Fee-based service to answer queries – returned copies of relevant index cards
Paul Otlet (1868-1944)

- "La Fin de la guerre: traité de paix générale basé sur une charte mondiale déclarant les droits de l'humanité et organisant la confédération des états", P. Otlet and D.P. Myers, 1914

"Palais Mondial" ⇔ “Mudaneum« (1924)
1934: 15 million index cards and documents
Paul Otlet (1868-1944)
Oxford English Dictionary (OED)

“The OED is a historical dictionary and very different from dictionaries of current English where the focus is on present-day meanings. It contains the history of each word, and of the language, traced through more than 3.5 million quotations, from classic literature and specialist periodicals to film scripts and cookery books.” (website)

- Conceived 1857, with a call for volunteers to submit material
- Initiated 1879 by contracting with Oxford University Press
- James Murray, editor
- Envisioned as a 10-year 4-volume effort
- After 5 years only up to “ant”
- Last volume published in 1928
- 400,000 words and phrases
PHILOLOGICAL SOCIETY,
[AT THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON]

July, 1857.

Dear Sir,

We ask your serious consideration of the following Proposal, and invite your cooperation in carrying it into effect.

We have the honour to be,
Your very obedient Servants,
R. CHEMIST TRENCH,
E. J. FRENCH,
HERBERT COLERIDGE.

To

PROPOSAL.

At a recent Meeting of the Philological Society, a discussion took place with reference to the present state of English Lexicography, in the course of which several observations were made upon the deficiencies of the two standard Dictionaries of Johnson and Richardson, both as vocabularies of the language and as philological guides. It was admitted, that neither of these works had any claims to be considered as a "Lexicon Tertius Anglicanum," and it was suggested by some of the Members present, that the collection of materials towards the completion of this truly national work would be an object well worthy of the energies of the Society, and, if undertaken by several persons, acting in concert on a fixed and uniform system, could hardly fail to produce most valuable results. The proposal subsequently undertaken discussion in Council on the evening of the Society's last Meeting previous to the long vacation, and it was then unanimously agreed that a Special Committee should be formed for the purpose of collecting words and idioms hitherto unregistered, to consist of three Members, who should invite help in all promising quarters, should get together such materials as they could during the vacation, and should report to the Society upon the whole subject at the first meeting after the long vacation, which will take place on November the 3th. The Members of Council named to act upon such Committee were, the Very Rev. the Dean of Westminster, E. J. French, Reg., and Herbert Coleridge, Reg. Secretary to the Committee.

The Committee have accordingly met to consider the matters proposed for their deliberation, and the conclusions at which they have arrived are embodied in the following Resolutions —

1. That the proposed search for unregistered words and idioms shall be primarily
NEW DICTIONARY
by the
PHILOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF LONDON

It is generally known to all lovers of the United States, that the Philological Society of London has been most actively engaged in the preparation of a complete Union Dictionary of the English language. The Society having determined to add the aid of American scholars to the general design, the subscription has been extended to them in the most liberal manner. Several of the members of the Society have been requested to assist in the compilation of this work, and to provide a list of words of American origin, which are not found in the English language, or are rare in use. The project is now in progress, and the Society are satisfied that it will be completed in a short time. The Dictionary will be published in a few months, and will be sold at a moderate price. The Society hope that it will be received with the approbation of the public, and that it will be found useful in the study of the English language.

New York, August 8, 1829.

GEORGE P. MARSH.
AN APPEAL

TO THE

ENGLISH-SPEAKING AND ENGLISH-READING PUBLIC

TO READ BOOKS AND MAKE EXTRACTS FOR

THE PHILOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S

NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY.

In November 1857, a paper was read before the Philological Society by Archbishop Trench, then Dean of Westminster, on 'Some Deficiencies in our English Dictionaries,' which led to a resolution on the part of the Society to prepare a Supplement to the existing Dictionaries supplying these deficiencies. A very little work on this basis sufficed to show that to do anything effectual, not a mere Dictionary-supplement, but a new Dictionary worthy of the English Language and of the present state of Philological Science, was the object to be aimed at. Accordingly, in January 1859, the Society issued their 'Proposal for the publication of a New English Dictionary,' in which the characteristics of the proposed work were explained, and an appeal made to the English and American public to assist in collecting the raw materials for the work, these materials consisting of quotations illustrating the use of English words by all writers of all ages and in all senses, each quotation being made on a uniform plan on a half-sheet of notepaper, that they might in due course be arranged and classified alphabetically and significantly. This Appeal met with a generous response; some hundreds of volunteers began to read books, make quotations, and send in their slips to 'sub-editors,' who volunteered each to take charge of a letter or part of one, and by whose slips were in turn further arranged, classified, and to some extent used as the basis of definitions and skeleton schemes of the meanings of words in preparation for the Dictionary. The editorship of the work as a whole was undertaken by the late Mr. Herbert Colebrooke, whose hallowed name on the very threshold of his work
The first great blow to the undertaking. His place was honorably filled by Mr. P. J. Furnivall, Secretary of the Philological Society, and the well-known founder of the Early English Text Society, Balliol, Chaucer, and New Shakspere Society; and for several years the work of reading, extracting, arranging, and sub-editing went on with zeal. The Early English Text Society was established to lay open to readers those earlier works which were previously only to be read in the original MSS, or in costly privately-printed editions. After some years however, partly becaus, the attention of many of the promoters was diverted to those societies, which were, to some extent, the outcome of the Dictionary movement; partly because there was no immediate prospect of surmounting the financial difficulties of preparing and publishing the work on the vast scale to which the accompanying materials showed it would extend; the interest of readers began to fall off and their number dwindle away, till, for some time back, the work—but for a faithful few, especially some half-dozen of the Sub-editors, who have ever ceased reading and working—has been practically dead. But during the last three years the Philological Society have been earnestly trying to turn to account the vast stock of material—some tons in weight—already accumulated, and they have recently succeeded in making arrangements with the Delegates of the Clarendon Press in the University of Oxford for the preparation and publication of a Dictionary from these materials. When in some points less extensive than the latter would admit of, will, it is believed, be sufficient to satisfy all the requirements of ancient English scholarship; and to place our language lexicographically abreast of any modern tongue. In any case, it is the most that can be done at present. The preparation of the Dictionary has been undertaken by Dr. J. A. H. Murray, of Mill Hill, N.W., the present President of the Society, with a suitable staff of Assistants. The materials, if completed uniformly with their most advanced portions giving a full sentence-partners to each word, sense, and century, would work up twelve volumes of 2,000 pages each; but by reducing the quotations to short sentences, clauses, or phrases, of a line or a line and a half, sufficient to illustrate the meaning of the word and complete the sense, without altering any other essential feature of the Dictionary, it has been estimated that it may be completed in less than seven years, at the rate of one, and a half times the size of that, or more than four times the size of Webster, say in

four thick volumes apart. On this basis contracts have been entered into between the Philological Society, Dr. Murray, and the Delegates of the University Press; and in accordance with these Dr. Murray has undertaken to compile the Dictionary if possible, in ten years, and it is intended that a first part of 400 pages containing the better A shall be ready in 1884, the remaining parts to follow at regular intervals till the whole be finished.

The Dictionary Committee of the Philological Society believe that the many friends who have worked and waited for the appearance of the Dictionary, will be glad to know that the work has reached this stage. In order this large project may be continued, and that it may have that complete and representative character which has been its aim from the beginning, and be a lasting monument of our language, they want help from hundreds of readers in Great Britain, America, and the British Colonies, to finish the valuable work so enthusiastically only commenced twenty years ago. By reading and extracting the books which still remain unexamined, in the Early English period up to the invention of Printing so much has been done and is doing that little outside help is needed. But few of the earlier printed books—these of Caesar and his successors—have yet been read, and any one who has the opportunity and time to read one or more of these, either in originals, or accurate reprints, will confer valuable assistance by so doing. The later sixteenth-century literature is very fairly done; yet here several books remain to be read. The seventeenth century, with so many writers, naturally shows still more unexplored territory. The eighteenth-century books, being within the reach of every one, have been read widely, but a large number remain unrepresented, not only of those published during the last ten years, while the Dictionary has been in abeyance, but also of earlier date. But it is in the eighteenth century above all that help is urgently needed. The American scholars who have the eighteenth-century literature taken up in the United States, a promise which they appear not to have any extent fulfilled, and we must now appeal to English readers to share the task, for nearly the whole of that country's books, with the exception of Bacon's works, have still to be gone through. Special attention must be paid to the dramatic literature of the early eighteenth and late seventeenth century, as in this will be found the earliest occurrence of much of our modern phraseology which is now good and stately English, but was familiar or colloquial a century and a half ago.

Dr. Murray has prepared the accompanying list of the chief books which he would like taken up at once. Readers can also be supplied with slips bearing the printed date, author, and title of their books, so as to save mechanical labour as much as possible. A thousand readers are needed, and confidently asked for, to complete the work as far as possible within the next three years, so that the preparation of the Dictionary may proceed upon full and complete materials. The Reference List of Books at the end of the Dictionary will also record the names of their Readers. Any one can help, especially with modern books; thus, from those, Dr. Murray's own pupils have supplied him with good good quotations during the past month. For books before the present century it is important to read first or early editions to get the author's spelling, which is of course part of the history of the language. Students, and others having access to the University Libraries, could help greatly, and we hope will do so. The first part of the descriptive list has been read for us, but can present or lend early copies of seventeenth or eighteenth century books—almost any will be most valuable. All American and Colonial readers we ask, besides sharing the general work, to read for us those recent books which show the additions made to English in their respective countries, such as received names for physical features, products, etc. Local Dialects, English or American, will not be included; the English Dialect Society is only beginning its work, and showing us how little we know of these at all. Ten years hence it will be possible to begin a Dialect Dictionary uniform with this work, so that the two together may constitute a corpus totius Anglisticæ, a full repository of all English Speech from New England to California.

Through the death or failure of early Sub-editors, the materials for some Letters are in a very backward state. Any one able and willing to undertake a portion of one of these, and arrange, classify, and complete it (for the Editor's revision), will render important service by doing so.

All offers to help to be addressed to Dr. Murray, Mill Hill, Middlesex, N.W.

April, 1879.

[87] A specimen of what is wanted from Readers accompanies.
PHILOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S ENGLISH DICTIONARY.

LIST OF BOOKS FROM WHICH READERS ARE REQUESTED TO WITHDRAW

The following books of which copies can be procured at a reasonable discount.

Altham, English Grammar.
Barlow, Roman Grammar.
Bentham, Practical Grammar.
Bloomfield, English Grammar.
Brown, English Grammar.
Burns, English Grammar.
Cockerill, English Grammar.
Crockett, English Grammar.
Dahl, English Grammar.
David, English Grammar.
Dewey, English Grammar.
Dodd, English Grammar.
Draper, English Grammar.
Dupont, English Grammar.
Dyer, English Grammar.
Ewan, English Grammar.
Fairer, English Grammar.
Fisher, English Grammar.
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THE NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY.

Special quotations wanted for II.

Dec. 1846.

Where the date stands before a word, no earlier quotation is wanted; where the date follows, a later instance is wanted; for words without a date all quotations will be welcome. Every quotation should be furnished with an exact reference to date, author, work, edition, volume, chapter, page, etc., and sent to the Editor, addressed, 'Dr. Murray, Oxford.'
to Rough out, v.t. (to cut out coarsely, preparatory to trimming and finishing)

1793. Screaton, Derbyshire. Eighteen Dec. 1793

The two new steps * * and all the dovetails were roughed out, and some of the beds brought to a level and finished.
Alexander Beazeley
> 30,000 quotes

Rough out, v.t. (to cut out coarsely, preparatory to trimming and finishing)

1798. Screaton, Ripton Sleights: Dec. 14th

The two new steps * * and all the dovetails were roughed out, and some of the beds brought to a level and finished.
William Chester Minor

on

Sat:

648

1548 Hall Chron. No. 1946. No. 648

Hen. IV (1550) 32 b.

Smyrna where sickness as author wilt be caused his

crowns to be set in the pilume at his bodies head.
William Chester Minor
(Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum)
The Professor and the Madman

A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary

Simon Winchester
J.R.R. Tolkien
(researching etymologies from Waggle to Warlock)

Walrus (wəˈlrrəs). Also s/ pl. walrosses, g.-russe.

[probably a. Du. walrus (valros). Compare #(i) #. LG.
walross, G. walross (earlier also walrusz, walrusch). Sw.
hvalross, valross (valross), Da. hvvalros (earlier also
hvalrak), ñ walrus; (ii) ñ. OE. hœrschwel, early
mod. G. röszzwal, ruszwal, Norm. russzahl, ñ walrus, #. OR.
vohall (vohall, later valhall, ñ. OE. Du.Ceorge rohanum,
-alling) walrus-ivory.

The forms under #(i) appear to be later than those under #(ii)
small from which Ieg. perch. arose (? in Du.) by metathesis and
some analogy such as that of Du. walviscli ushale.
Henry Liddell
The Meaning of Everything

The Story of the Oxford English Dictionary
of the department of pathology, Stanford University, known for his work on the abnormalities of the circulatory system; Walden C. Garrick, secretary, Northern California Retail Druggists' Association, representing druggists' associations of the eleven western states; Dr. Charles Gilman Hyde, University of California, engineer; Dr. T. Homans Kelly, president of the San Francisco County Medical Society, an experienced public relations worker for the California Medical Association; Dr. John Leggett, representing the California State Dental Association; Dr. Wilfred Robert, representing the American Dental Association; Dr. K. E. Meyer, director of the Hooper Foundation and head of the department of bacteriology of the Medical School of the University of California; Dr. Guy Millberry, dean of the School of Dentistry, official representative of the American Public Health Association; Dr. Langley Porter, dean of the Medical School of the University of California; Dr. William Shepard, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, representing the American Public Health Association; Dr. Nilla Simmonds, of the Medical School of the University of California, a nutrition authority; Dr. F. C. Warnshaus, secretary of the California Medical Association, and Dr. C. L. J. Schmidt, head of the department of biochemistry of the University of California.

The committee is working out the details of its exhibit with Milton Silverman, head of the Health and Science Division.

MEETING OF PHYSICISTS OF UPPER NEW YORK STATE

For some time there has been a growing sentiment toward the formation of a section of the American Physical Society for Upper New York State. After due canvassing of the members of the Physical Society of that territory, plans have been formulated for a meeting to be held at Cornell University under the auspices of the American Physical Society on Saturday, November 8.

At that meeting final action will be taken on the question as to whether a section of the American Physical Society shall be formed. In the event of such formation it is contemplated that membership will be available to teachers of physics in colleges and in high schools, to physicists in the industries and to other physicists without regard to membership in the American Physical Society.

A program, to which all interested physicists are invited, has been prepared, starting at 10 a.m. and comprising the following:

Address of Welcome, Dr. Edmund R. Day, president of Cornell University.


"Physical Problems of Industrial Radiography," Herman E. Seemann, Eastman Kodak Company.

"Cycling as an Automobile Engine," L. P. Handeen.

Harrison Radiator Division, General Motors Company.


"Physics in the Small College," Paul F. Gibb, Wells College.

Members of the committee in charge of the movement are: G. H. Cameron, Hamilton College; R. G. Gibbs, Cornell University; H. P. Gau, Corning Glass Company; L. G. Hester, University of Buffalo, and P. L. Wald, chairman, Union College.

THE WORLD CONGRESS OF UNIVERSAL DOCUMENTATION

Representatives of forty-five countries, who attended the World Congress of Universal Documentation held recently in Paris, discussed the methods and necessities of forming a unified system of the mass of recorded information contained in books, periodicals and other publications.

The congress passed resolutions urging the establishment of microfilm copying services in libraries throughout the world and specifically suggested that manuscript and graphic material gathered by the weather services be made available by means of microfilm. Resolutions also were passed concerning the uniform preparation of articles for technical and scientific periodicals; the standardization of methods of classifying books and other documents; the preparation of union catalogues; the indexing of daily newspapers; card bibliographies; the gathering of literature on documentation techniques; cooperation between specialized organizations and libraries, and the establishment of agencies for the distribution of official documents.

Dr. Jean Grenier, of the Maison de la Chimie, was the president and organizer of the congress. Others who attended were Paul Otlet, founder of the organization now known as the International Institute of Documentation; Dr. H. Klib, director general of the State Library at Berlin, who headed the German delegation of more than twenty persons; H. G. Wells; Hilary Jenkinson, head of the archives of the British Foreign Office; Julien Cain, general administrator of the French National Library; Dr. Pierre Bourgeois, of the Maison de la Chimie; Dr. Alingh Pizio, head of the Dutch Patent Office and president of the International Institute of Documentation, and Marcel Gedza, director of the Swiss National Library and president of the International Committee of Libraries.

The American delegation included Dr. Worthington C. Ford, honorary representative of the
ENGAGED in beginning the creation of a "world brain," as H. G. Wells phrased it, representatives of 45 countries participated in the first World Congress of Universal Documentation in Paris, Aug. 16-21.

Librarians, scientists, editors and others who marshal and create the written record of civilization discussed in a medley of languages the methods and necessities of welding the intellectual resources of this planet into a unified system.
Libraries because of their size and physical presence are the most visible units in the documentary mechanism. They range from the great British Museum Library, the Bibliothèque Nationale, the Library of Congress, and the Berlin State Library down to the few shelves of books in a scholar’s study.
WWII
Consider a future device for individual use, which is a sort of mechanized private file and library. It needs a name, and, to coin one at random, "memex" will do. A memex is a device in which an individual stores all his books, records, and communications, and which is mechanized so that it may be consulted with exceeding speed and flexibility. It is an enlarged intimate supplement to his memory.
Vannevar Bush, "As We May Think“  
*The Atlantic*, July 1945

Wholly new forms of encyclopedias will appear, ready made with a mesh of associative trails running through them, ready to be dropped into the memex and there amplified. The lawyer has at his touch the associated opinions and decisions of his whole experience, and of the experience of friends and authorities. The patent attorney has on call the millions of issued patents, with familiar trails to every point of his client's interest. The physician, puzzled by a patient's reactions, strikes the trail established in studying an earlier similar case, and runs rapidly through analogous case histories, with side references to the classics for the pertinent anatomy and histology.
When the user is building a trail, he names it, inserts the name in his code book, and taps it out on his keyboard. Before him are the two items to be joined, projected onto adjacent viewing positions. At the bottom of each there are a number of blank code spaces, and a pointer is set to indicate one of these on each item. The user taps a single key, and the items are permanently joined. In each code space appears the code word.
Vannewar Bush, "As We May Think“  
*The Atlantic*, July 1945

Thereafter, at any time, when one of these items is in view, the other can be instantly recalled merely by tapping a button below the corresponding code space. ... It is exactly as though the physical items had been gathered together from widely separated sources and bound together to form a new book. It is more than this, for any item can be joined into numerous trails.
There is a new profession of trail blazers, those who find delight in the task of establishing useful trails through the enormous mass of the common record. The inheritance from the master becomes, not only his additions to the world's record, but for his disciples the entire scaffolding by which they were erected.
Vannevar Bush, "As We May Think“  
*The Atlantic, July 1945*
Vannevar Bush, "As We May Think“  
*The Atlantic*, July 1945

A scientist of the future records experiments with a tiny camera fitted with universal-focus lens. The small square in the eyeglass at the left sights the object (*LIFE* 19(11), p. 112).
Number of Articles
Wikipedia editors with >100 edits per month
Distribution of the 46,427,933 articles in different language editions (as of 3 October 2017)[7]

- English (11.8%)
- Cebuano (11.6%)
- Swedish (8.2%)
- German (4.5%)
- French (4.1%)
- Dutch (4.1%)
- Russian (3.1%)
- Italian (3%)
- Spanish (2.9%)
- Waray (2.7%)
- Other (44%)
Readings for Next Time

- *Infotopia*, Chapter 6