



Inform

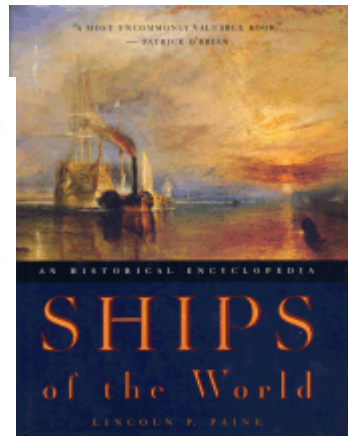
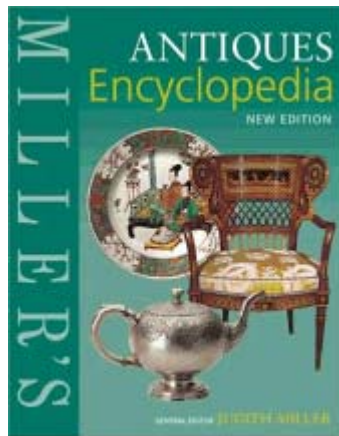
News from Information Services

Bedfordshire Libraries

Online reference books

What are online reference books? They are books like these, at your fingertips on Bedfordshire Libraries Virtual Library

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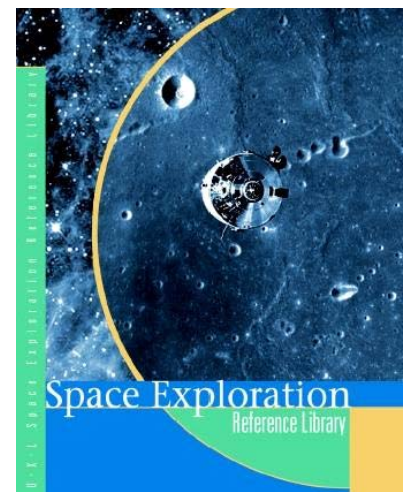
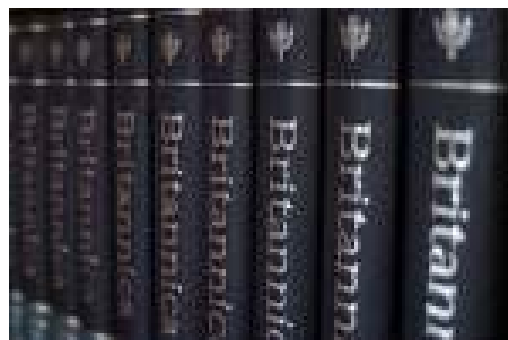
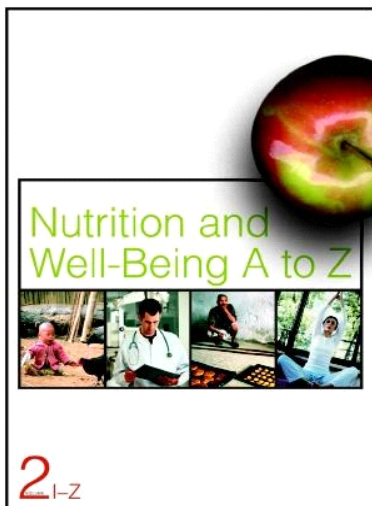
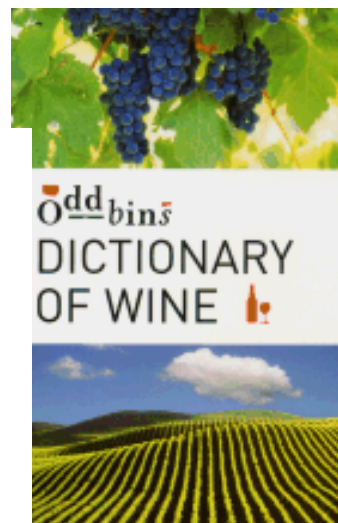
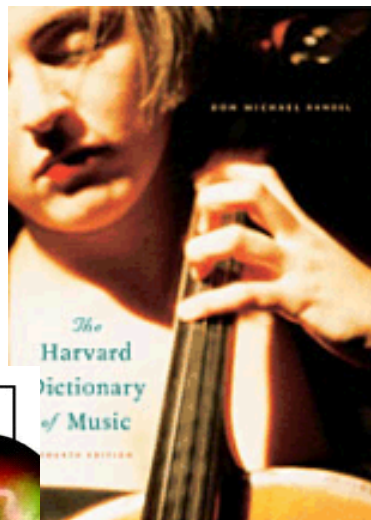
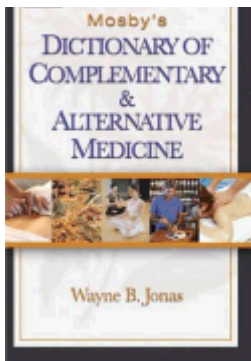
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Online reference books in more detail...

How have 'Reference books online' increased our service?

Bedfordshire libraries are now able to offer more reference titles in more of their libraries than ever before.

Traditionally you would have found larger collections of reference books in the bigger libraries. The library service now subscribes to many of these titles online. These online subscriptions enable you to access the books via the internet in any library, whatever its size, and if you are a library member you can access them via the Virtual Library from home, work or wherever you may be.

Log on to 100s of titles 24 x 7

This means that you have complete access 24 hours a day to hundreds of invaluable titles such as:

Encyclopaedia Britannica
Oxford English dictionary
Oxford dictionary of national biography
Miller's antiques encyclopaedia
Roget's 11: the new thesaurus
International dictionary of food and cookery
CIA world factbook

To access these books you need your library card number and your PIN. On the Virtual Library select 'Information and Reference', click on 'Reference books online' and follow the directions from there.

Brewer's dictionary of modern phrase and fable

The new Penguin dictionary of science.

Baker's biographical dictionary of popular musicians since 1990 and hundreds more....

What's included?

The subjects range from art and biography to science and technology and most subjects in between

What's the difference between the services?

You can find short entries in dictionaries and quick reference books and lengthy articles in specialist multi-volume subject encyclopaedias.

Each online reference books service is briefly described below

xreferplus

- Encyclopaedias, dictionaries and thesauri, on many subjects, ranging from art and bilingual dictionaries to science and technology.
- The Bridgeman Art Library Archive, a wonderful, fully searchable collection of 17,000 large colour images of paintings and other works of art drawn from museums and galleries around the world.



A huge library of popular quick-reference books plus authoritative in-depth articles

- Over 130 subject dictionaries, plus the 'World encyclopaedia', covering everything from art to accountancy, politics to physics and computing to classics.
- English dictionaries and bilingual dictionaries of French, German, Spanish and Italian
- The 'Oxford companions' series and the 'Oxford dictionary of quotations'
- More than 6000 illustrations and 500 full-colour maps
- Key events in the 20th century linked to themed timelines
- Updated regularly with new books and new editions

Specialised reference books and encyclopaedias

Gale Virtual Reference Library™ Covers arts, biography, business, education, environment, history, information and publishing, law, literature, medicine, multicultural studies, 'nation and world', religion, science and social science. For an even wider search, you can search the Gale books collection and the Gale online newspapers and magazines all at the same time

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

A vast work giving you detailed biographies, written by experts, on 55,000 people who shaped British history worldwide, from the 4th century BC to 2002. Can be searched by topic, eg prime ministers or sporting world champions

Oxford English Dictionary

The authoritative guide to the meaning, history, and pronunciation of over half a million words, both present and past



The complete text of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, plus many other great features. Thousands of articles and illustrations, specially reviewed web sites, video and sound clips, full text magazine articles, an atlas, timelines, country statistics, quotations and the full text of classic works of literature

Web sites update

Selected new web sites

Mozart Institute's NMA Online

The musical scores of Mozart's complete works are now available for the first time free on the Internet in the 'NMA Online'. The works are accompanied by critical commentary. At the home page click the red button 'Search the NMA Online', then click 'English' at top right of screen.

<http://dme.mozarteum.at/>

Soople

Soople is designed to help you get the best out of Google, although it is not affiliated or connected with Google. A set of search boxes highlight the special features that can make your Google searches more specific

www.soople.com

Learning Space

The Open University (OU) has made access to some of its resources free on the internet. You don't need to be an OU student to use it

<http://www.openlearn.open.ac.uk/>

Some new sections added to the Gateway to the Internet

A new page 'Enjoying singing' has been added to the 'Music' section, giving information to get you started and plenty of web site links

- There are sites on 'Roma and travellers' in the 'Multicultural' section, with additional information on 'Romani and traveller family history' in the 'Family history' section.
- The 'Films' section has been renamed 'Films and clips'. It includes film clips archives from organisations such as the BBC and British Pathe News.



Many useful sites are constantly being added to the Gateway

You can keep up with these by going to Information and Reference > Gateway to the Internet > What's New



Art Gallery

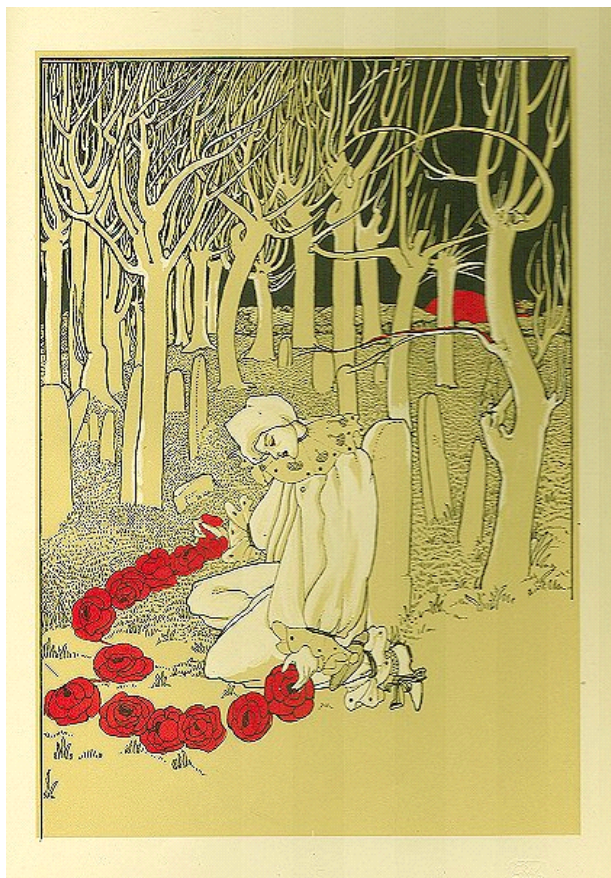
A chance to look inside some of the older library stock

A new Art Gallery has been added to the 'Art, architecture, craft and design' section of Virtual Library > Information and Reference

There you can see over sixty beautiful images from old and fascinating books and magazines at Bedfordshire libraries.

The images are displayed in three collections;

- Fantasy worlds
- Inside and outside
- Personal histories





Bedford Central Library

Harpur Square
Bedford

Reference Library - 01234 270102
Main Library - 01234 350931

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday: 9.00 am - 6.00pm
Saturday: 9.00am - 5.00pm



Opening hours for branches vary.

Other Bedfordshire Libraries

Ampthill Library 01525 402278
Barton Library 01582 881101
Biggleswade Library 01767 312324
Bromham Library 01234 824391
Dunstable Library 01582 608441
Flitwick Library 01525 715268
Houghton Regis Library 01582 865473
Kempston Library 01234 853092
Leighton Buzzard Library 01525 371788
Potton Library 01767 260740
Putnoe Library 01234 276462
Sandy Library 01767 680384
Shefford Library 01462 639070
Stotfold Library 01462 730695
Toddington Library 01525 873626
Wootton Library 01234 766061

Bedfordshire Libraries Virtual Library
<http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk> click on Libraries

