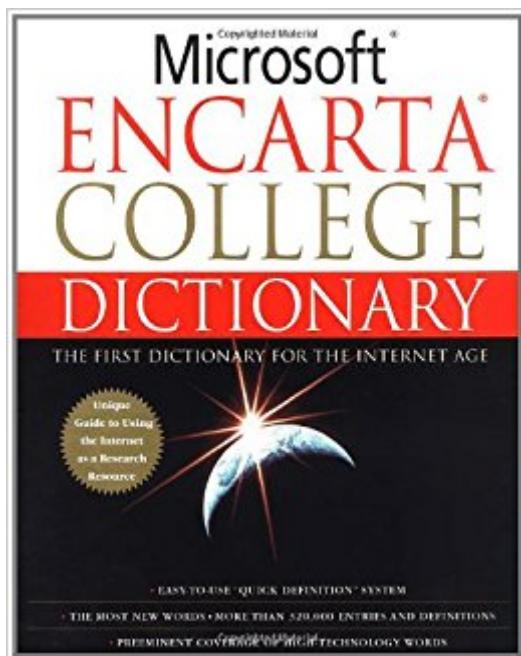


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# Microsoft Encarta College Dictionary: The First Dictionary For The Internet Age



## **Synopsis**

Built on tradition...upgraded for today.Bold, clear, easy-to-use: "Quick Definition" system for instant access to core meaningsFocus on high technology: Comprehensive coverage of high-technology, scientific, and business terms; Glossary of internet e-commerce, and computer termsOver 600 usage notes: Instructions for finding any subject online; Recommended web sites for research; Dos and don'ts for writing papers in electronic form; Formats for citation and documentation of internet sourcesCommon misspelled words and spellcheck notes: Frequently misused spelling clearly indicated with correct spelling shownMore new vocabulary: Over 320,000 entries and definitions; Over 5,000 new words; Over 1,000 illustrationsQuick facts: Short digests of key concepts in the Arts and Sciences

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Aimed primarily at students and redacted from Microsoft's Encarta World English Dictionary (2001) this new volume promises two things competitors such as American Heritage lack. The first, predictably, concerns technology: Encarta includes entries for "electronic town hall," "LMK" ("let me know" in e-mail) and, yes, LINUX, marking tech-related definitions with a (silly-looking) lightning bolt. Instead of an essay on historical linguistics, Encarta gives a very practical five-page essay on Web research methods and Netiquette. The second, more substantial, difference concerns its audience. With help from many college English teachers, lead editor Soukhanov (Word Watch) and crew aim skillfully at undergraduates and others who need help avoiding common errors. Frequent wrong spellings ("vinagrette," "twelvth") appear as their own entries in gray strikethrough type; inserts

following definitions explain correct usage, distinguishing, for example, "flaunt" from "flout." Other inserts give "literary links" (Camus for "stranger," Forster for "view") or offer "quick facts" about terms like "chaos theory." Encarta gives proper nouns troublingly minimal definitions: "Neil Armstrong" and "Jane Austen" get big portrait photos, but are identified only as "U.S. astronaut" and "British author." Obscure words and technical senses turn up, but not always reliably "no-kill" (of an animal shelter) but not "noisette

With the MicrosoftR and EncartaR brands, St. Martin's is a growing presence in the dictionary world. In 1999, they published the EncartaR World English Dictionary (LJ 10/1/99), and now they are bringing out this new reference. The extremely well-qualified Soukhanov was also general editor of Encarta's 1999 title and is the "Word Watch" columnist for the Atlantic Monthly. Even in the face of such expertise, however, one must ask: given the recent publication of the fourth edition of the American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language (LJ 10/15/00), as well as the recent publication of the EncartaR World English Dictionary, do most libraries need this new title? Are its "5000 new words" worth the price? This book's weights in with 90,000+ headwords (as does the new American Heritage; the EncartaR World English is somewhat larger at 100,000+ headwords). Obviously, given its title, this is intended for college students, and it offers some tools that are appropriate for them. Along with word definitions, it includes an essay titled "Using the Internet as a Research Tool" and a list of commonly misspelled words to help the budding writer. In addition, the dictionary attempts to be encyclopedia-like, offering various "Quick Facts" on a variety of topics scattered throughout and "Literary Links," which connect a word to a work of literature. These "links," it must be mentioned, are identical to the EncartaR World English's "Word Key: Cultural Note" entries. As for the definitions: while they are clearly written and often easier to understand than those in the American Heritage, in some instances the American Heritage provides more nuance and a greater variety of meanings. And the definitions here are frequently truncated or exact copies of those appearing in the EncartaR World English (not surprising since both are based on the The Bloomsbury Corpus of World English). What this new reference does provide are words and phrases not necessarily found in other dictionaries, e.g., "dimpled chad," "left-click," "primary storage," and "sniffer." Yet many of the terms marked here as "new" (with a lightning bolt symbol) are also found in the new American Heritage. Given these overlaps in content, this new reference is only useful for libraries that serve a large student population and need a new dictionary. Those already owning both the EncartaR World English and the new American Heritage dictionaries may want to skip this one, since it adds little that is new.- Cynthia A. Johnson, Barnard Coll. Lib., New

One of the better dictionaries out there though out of print. Not sure why Microsoft authorized a dictionary, but it's well put together. Good derivations (word histories) that don't go over the top as in a lot of dictionaries, and bolded text and large too for us who are a little older but still would like to clear up the definitions of words. Since you can only get it used, not buying at cost is the best way. Useful!

Fabulous purchase! My sister had been talking for months about how this was her favorite dictionary ever and that it was no longer in print. THANK YOU !! Needless to say she was over the moon when she received it!

I love the encarta dictionary. The combination of longman and encarta is just perfect for me. What I really like about the encarta is that its definitions are good and it's derivations don't lead to other derivations like some other dictionaries do. I really like it and I am using it all the time.

This dictionary has the best derivations I have seen in any dictionary. I have used many dictionaries and most of them give incomplete derivations. But this one goes right to the core of the word and it makes it so much easier to understand the word. I highly recommend it.

I love dictionaries and over well over a dozen in total. This one is my most favourite. Not sure why they went out of print. Thank god for .

Exactly as expected.

This is a really great dictionary. It has good clear definitions and also has derivations for almost all words. I was very satisfied with this product.

This books was in very good shape when I received it.

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