

Thesauruses Profiled

■ ABSTRACT

The wordbook listing focuses on the most significant contemporary works referred to in my article "In a Phrase, the Non-Alphabetical Wordbooks". Many minor revisions, abridgments, pocket and compact editions, reprints, etc., of the works listed have been left out. The relevant bibliographical details can also be found in the foregoing article.

KEY WORDS: *thesaurus, topical, thematization, wordbook*

■ IZVLEČEK

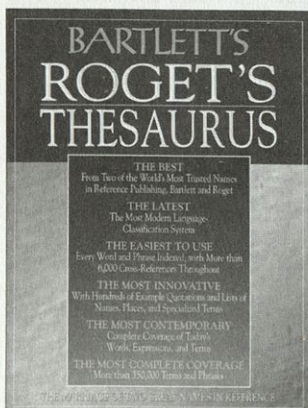
Tezavri se predstavijo

Seznam tezavrov se osredotoča na izbor najpomembnejših sodobnih del, ki so omenjena v mojem članku »Z eno besedo, neabecedni priročniki«. Revidirane, skrajšane, žepne in strnjene izdaje ter ponatisi so večinoma izpušeni. Vsi bibliografski podatki za ta dela so prav tako navedeni v mojem pravkar omenjenem članku.

KLJUČNE BESEDE: *tezaver, tematski, tematskost, jezikovni priročnik*

BARTLETT'S ROGET

<xxxii + 1415pp.> <Pitha ed. 1996>

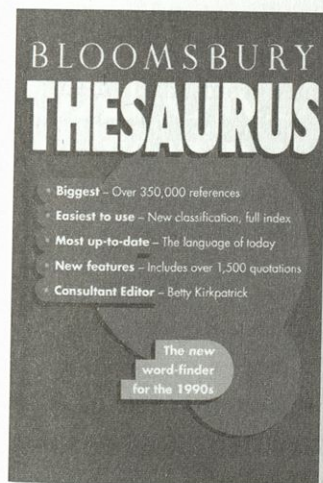


A British-made but American-revised Rogetian conceptual thesaurus containing over 350,000 entries. John Bartlett's quotations are provided at the beginning of many categories to illustrate the meanings of the words in the category. The text is divided into 24 large groups of related subjects, each being itself divided into main-subject categories containing relevant words listed in order of word class: chiefly nouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs. The categories are in turn subdivided into numbered paragraphs that group together words of similar meaning. Many paragraphs end with

cross-references to related categories. There are also 100 almanac-like lists (e.g. branches of chemistry, deities, nicknames for inhabitants, card games, rivers) interspersed in the body of the work. There are two lists, one grouped by concept and the other alphabetical, plus a directory of sidebar lists. The index (pp. 751-1415) includes every item listed in the main part.

BLOOMSBURY THESAURUS

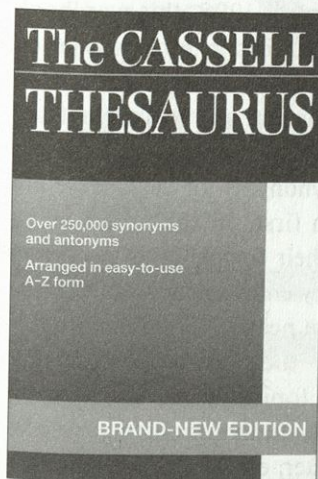
<xxx + 1569pp.> <Daintith et al. eds. 1993>



A large Roget-type conceptual thesaurus with 350,000 references, 1,500 quotations plus 100 lists of e.g. musical instruments, bones of the body, parts of a computer, and 5,000 cross-references. It is organized in 16 semantic classes comprising 879 categories and has a full index (pp. 880-1569). The classification in the first part covers major branches of knowledge, together with countries, places, rivers, and seas, the second part showing a more traditional thesaurus division: existence, the material world, and the emotions. An enlarged edition appeared (London: Bloomsbury, 1997) under the editorship of F. Alexander. This version has over 13,000 "key entries" in 815 categories.

CASELL THESAURUS

<xiii[iii] + 764pp.> <Kirkpatrick, Pickering and Manser eds. 1998>

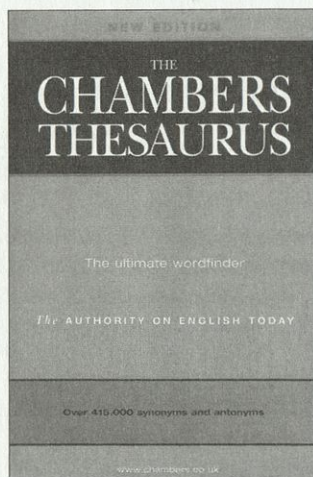


An A-Z-type straightforward wordbook listing 250,000 synonyms and antonyms, similar to Lutz (ed. 1994), another simple synonym-oriented 250,000-entry work created in a tradition that lays stress on the overall simplicity and ease of finding needed information. In polysemous headwords, each group of synonyms is preceded by a brief italicized definition in parentheses to help pinpoint senses - introduced by boldface numbers, and subsenses by lowercase letters - for each such group. Senses are ordered on the basis of frequency. Antonyms are given for each sense division. The work uses descriptive labeling and includes standard and colloquial English (inside

front flap), including multiword items. This work is similar also to Lindberg (ed. 1999) that features 15,000 main entries and 350,000 synonyms. Key entries include lists of opposites with cross-references to other entries. There are also (as alternatives to definitions) sample sentences or phrases for each sense division, and synonym studies.

CHAMBERS THESAURUS

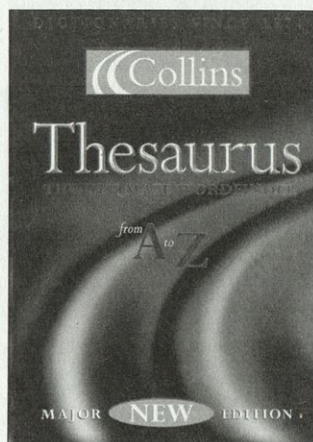
<viii + 1128pp.> <Manser ed. 2004>



Based on the 1986 *Chambers 20th Century Thesaurus*, this is an 18,000-headword, 415,000-entry A-Z guide to synonyms, related words, and antonyms grouped by register (unmarked vs. formal, slang, technical, etc.). Senses within an entry are given in numbered sections. Separate parts of speech (e.g. **act** as noun and as verb) have separate synonym lists. Included are explanatory notes on confusable words (e.g. *defective* or *deficient*?), 500 hyponym panels (types of food, ballet terms, longest rivers, Charities in the UK), and 300 synonym nuance panels (e.g. *snug*, *cosy*, *convenient*, *agreeable*, *enjoyable*, *delightful* etc. concisely treated under *comfortable*). Some synonyms are quite abstruse.

COLLINS THESAURUS

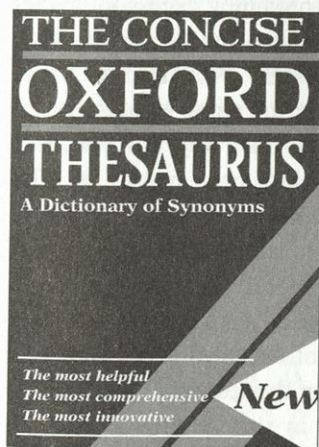
<xviii + 1133pp.> <Mackie and Butterfield eds. 2002>



A revision of Gilmour ed. 1995, this wordbook comprises over 550 word lists, antonyms (labeled "opposites"), labels, usage notes, and the "related words" feature providing (cf. s.v. *bee*) e.g. related adjectives, collective nouns, habitation, fondness for, fear of, etc. Key synonyms for each sense are underlined and shown first, all the others being arranged in order of their frequency of occurrence. Every sense of every entry includes an illustrative example. There are nearly 3,000 quotations. Note that the larger thesauruses increasingly include usage notes, topical word lists, quotations, guides to potentially confusing words, synonymies, appendices on speaking and writing better, etc. – and even mini-esays on words, as in Lindberg (comp. 2004).

CONCISE OXFORD

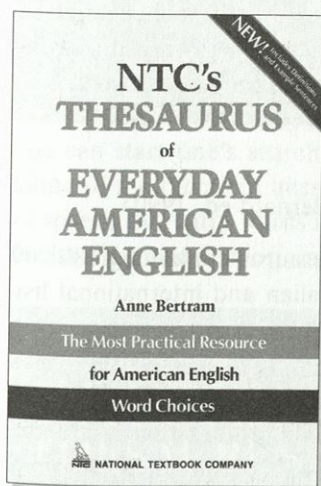
<viii(i) + 896pp.> <Kirkpatrick comp. 1995>



Expanded from Kirkpatrick's smaller *Oxford Paperback Thesaurus*. A straightforward A-Z listing of headwords followed by their synonyms; each numbered sense of polysemous items is headed by one or two (rarely more) brief italicized examples of use. There are over 350,000 synonyms and antonyms, with two or three antonyms being typically given at the end of many entry-articles. The work has 400 tables for thematic sets of vocabulary items ranging from gymnastic events, human glands and herbs to types of therapy, worms and writers, otherwise typically given in the conceptual variety of the thesaurus.

EVERYDAY AMERICAN

<xi(i) + 415pp.> <Spears et al. 1994>

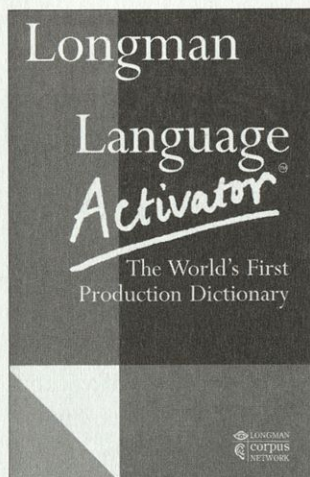


A specialized work, this is a simple but interesting guide to some 7,000 common CONVENTIONAL PHRASES in American English, grouped into 774 topics listed under 18 major categories of social interaction. There are a front-matter topic and situation index (pp. 3-26) with a list of major category headings and their topics, which can also be used for browsing through the topics, and a back-matter word and concept index (pp. 337-415) allowing the user to locate a topic based on a key word or concept that is part of the topic.

LANGUAGE ACTIVATOR

<F34 + 1587pp. + B11> <Summers ed. 1993/2002>

An intermediate-to-advanced-level learners' innovative "production dictionary" providing help in speech or writing in producing language in context. Based on a research project using corpora of written and spoken English and organized



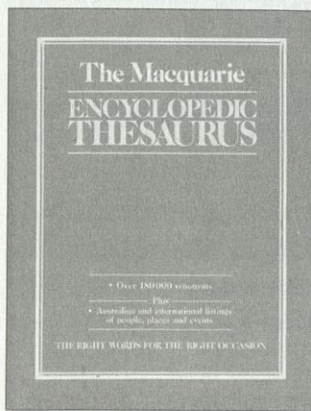
by concept. There are 1052 alphabetized common concepts (e.g. *far, father, fed up, feel hot/cold/tired etc, find*) providing access to 23,000 word and phrase meanings. The user starts with the concept, called the KEY WORD, s/he wants to express and accesses the right words/phrases to express that concept. Each key word, in bold capitals and given also in a back matter list (B1-B4), is divided into smaller sections shown in a numbered "menu" of meanings; the user selects the number that most closely corresponds to the needed concept, and goes to that numbered section to discover ways of lexicalizing it. The items listed are treated like in the learners' dictionaries:

pronunciation, grammar information, definition(s) in simple language, examples of use. Many items are printed in lowercase bold and cross-referred to the major concept under which they are listed.

The Longman Essential Activator® (Summers and Gadsby eds. 1997) is a smaller, intermediate-level user-friendly spinoff work diverging from the parent work in several ways. It features 30 topical "essential word banks," "essential communication" (21 situational-pragmatic headings such as suggestions, permission, saying no), and "essential grammar" sections following the main body of the work.

MACQUARIE THESAURUS

<15(1)pp. + 530 + 6 + 470 [last three unpagged]> <Bernard ed. 1990>



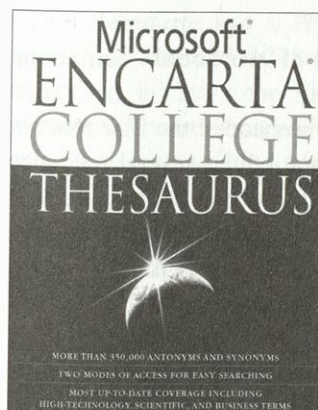
A large Australian thesaurus containing 180,000 synonyms plus "Australian and international listings of people, places and events" (front cover). Heavily Australasian-oriented, it consists of 812 alphabetized keywords heading the individual articles, and a "Wordfinder" index that is ordered alphabetically and by part of speech, so that e.g. *note* has 21 noun entries followed by 6 verbal entries. Each index item is followed by a two-part number (keyword number and paragraph number) directing the user to the appropriate place in the work. Polysemous items may have several entries;

number has six keyword entries. Each keyword-headed article is arranged semantically and, where applicable, by part of speech. Some entry-articles are

very full: MUSICIAN (#499) has 30 noun paragraphs of items, including 25 with titles such as *Baroque Composers, Italian; Twentieth Century Australian Composers; Tenors, World; Australian pop groups, 1950s and 1960s; Musicals, composers and librettists*, each with its own list. In other listings, the most important items are boldfaced. Cross-references ("related keywords"), typically 4 or 5, are often supplied at the end of entries. Stylistic and field labels are given (e.g. *U.S., Scot.; obs., archaic; ling., naut.*) where appropriate.

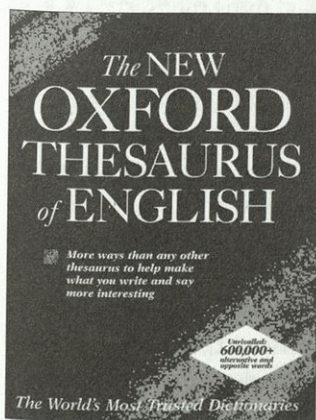
MICROSOFT® ENCARTA® COLLEGE THESAURUS

<xxvi + 1166pp.> <Jellis ed. 2002>



Based on the *Encarta® Thesaurus*, edited by K. Rooney and S. Jellis (London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2001), this substantial work includes British and American material, and offers two modes of access: First, there is the A-Z "Quick-Reference Section" (pp. 1-1021) with 40,000 A-Z entries and over 350,000 synonyms and antonyms. Second, the "Thematic Section" (pp. 1023-1166) lists 1,279 themes arranged under 5 main headings (The Way Things Are or Seem to Be, Concepts and Ideas, Move and Function, People and Their Way of Life, The World around Us). Thus

one can start one's search from either a word or an idea/concept. Words relating to the theme in question are listed alphabetically according to their part of speech. All entry words in the Quick-Reference Section have a cross-reference to the Thematic Section. Included are 130 "Compare and Contrast" explanatory paragraphs (e.g. *try, attempt, endeavor, strive* under *try*) and 300 "Display Panels" (types of dresses, types of video equipment, etc.).



NEW OXFORD THESAURUS

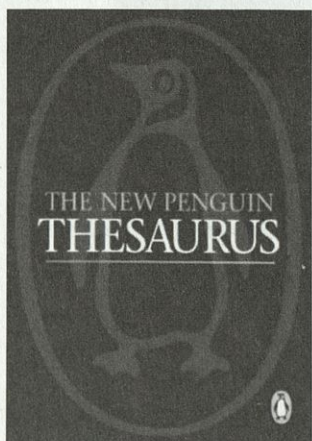
<x + 1087pp.> <Hanks ed. 2000>

A large alphabetical thesaurus featuring over 600,000 entries (cover figure that includes both synonyms and antonyms) and 500 boxed lists of related items, e.g. accents and diacritical marks, architects, athletic events, chairs and stools, dinosaurs, largest natural lakes, tools, and viruses.

The work provides also related terms (notably adjectives relating to a headword that have a different origin [e.g. *lactic* for *milk*] and words that are semantically closely associated with a headword), combining forms, 150 in-text notes on “awkward synonyms” (e.g. *appropriate*, *suitable*, *proper*, *fitting*) and on “confusables” (e.g. *economic*, *economical*). Most synonym sets are headed by a “core synonym” printed in bold small capitals, and are illustrated with an example of use in the relevant sense. Included are synonyms from every variety of English. A revision appeared in 2004.

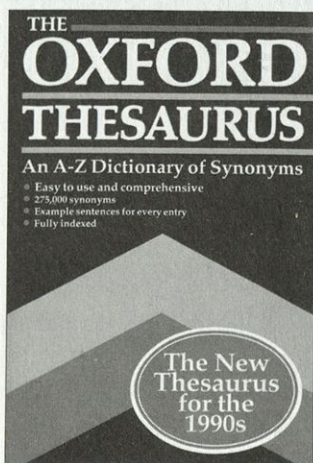
NEW PENGUIN THESAURUS

<xiv + 666pp.> <Fergusson et al. eds. 2000>



A simple A-Z type of wordbook containing almost 400,000 entries.

Rosalind Fergusson, who headed the *New Penguin Thesaurus* editorial team, edited several reference works including Fergusson (1983) and *The New Nuttall Dictionary of English Synonyms and Antonyms*, revised edition (London: Viking, 1986), a simple A-to-Z synonym dictionary including a selection of antonyms in small capitals at the end. Such works today occasionally incorporate supplements, chiefly devoted to aspects of writing well, such as the 32-page “Literally Speaking” in Crozier et al. (eds. 2005).



OXFORD THESAURUS

<xii + 1042pp.> <Urdang 1991/1997>

An A-Z wordbook with 10,000 headwords offering some 275,000 synonyms, followed by a full A-Z synonym index (pp. 559–1042) listing all the entries, not only headwords. The work features a twin-access system for locating words. If the item looked up is not a headword in the main body, the user is to turn to the index, which directs them to every headword under which each synonym appears. Every synonym listed that also has headword status is marked by a degree sign in both the body and the index. Each numbered synonym set

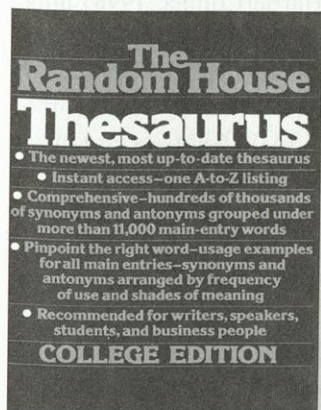
representing a single sense division is followed by an example sentence or two. Within each group the synonyms are given in order of closeness to the meaning of the headword. Usage labeling is provided and so are cross-references.

[Note: A smaller synonym-oriented work, Clark (1988), is also organized in two parts, the first being an 8,000-entry alphabetical listing of "key words" with their synonyms (in up to three categories: synonyms of the literal meaning, figurative synonyms, and specialist synonyms), arranged by part of speech, the second one being a 50,000-word index of all the significant synonyms with references to the headword(s) under which they are listed. This double arrangement has been designed to enable the user to find any item s/he might be looking up, not only headwords but also their synonyms.]

Oxford Thesaurus saw a 2nd edition (1997; pp. ix[i] + 1078, of which 1-591[1] main body and 593-1078 the index) that added not only "a handful of refinements" (p. iii) but some 50,000 antonyms given after each relevant sense discrimination. The revision advertises over half a million "alternative words" (front cover). A review (McArthur with Becker and Blaney 1999: 260) points to a lack of reciprocity: e.g. that s.v. **patent** in the sense 'obvious' the antonyms given include *opaque* and *obscure*, whereas *patent* itself is not listed as an antonym under either **opaque** or **obscure**. The new edition contains (Dalby 1998) 12,000 headwords in the main body and about 37,500 index headwords.

RANDOM HOUSE WEBSTER'S COLLEGE THESAURUS

<viii [unpaginated] + 792pp.> <Sutherland rev. and ed. 1998>



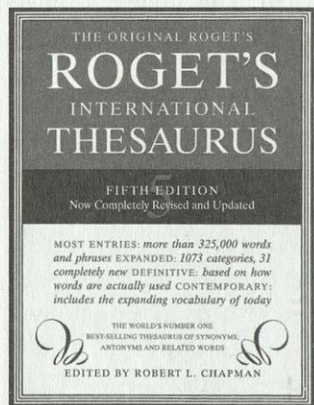
Revision of a 1984 original (itself based on a 1975 *Family Word Finder*), with over 1,000 new main entries. A simple and user-friendly A-Z work with over 400,000 synonyms and antonyms listed under 12,000 main entries. If an entry belongs to more than one part of speech, it is so divided. Polysemous items are given by boldface numbers introducing major sense divisions, each beginning with one or more example sentences to show meaning and context, followed by synonym lists associated with the given sense. Synonyms are arranged so that the commonest

ones (frequency of use), and the ones closest in meaning to the main entry (semantic proximity), come first. Semicolons separate synonym groups with different shades of meaning or levels of use. Antonyms are listed at the end of entry-articles, and are keyed to the relevant senses by the same numbers.

Hyponym lists are provided (introduced by *variously*). Running heads list the first and last entry on each page. There are brief front-matter essays on the non-sexist vocabulary and on neologisms. The work was revised and expanded (2000) as *Random House Roget's College Thesaurus*, edited by C.G. Braham, E. Pearsons, and S.B. Flexner, with an addition of 400 synonym studies.

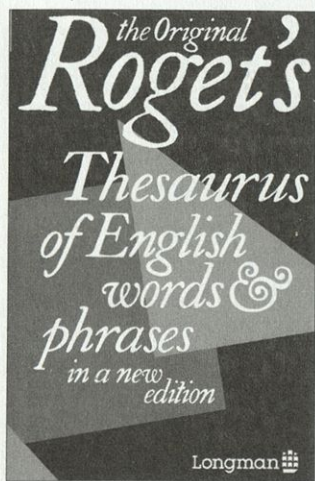
ROGET'S INTERNATIONAL

<xxvi + 1141pp.> <Chapman ed. 1992>



The American descendant (5th edition) of the 1852 *Roget*, with 325,000 entries in the conceptual framework. Featured are 1073 categories – of which 31 new to this edition – numbered consecutively in a single sequence, organized in 15 classes. It includes many word lists and a comprehensive index (pp. 763–1141). The commonest words in a given category are boldfaced. References from the index to the text are made with two-part numbers, the first part being the category number, the second the number of the paragraph within that category. The work exists in an alpha-

betized version as well (Chapman ed. 1994). An updated British edition, drawing on the 200-million-word version of COBUILD's Bank of English corpus and on a language monitoring program for new words and senses, was published as *Collins Roget's International Thesaurus*® (Glasgow: HarperCollins, 1996) under the editorship of D. Treffry (née Adams) and L. Gilmour. [Pp. xxi(i) + 1058]



A 6th American edition of *Roget's International* was published in 2001, edited by B.A. Kipfer. There are now over 330,000 entries organized into 1075 categories. The index takes up a full third of the book (pp. 787–1248). Overall, this revision concentrated on including new words and phrases and deleting some obsolete ones.

ROGET'S THESAURUS OF ENGLISH WORDS AND PHRASES

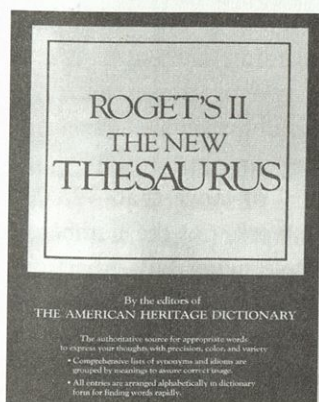
<xlix(i) + 1381pp.> <Kirkpatrick ed. 1998>

The British descendant (7th) edition of Roget's 1852 *Thesaurus*; in most cases, new words and senses were only added. This conceptually arranged

work now contains 987 categories. Updated concise 800-odd-page editions bearing the same title appeared in 2000 (Kirkpatrick ed. 2000) and 2004, edited by G.W. Davidson. Yet another major edition of the 1998 work appeared in 2002 (London: Penguin Books); it introduced literary quotations and "text boxes" for particular areas of vocabulary. A paperback followed in 2003, a concise edition duly coming out in 2004. All were edited by G.W. Davidson. There are few structural changes but many additions (e.g. computing, the Internet, biotechnology, beauty treatments; Americanisms).

ROGET'S II

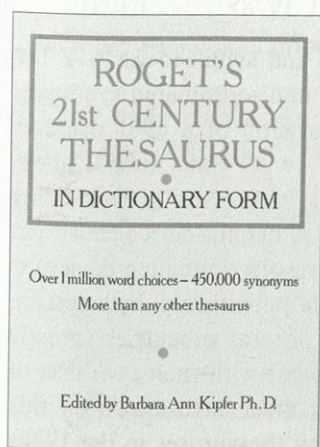
<xv(i) + 1200pp.> <Jost ed. 1995>



New (3rd) edition of a work first brought out in 1980. A straightforward and fairly selective A-Z presentation of synonyms; each numbered sense division is headed by a definition and followed by a relatively brief but carefully constructed synonym list. There is now a Category Index (pp. 1153-1200) providing access to related words and antonyms listed elsewhere in the work. This work is also available online, free of charge (cf. the Bibliography below).

ROGET'S 21st CENTURY

<xi(i) + 978pp.> <Kipfer ed. 1992>

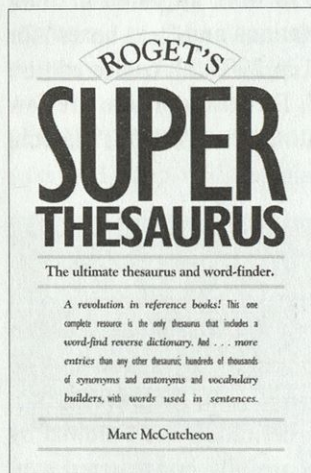


Features 17,000 alphabetized headwords including phrasal verbs, with brief definitions, 450,000 synonyms, and a Concept Index (pp. 919-78), basically a semantic hierarchy of the commonest concepts used in English, with 837 concepts (followed by synonym strings of varying length) classified according to their subject and usage, grouped under 10 general categories of interest, and numbered in a single sequence. The Index provides more lexical material than is offered in the synonym entry-articles. Each headword represents one sense only, so that several senses means several headwords. Separate entries are

also included for different word classes (e.g. *pass* has 4 nominal and 9 verbal entries). Synonyms representing nonstandard usage are asterisked.

SUPERTHESAURUS

<viii [unnumbered] + 609pp.> <McCutcheon 1995/2003>

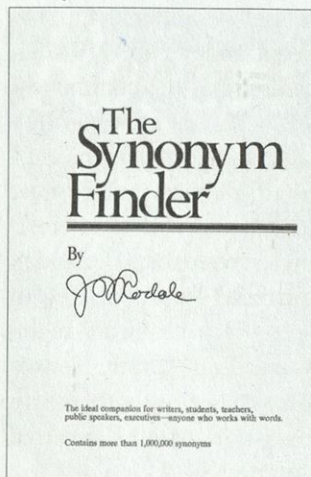


A blend of an alphabetical thesaurus of synonyms (and some antonyms) for all entries, including asterisked slang and informal terms, quotations, a brief "word-find" reverse dictionary (with selected word lists such as abbreviations, army terms, terms relating to a castle, dog breeds and terms, prison terms) for major entries, which lists words by their definition first, and a select dictionary of foreign terms and other "vocabulary-building" items with capitalized entries, pronunciations, brief definitions and example sentences. Minor words are listed with two or three basic synonyms. Numbered sense divisions are introduced by capitalized synonyms or phrases. The front

flap claim that we "get a tremendously rich treasury of more than 325,000 words" refers to the total number of WORDS in the work, not the number of thesaurus entries or headwords. An intriguing, wide-ranging but superficial wordbook. The author also wrote (McCutcheon 1992/2000) a 20-odd-category-long thematic compilation, with definitions of each term.

SYNONYM FINDER

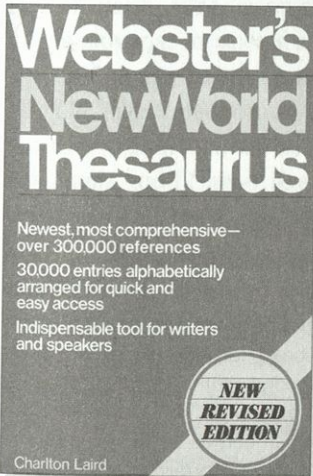
<v(i) (unnumbered) + 1361pp.> <Urdang rev. and ed. 1978>



A very comprehensive and simple-to-use A-Z listing of over 1,000,000 indiscriminated synonyms (inside front flap); revision of a 1961 original. There are numbered senses plus usage labels, further discriminations within the groups being shown by semicolons. A helpful device called *gist information* (=a meaning-discriminating device) is occasionally supplied in parentheses. Included are separately numbered phrasal subentries (mostly idioms and phrasal verbs) with their own lists of related items. Urdang must have drawn on this work in creating several thesauruses in the 1980s and beyond, especially the Oxford work (cf. above, *Oxford Thesaurus* [Urdang 1991/1997]).

WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD THESAURUS

<ix(i) + 854pp.> <Laird ed. 1985>

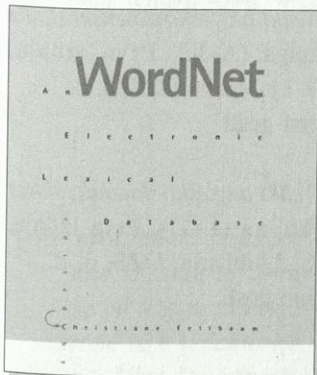


A revision of a 1971 original, updated by W.D. Lutz who added 7,000 new items. A comprehensive A-Z synonym book featuring 30,000 main entries and "300,000 references – synonyms" (back cover) listed in the order of frequency of use. The last pages are "Synonymies," with 160 small-print articles of discriminated synonyms. Each new sense is introduced by a boldface number and a sense-discriminating word or phrase or sentence in square brackets. Antonyms are given where they exist. Some entries include hyponym lists, such as famous magazines s.v. **magazine**, famous speed races s.v. **race** sense 3, and types of revenue s.v. **revenue**. An expanded revision, edited by

M. Agnes, appeared as *Webster's New World™ Roget's A-Z Thesaurus* (New York: Macmillan Publishing, 1999). It features an all-new thematic index based on Roget's own categories, while retaining the A-Z listing in the main body. An appendix now provides lists of terms grouped by their endings, such as *-cracy/-crat* (government types) and *-ology/-ologist* (fields of scholarship). Webster's New World reference titles are now published by John Wiley & Sons, New York.

WORDNET

[At <http://www.cogsci.princeton.edu>]



An electronic resource started around 1980 by G.A. Miller of Princeton University, originating in his work on experimental tests to determine how children's brains learn language, WordNet is a collection of 140,000 nouns, verbs, and adjectives providing not only their definitions but also information on how every entry is semantically linked to other items (synonyms, antonyms, hyperonyms, etc.). There are also topical lists and other features. The underlying idea is that all human language can be mapped in

one huge spider-web of words. Online dictionaries (e.g. EuroWordNet) modeled on WordNet have also been built.