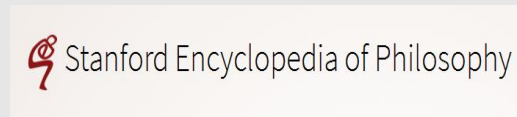


Home Page



Logo



URL

<http://plato.stanford.edu/>

Subject

Philosophy - Encyclopedias

Accessibility

Free

Language

English

Publisher

Stanford University

Brief History

The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (SEP) project began in September 1995 when John Perry was the Director of the Center for the Study of Language and Information (CSLI). Perry's suggestion that CSLI enhance its web presence by creating a (static) online dictionary of philosophy was taken up by Edward N. Zalta, who developed the idea into that of a dynamic reference work. Zalta then started designing the SEP to be an online encyclopedia that would satisfy the highest academic standards. After two years of support from CSLI, the prototype became a proof of concept that earned the first of a series of successful grant applications. (See the History of Grants below.) The addition of Colin Allen and Uri Nodelman to the project in 1998 resulted in significant enhancements to the design and

implementation of our new academic publishing model. They introduced browser-based file-upload, workflow principles that categorized the state of every entry and possible state transitions, remote HTML editing, an engine which compares an original and revised entry side-by-side in the browser with the differences highlighted, etc. Paul Daniell programmed/developed the new search engine that the SEP brought online in September 2006.

The copyright date of the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy is 2015 by The Metaphysics Research Lab, Center for the Study of Language and Information (CSLI), Stanford University.

Scope and Coverage

This encyclopedia includes various philosophical articles which covers various philosophical topics. Some of these are:

- Epistemology (Titles are “Epistemic Closure”, “Epistemic Paradoxes”, “Epistemic Utility Arguments for Probabilism” etc.)
- Metaphysics (Titles are “Metaphysics”, “Metaphysics in the 16th century” etc.)
- Logic (Titles are “Modal Logic”, “Many-Valued Logic”, “Linear Logic” etc.)
- Ethics (Titles are “Ancient Ethical Theory”, “Business Ethics”, “Chinese Ethics” etc.)

The topics are also included regionwise:

- Indian Philosophy (Classical) (Titles are “The Concept of Emotion in Classical Indian Philosophy”, “Epistemology in Classical Indian Philosophy”, “Language and Testimony in Classical Indian Philosophy” etc.)
- Western Philosophy (Titles are “Comparative Philosophy: Chinese and Western”, “Medieval Philosophy”, “Africana Philosophy”, “Byzantine Philosophy” etc.)

The encyclopedia also includes biography of philosophers. Some of the titles are:

- “Simon of Faversham”,
- “Galileo Galilei”,
- “Luitzen Egbertus Jan Brouwer”,
- “James Mill”,
- “René Descartes”,

- “Francis Bacon”,
- “Niccolò Machiavelli” etc.

Kind of Information Each article gives information about:

- The publication date of the article and sometimes includes substantive revision date
- Short description on the topic
- Entry contents
- Bibliography
 - References
 - Further Reading
- Academic Tools
 - To cite the article
 - To preview the PDF version of the article
 - To look up this entry topic at the Indiana Philosophy Ontology Project (InPhO)
 - To give enhance bibliography of the entry at PhilPapers (PhilPapers include an Open Access archive on philosophy) with links to its database.
- Other Internet resources related to the entry
- Related entries of this encyclopedia (sometimes)
- Acknowledgement (sometimes)
- Friends PDF Preview of the entry (To view the PDF, one must log in or become a member of the Friends of the SEP Society).
- Author and citation information

As for example, the article “Naturalism in Classical Indian Philosophy” provides the publication date of the article, short description on the topic related to the article. The entry includes following topics in its content:

- 1. A Framework for Naturalist Analysis
- 2. Indian Concepts of Nature
 - 2.1 Atomism : Nyāya-Vaiśeṣika
 - 2.2 Atomism: The Buddhist and the Jaina Views
 - 2.3 An Extreme Naturalism (Svabhāvavāda)
 - 2.4 Prakṛti-parināma-vāda: An Alternative View of Nature
- 3. Methodological Naturalism
 - 3.1 Naturalism in Nyāya Epistemology
- 4. Moral Naturalism: karma and adṛṣṭa

The article includes bibliographical references. It also includes other internet resources like:

- Nyaya Naturalism, course syllabus on Indian Philosophy, part of the London Philosophy Study Guide ([University of London/Philosophy Subject Panel](#)).
- “Indian Materialism”, entry by Abigail Turner-LauckWernicki (Drew University) in [theInternet Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#).
- “Śāntideva”, entry AmodLele (Stonehill College) in the [Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#).
- “Sāṅkhya”, entry by Ferenc Ruzsa (EötvösLoránd University) in the [Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#).

The article has a link to following related entries of this encyclopedia (the actual article names are within the bracket):

- epistemology: naturalism in (Naturalism in Epistemology)
- mathematics, philosophy of: naturalism (Naturalism in the Philosophy of Mathematics)
- mind: in Indian Buddhist Philosophy (Mind in Indian Buddhist Philosophy)
- moral non-naturalism (Moral Non-naturalism)
- naturalism (Naturalism)
- naturalism: in legal philosophy (Naturalism in Legal Philosophy)
- naturalism: moral (Moral Naturalism)
- religion: and science (Religion and Science)

Under the heading “Academic Tools” the entry gives direct link to the Indiana Philosophy Ontology Project (InPhO) and provides related terms on that topic. It also provides

enhanced bibliography for this entry at PhilPapers, with links to its database.

The article also includes information about the name of author, copyright date and email address.

Special Features

- The encyclopedia provides following searching facilities:
 - **Fuzzy search:** If one is not sure how to spell a search term, he or she can try a fuzzy search by simply adding a tilde ('~') after the term which will find inexact matches. Example: results for the search *leibnitz~* include documents matching the term "Leibniz".
 - **Required terms:** By default, search results will contain entries that match any of the search terms. One can put a plus sign in front of each term that must be matched. Example: results for the search Leibniz Locke might mention Leibniz or Locke, but not necessarily both. If one wants results that must mention Leibniz and Locke, one can use the search *+leibniz +locke*.
 - **Excluded terms:** If one wants to make sure none of the search results include some term, one can put a minus sign in front of that term. Example: results for the search *+leibniz -locke* show documents mentioning Leibniz which will not mention Locke.
 - **Exact phrase:** To search for an exact phrase, one can put the complete phrase in double quotes. Example: results for the search "the world is all that is the case" will show those documents which will have that exact string of words.
 - **Title search:** To search for a title containing a word, type "title:" followed by that word. Example: results for the search, *title: Descartes* will represent those documents in which the word "Descartes" occurs in the title.
 - **Author search:** If one wants to search for entries by author name, type "author:" followed by the name. Example: results for the search *author:smith* represents the documents written by authors named Smith.
 - **Proximity phrase:** To search for words that occur close to each other, put the words in double quotes followed by a tilde and how far apart the words may be.

Example: results for the search "*world case*"~5 are those documents in which "world" is followed within five words by "case". If the number equals 1, this is the same as searching for an exact phrase.

- **Wildcard searches:** An asterisk (*) can be added as a wildcard symbol in the middle or at the end of a word or partial word. The asterisk will match any letter or series of letters in a single word.

Example: results for the search *logic** will represent those documents in which the word "logic" or the word "logical" or the word "logicism", etc., occurs.

Example: results for the search *title:contract** are those documents in which the word "contract" or the word "contractarianism" or the word "contractualism", etc., occurs in the title.

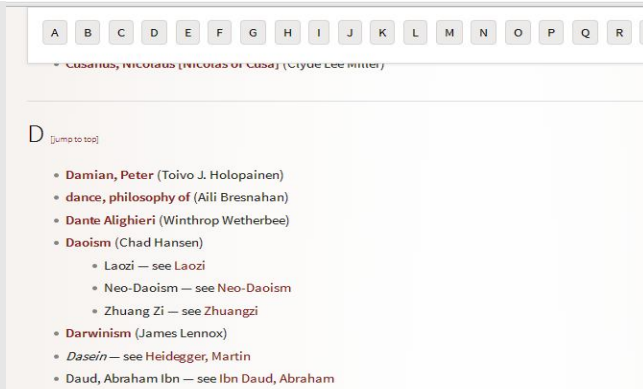
- **More complex searches:** The above search operations can be combined.

Example: results for the search *title:socialtitle:political* represents those documents in which the word "social" or the word "political" occurs in the title.

Example: results for the search *+semantics +logic -title:logic** represents those documents which mention logic and semantics but whose title do not include the word "logic" nor any word that begins with "logic".

- One can access PDFs of articles by becoming a Friend of the SEP. One can support the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy by joining the *Friends of the SEP Society*. By paying modest, annual membership dues to join the *Society*, members will receive the following benefits: (a) download access to high quality PDF (Portable Document Format, a.k.a. Acrobat) versions of SEP entries and (b) quarterly email notifications (if one 'opt-in') that informs one when PDFs he/she has downloaded.
- The encyclopedia holds Library of Congress ISSN 1095-5054.

Arrangement Pattern Articles are arranged alphabetically under the list of A-Z alphabets.



Users can browse latest updated articles under the heading “What’s New”, where the last three months’ listed articles are arranged in reverse chronological order.

What's New

Updates for the Last Three Months Listed in Reverse Chronological Order

[Subscribe to our RSS feed at <http://plato.stanford.edu/rss/sep.xml>
Users with RSS-enabled browsers can click here.]

[Note: All dates are given in UTC]

- **Dynamic Epistemic Logic** (Alexandru Baltag and Bryan Renne) [NEW: *June 24, 2016*]
- **Conservation Biology** (Jay Odenbaugh) [NEW: *June 23, 2016*]
- **The Rule of Law** (Jeremy Waldron) [NEW: *June 22, 2016*]
- **Hermeneutics** (C. Mantzavinos) [NEW: *June 22, 2016*]
- **Paternalism** (Gerald Dworkin) [REVISED: *June 19, 2016*]
Changes are prior to June 21, 2016 (Main text, Bibliography) and are available in Summer 2016 Edition.
- **Locke on Real Essence** (Jan-Erik Jones) [REVISED: *June 17, 2016*]
Changes are prior to June 21, 2016 (Bibliography) and are available in Summer 2016 Edition.

The encyclopedia also provides chronological list of published entries.

Chronological List of Published Entries

[Note: All dates are given in UTC]

- **Dynamic Epistemic Logic** [*June 24, 2016*]
- **The Rule of Law** [*June 22, 2016*]
- **Al-Farabi's Philosophy of Society and Religion** [*June 15, 2016*]
- **19th Century Romantic Aesthetics** [*June 14, 2016*]
- **Philosophy of Medicine** [*June 6, 2016*]
- **Hegel's Dialectics** [*June 3, 2016*]
- **Theophrastus** [*May 31, 2016*]
- **William of Sherwood** [*May 11, 2016*]
- **Generic Generalizations** [*April 24, 2016*]
- **Hiddenness of God** [*April 23, 2016*]
- **Imre Lakatos** [*April 4, 2016*]

Archives of the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy contain chronological list of periodically fixed editions of the articles.

The Fixed Editions:

Summer 2016 Edition (June 21, 2016)
Spring 2016 Edition (March 21, 2016)
Winter 2015 Edition (December 21, 2015)
Fall 2015 Edition (September 21, 2015)
Summer 2015 Edition (June 21, 2015)
Spring 2015 Edition (March 21, 2015)
Winter 2014 Edition (December 21, 2014)
Fall 2014 Edition (September 21, 2014)
Summer 2014 Edition (June 21, 2014)
Spring 2014 Edition (March 21, 2014)

Remarks

The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (SEP) combines an online encyclopedia of philosophy with peer reviewed publication of original papers in philosophy, freely accessible to Internet users. It is maintained by Stanford University. Each entry is written and maintained by an expert in the field, including professors from many academic institutions, worldwide. Authors contributing to the encyclopedia give Stanford University the permission to publish the articles but retain the copyright to those articles.

Comparable Tools

- Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)
- Britannica.com (<http://www.britannica.com/>)
- Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy(<http://www.iep.utm.edu/>)
- Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy (<https://www.rep.routledge.com/>)
- Encyclopedia of Indian Philosophies (<http://faculty.washington.edu/kpotter/>)
- Catholic encyclopedia: philosophy - new advent (<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12025c.htm>)
- Infoplease: Encyclopedia (<http://www.infoplease.com/encyclopedia/>)

Date of Access

June 27, 2016