



The *Gale Virtual Reference Library*: Taking eBooks to the next level

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The Gale Virtual Reference Library: Gale's new eBook platform

- Gale is taking eBooks to the next level by delivering their award winning reference content in an easy-to-use database format
- Released on 31st October 2003 with 75 titles
- Currently nearly 200 titles are available, ranging from Literature to Science, from History to Health, from Religion to Biography

Benefits

The Gale Virtual Reference Library

- provides access to Gale's premier and award winning English language content which offers excellent background information for beginning the research process
- supports the development of electronic information literacy within a community of users who may be new to electronic research
- Puts the library's reference content into circulation and saves shelving space

Facts & Features

The Gale Virtual Reference Library

- allows libraries to develop collections at their own pace and within their own budgets: purchase one eBook at a time, not a predetermined collection
- enables searching across the whole collection and within single eBooks: no special readers or hardware required
- offers unlimited simultaneous users per eBook and no checkout: Gale eBooks are always accessible
- guarantees access to older editions of eBooks

Taking the best of the existing eBook models...

- Access from the OPAC via free MARC records
- Each article also offered in PDF format in the original layout of the printed book
- Navigation from the electronic Table-of-Contents to the entry
- Link from the electronic index to a page
- Browse a list of illustrations in the book
- Print or email an entire article, not just a page
- Mark lists / InfoMarks
- Dictionary
- Usage statistics
- ...and more...

Content

- Nearly 200 encyclopedias and almanacs already released
- Continuous simultaneous publication of new content in print and eBook formats beginning 2004
- Content from Gale's various imprints will be included: St. James Press, Macmillan, Scribner, UXL, Schirmer, Graham & Whiteside, InfoPlus, Lucent
- K.G. Saur titles will be added later in 2004

Content examples by subject:

Business:

- Gale Encyclopedia of E-Commerce
- Encyclopedia of Business & Finance

General Reference:

- Countries and their Cultures
- New Catholic Encyclopedia
- Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations

Health / Science:

- Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine
- Gale Encyclopedia of Science
- Science in Dispute
- Environmental Encyclopedia
- Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia

Literature:

- Contemporary Authors
- Reference Guide to World Literature

Social Science:

- Encyclopedia of Communication & Information
- Encyclopedia of Sociology
- Encyclopedia of Food & Culture
- Encyclopedia of Popular Culture

Education:

- Encyclopedia of Education
- World Education Encyclopedia

Pricing

- eBooks are purchased from Gale. This always relates to a certain edition of an eBook
- The eBook price is approx. 5-10% higher than the price for the same printed book, but gives rights to unlimited access to the eBook from within the institution, remote access, unlimited printing and downloading of articles
- For an additional annual access fee purchased eBooks can be accessed on Gales servers through the *Gale Virtual Reference Library*:
 - \$ 50 for 1-10 eBooks
 - \$ 100 for 11-20 eBooks
- Consortia discounts are available and also discounts for institutions purchasing more than one eBook

Archival Policy

- As eBooks are purchased from Gale, the purchasing institution has to download the eBooks from Gale's server in an XML-file. They therefore hold an archive copy of the book which can also be used in the institution, provided they build their own search interface
- Provided that an institution pays the access fee to access an eBook they have bought through the *Gale Virtual Reference Library*, Gale guarantees access to this edition of the eBook, even if a new edition is already published.
- There is no automatical upgrade to the new edition of an eBook; new editions have to be bought again (discounts are available).

Basic Search

Basic search through all eBooks of a collection

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Gale Virtual Reference Library -- Basic Search - Microsoft Internet Explorer von T-Online". The address bar shows the URL: <http://galenet.galegroup.com/servlet/eBooks?vrsn=116&locID=ulri>. The page header includes the user name "Ulrike Engel Test Account" and navigation links for "Help", "Dictionary", "Gale Databases", "Search Tips", and "List of Sources". The main navigation bar features "Basic Search" and "Advanced Search" buttons. The search area is highlighted in yellow and contains the text "Enter search term(s): biodiversity" in a text input field, followed by a dropdown menu set to "Article/Entry Title" and a "SEARCH" button. Below the search area, there is a "Number of results per page:" dropdown menu set to "10". The page displays several quotes with their authors: "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." by Benjamin Franklin; "As knowledge increases, wonder deepens." by Charles Morgan; "Knowledge is of two kinds: we know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information upon it." by Samuel Johnson; and "Knowledge itself is power." by Francis Bacon. At the bottom, there are links for "Help", "Search Tips", "Dictionary", "Gale Databases", "List of Sources", "Contact Gale", and "Comments". The Thomson Gale logo and "Copyright and Terms of Use" link are also visible.

Results List

Citation list
with hits from
all available
eBooks in the
collection

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Gale Virtual Reference Library search results for the query 'biodiversity'. The page title is 'Gale Virtual Reference Library -- Basic Search Results: (Entry Title=biodiversity)'. The browser address bar shows the URL: http://galenet.galegroup.com/servlet/eBooks?vrsn=116&bss=TI&lo. The page features a navigation bar with 'Basic Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'Search History' buttons. Below the navigation bar, the search results are displayed as a list of 8 items, each with a checkbox for selection and links for 'About this eBook', 'Text with graphics', 'PDF pages', and 'How to Cite'. The items are:

1. **"Biodiversity."** *Animal Sciences*. Vol. 1. New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2002.
[About this eBook](#) | [Text with graphics](#) | [5 PDF pages](#) | [How to Cite](#)
2. **"Biodiversity."** *Biology*. Vol. 1. New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2002.
[About this eBook](#) | [Text](#) | [3 PDF pages](#) | [How to Cite](#)
3. **"Biodiversity."** *Encyclopedia of Public Health*. Vol. 1. New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2002.
[About this eBook](#) | [Text](#) | [3 PDF pages](#) | [How to Cite](#)
4. **"Biodiversity."** *Environmental Encyclopedia*. Vol. 1. 3rd ed. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale, 2003.
[About this eBook](#) | [Text](#) | [4 PDF pages](#) | [How to Cite](#)
5. **"Biodiversity."** *Plant Sciences*. Vol. 1. New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2001.
[About this eBook](#) | [Text with graphics](#) | [8 PDF pages](#) | [How to Cite](#)
6. **"Biodiversity."** *Water: Science and Issues*. Vol. 1. New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2003.
[About this eBook](#) | [Text with graphics](#) | [4 PDF pages](#) | [How to Cite](#)
7. **"Deforestation of the Amazon: Economics and Biodiversity."** *History Behind the Headlines: The Origins of Conflicts Worldwide*. Vol. 1. Detroit: Gale, 2001.
[About this eBook](#) | [Text with graphics](#) | [12 PDF pages](#) | [How to Cite](#)
8. **"Marine Ecology and Biodiversity."** *Environmental Encyclopedia*. Vol. 1. 3rd ed. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale, 2003.
[About this eBook](#) | [Text](#) | [2 PDF pages](#) | [How to Cite](#)

The page also includes a 'Mark' section with a checkbox for 'Mark all items on this page' and a 'Page#: 1' indicator at the bottom.

Article Display

Display of an article from the Macmillan book: *Water: Science and Issues*

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying an article from the Gale Virtual Reference Library. The browser title is "Gale Virtual Reference Library -- eBook Article - Microsoft Internet Explorer von T-Online". The address bar shows the URL: <http://galenet.galegroup.com/servlet/eBooks?vrsn=116&bss=TI&Jo>. The page header includes the Gale logo, "Virtual Reference Library", and navigation links like "Basic Search", "Advanced Search", and "Search History". The article title is "Biodiversity" and it is identified as "Article 6 of 8". The author is Yeh, Jennifer, and the source is "Water: Science and Issues", Ed. E. Julius Dasch, Vol. 1. New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2003. 77-80. 4 vols. The page includes "Article Links" (Text with Graphics, 4 PDF pages, How to Cite) and "eBook Links" (About this eBook, eTable, Contents, eBook Index, List of Illustrations). A red arrow points to the "eTable" link. The main content area starts with the word "Biodiversity" in large red font, followed by a definition: "Biodiversity describes the variety of biological organisms in a given habitat, area, or ecosystem. It includes several components involving variation in species, ecosystems, and genetics." Below this are three paragraphs discussing species diversity, ecosystem diversity, and genetic diversity. The page number "Page 77" is visible in the bottom right. The Thomson logo is in the bottom left corner.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity describes the variety of biological organisms in a given **habitat**, area, or **ecosystem**. It includes several components involving variation in species, ecosystems, and genetics.

Species diversity is perhaps what most people think of when they think of **biodiversity**. Species **biodiversity** describes the number of different species of plants, animals, fungi, protists, or bacteria within an area of interest. Although there are approximately 1.5 million named species globally, the large majority of species have yet to be studied or named, and there are likely to be as many as 10 million species on Earth.

Ecosystem diversity describes the variety of habitat types found within a given area. For example, there are numerous types of terrestrial (land-based) ecosystems in the United States, including forests, grasslands, **wetlands**, and deserts. There also are many types of aquatic (water-based) ecosystems, including lakes, rivers, **estuaries**, coral reefs, and **intertidal** habitats.

Genetic diversity describes genetic variation within species and represents a third component of **biodiversity**. Genetic variation allows species to adapt to changes in their environment. Species that are reduced to very small populations lose much of the gene pool and hence can lose much of this adaptability.

Article Display: PDF

PDF version
of this article
as it appeared
in the printed
book

Biodiversity

Biodiversity describes the variety of biological organisms in a given **habitat**, area, or **ecosystem**. It includes several components involving variation in species, ecosystems, and genetics.

Species diversity is perhaps what most people think of when they think of biodiversity. Species biodiversity describes the number of different species of plants, animals, fungi, protists, or bacteria within an area of interest. Although there are approximately 1.5 million named species globally, the large majority of species have yet to be studied or named, and there are likely to be as many as 10 million species on Earth.

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Genetic diversity describes genetic variation within species and represents a third component of biodiversity. Genetic variation allows species to adapt to changes in their environment. Species that are reduced to very small populations lose much of the gene pool and hence can lose much of this adaptability.

Aquatic Biodiversity

Aquatic biodiversity describes the diversity of species and ecosystems found in and around aquatic habitats such as rivers, lakes, and oceans. As with terrestrial ecosystems, aquatic biodiversity varies from region to region. Aquatic biodiversity is greatest in tropical latitudes. For example, an estimated 3,000

habitat: the environment in which a plant or animal grows or lives; the surroundings include physical factors such as temperature, moisture, and light, together with biological factors such as the presence of food and predators

ecosystem: the community of plants and animals within a water or terrestrial habitat interacting together and with their physical and chemical environment

wetland: an area that is periodically or permanently saturated or covered by surface water or groundwater, that displays hydric soils, and that typically supports or is capable of supporting hydrophytic vegetation

estuary: a tidally influenced coastal area in which fresh water from a river mixes with sea water, generally at the river mouth; the resulting water is brackish, which results in a unique ecosystem

intertidal: coastal land that is covered by water at high tide and uncovered at low tide

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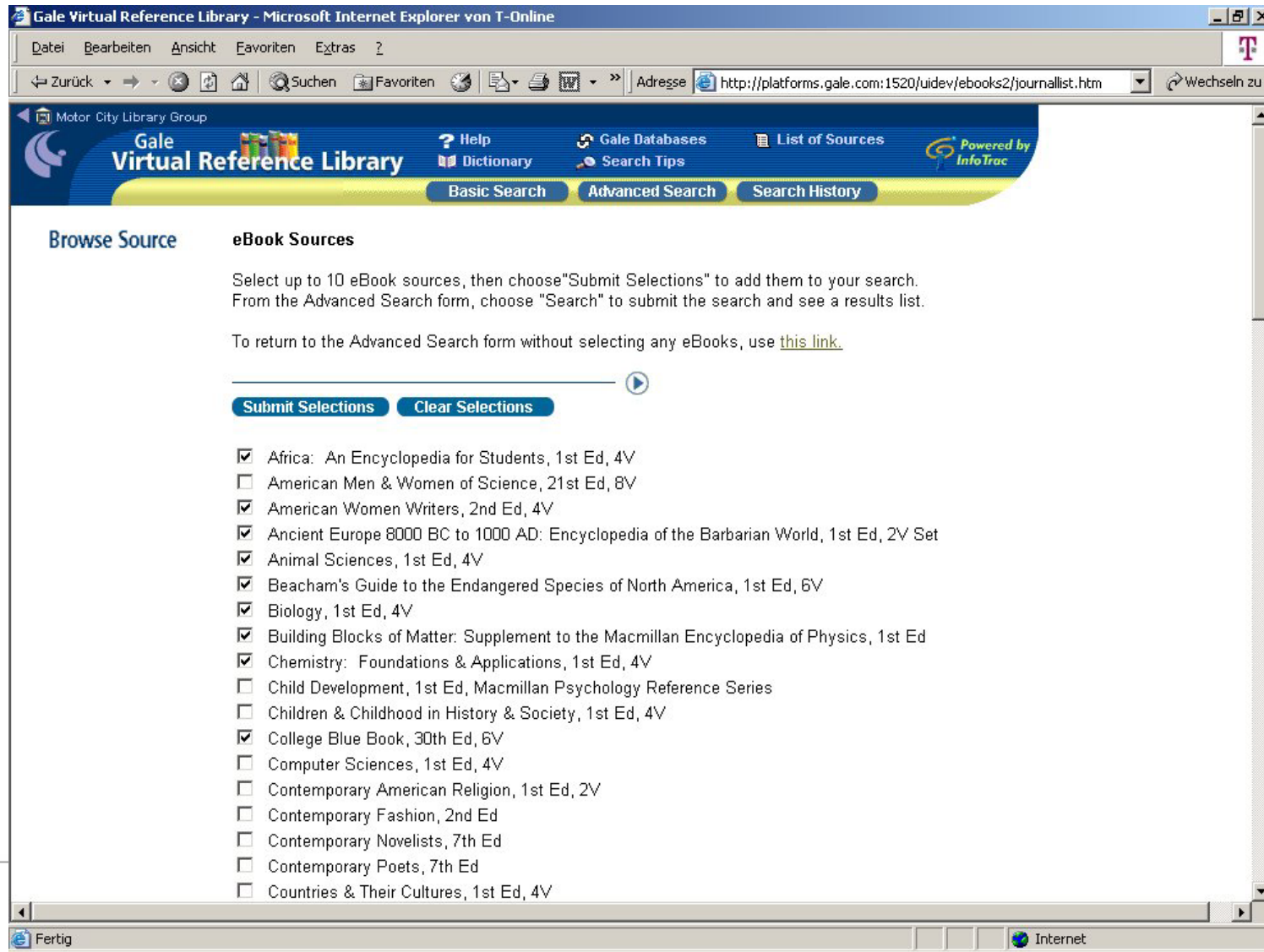
Advanced Search

Advanced Search with the possibility to combine and limit searches

The screenshot shows the Gale Virtual Reference Library advanced search page. The browser window title is "Gale Virtual Reference Library - Microsoft Internet Explorer von T-Online". The address bar shows the URL "http://platforms.gale.com:1520/uidev/ebooks2/advanced.htm". The page header includes the Motor City Library Group logo, the Gale Virtual Reference Library logo, and navigation links for Help, Dictionary, Gale Databases, Search Tips, and List of Sources. The main search area is highlighted in yellow and contains the instruction "Enter term(s) and index type(s). Indicate choice of Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT)." There are three input fields for search terms, each followed by an "in" label and a dropdown menu for the index type. The first dropdown is set to "Article/Entry title" and the second to "Keywords". The third dropdown is open, showing options: "Article/Entry title", "Keywords", "Image caption", "Full text", "Source", and "ISBN". Below the search fields are "SEARCH" and "Clear Form" buttons. The "Limit Your Search:" section includes instructions: "To select multiple choices, hold down the Control key while making your selections." It features several filter options: "By Source:" with a text input and "Browse Source" and "Clear Source" buttons; "by Year(s) of Publication:" with a text input and "(yyy-yyyy)" label; "by Subject Area:" with a list box containing "ALL", "Arts", "Biography", and "Business"; and "by Audience:" with a list box containing "ALL", "K-6", and "Middle School". The Thomson logo is visible in the bottom left corner.

Advanced Search: Cross searching

Select eBooks
for cross-
searching



The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Gale Virtual Reference Library - Microsoft Internet Explorer von T-Online". The address bar shows the URL "http://platforms.gale.com:1520/uidev/ebooks2/journalist.htm". The page header includes the "Gale Virtual Reference Library" logo, navigation links for "Help", "Dictionary", "Gale Databases", "Search Tips", and "List of Sources", and buttons for "Basic Search", "Advanced Search", and "Search History". The main content area is titled "Browse Source" and "eBook Sources". It contains instructions: "Select up to 10 eBook sources, then choose 'Submit Selections' to add them to your search. From the Advanced Search form, choose 'Search' to submit the search and see a results list." and "To return to the Advanced Search form without selecting any eBooks, use [this link](#)." Below the instructions are two buttons: "Submit Selections" and "Clear Selections". A list of eBook sources follows, each with a checkbox and a play button icon to its right. The checked items are: Africa: An Encyclopedia for Students, 1st Ed, 4V; American Women Writers, 2nd Ed, 4V; Ancient Europe 8000 BC to 1000 AD: Encyclopedia of the Barbarian World, 1st Ed, 2V Set; Animal Sciences, 1st Ed, 4V; Beacham's Guide to the Endangered Species of North America, 1st Ed, 6V; Biology, 1st Ed, 4V; Building Blocks of Matter: Supplement to the Macmillan Encyclopedia of Physics, 1st Ed; Chemistry: Foundations & Applications, 1st Ed, 4V; College Blue Book, 30th Ed, 6V. The unchecked items are: American Men & Women of Science, 21st Ed, 8V; Child Development, 1st Ed, Macmillan Psychology Reference Series; Children & Childhood in History & Society, 1st Ed, 4V; Computer Sciences, 1st Ed, 4V; Contemporary American Religion, 1st Ed, 2V; Contemporary Fashion, 2nd Ed; Contemporary Novelists, 7th Ed; Contemporary Poets, 7th Ed; and Countries & Their Cultures, 1st Ed, 4V. The bottom of the browser window shows the taskbar with "Fertig" and "Internet" icons.

Browse Source **eBook Sources**

Select up to 10 eBook sources, then choose "Submit Selections" to add them to your search. From the Advanced Search form, choose "Search" to submit the search and see a results list.

To return to the Advanced Search form without selecting any eBooks, use [this link](#).

Submit Selections Clear Selections

- Africa: An Encyclopedia for Students, 1st Ed, 4V
- American Men & Women of Science, 21st Ed, 8V
- American Women Writers, 2nd Ed, 4V
- Ancient Europe 8000 BC to 1000 AD: Encyclopedia of the Barbarian World, 1st Ed, 2V Set
- Animal Sciences, 1st Ed, 4V
- Beacham's Guide to the Endangered Species of North America, 1st Ed, 6V
- Biology, 1st Ed, 4V
- Building Blocks of Matter: Supplement to the Macmillan Encyclopedia of Physics, 1st Ed
- Chemistry: Foundations & Applications, 1st Ed, 4V
- Child Development, 1st Ed, Macmillan Psychology Reference Series
- Children & Childhood in History & Society, 1st Ed, 4V
- College Blue Book, 30th Ed, 6V
- Computer Sciences, 1st Ed, 4V
- Contemporary American Religion, 1st Ed, 2V
- Contemporary Fashion, 2nd Ed
- Contemporary Novelists, 7th Ed
- Contemporary Poets, 7th Ed
- Countries & Their Cultures, 1st Ed, 4V

E-Book entry page

Direct access to an eBook, for example through the library OPAC

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Gale Virtual Reference Library - Microsoft Internet Explorer von T-Online". The address bar shows the URL: <http://platforms.gale.com:1520/uidev/ebooks2/aboutthisbook.htm>. The page header includes the "Gale Virtual Reference Library" logo, navigation links for "Help", "Dictionary", "Gale Databases", "List of Sources", "Search Tips", and "Search History".

The main content area is titled "About this eBook" and includes a "Results" section with the text: "Welcome! You have chosen the following eBook from your library's catalog. To browse or cite this eBook, choose the links below the title." Below this, it says: "To conduct a search within this eBook, choose [Search this eBook.](#)"

The eBook title is "Encyclopedia of World Biography, 2nd edition, Detroit: Gale Group, 1998." A red box highlights the following links: [About this eBook](#) | [eTable of Contents](#) | [eBook Index](#) | [List of Illustrations](#) | [How to Cite](#)

The eBook details include:
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Subject: Biography--Dictionaries--Juvenile literature. Biography. Biographies--Dictionnaires anglais. Biographies--Encyclopédies.
Brief Description: Mother Theresa. Princess Diana. Tom Clancy. Johnnie Cochran. Betty Shabazz. These are just a few of the people you'll find biographical information on in the *Encyclopedia of World Biography*. Originally published in 1973 by McGraw Hill, this 17-vol. authoritative set is entirely revised and updated - the first complete revision in 25 years.

At the bottom of the page, there are links for "Help", "Search Tips", "Dictionary", "List of Sources", "Contact Gale", and "Comments". The Thomson Gale logo and "Copyright and Terms of Use" link are also visible.

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or ask us here at INFORUM:**

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