The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (SEP) is a freely available resource, with entries maintained by experts in the field. All contributions are peer-reviewed to make sure they meet the highest academic standards.

Accessing the Database
Access the Library’s Home Page at www.exeter.ac.uk/library. Click on Access to resources and then E-Resources, on the left hand side of the screen. Enter your IT Services account username and password and click on Log in, if required. Set the subject area to all subjects and the resource type to all types of resources, then click on the Find resources button. Scroll down the list and click on Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy.

Browse
When you access the encyclopedia, you are automatically taken to the table of contents. You can browse through this list for entries – this is particularly useful if you are unsure of how to spell a term or name. You can click on any of the terms highlighted in red to access the full encyclopedia entry. Any entries that are not highlighted in red are still under construction. This is a dynamic resource, with regular updates and additions. You can also view the final projected table of contents by clicking on the Projected Contents link in the menu on the left side of the webpage. Do note that many of the entries in the encyclopedia are extensive, so to ensure that you find exactly what you want, it’s recommended that you use the search facility.

Search
To search the SEP, use the search box in the menu on the left side of the screen. Simply type your search term into the search box and press the return key on your keyboard.

Advanced Search
Advanced search allows you to create a more complex search, combining your terms with Boolean Operators and using wildcards. For example:

+Collingwood +aesthetics will find material containing both words.
+aesthetics –Nietzsche will find material with the word aesthetics except where Nietzsche also appears.
"Nicholas of Autrecourt" will find these search terms as a phrase.
aesthet* will find any word starting with this stem, e.g aesthetic, aesthetics, aesthete etc.

Boolean operators AND, OR and NOT cannot be used with this resource: if you type them in, they will be treated as keywords, therefore you need to use the + and – symbols as detailed above.

Displaying Results
Your results will be displayed in a list: each entry displayed will show the section of text where your keywords have matched. Click on the title of each result, or the URL at the bottom to view the full text encyclopedia entry.

Printing Results
To print an entry, use the Print function on your browser. There is no way to save entries, unless you copy and paste the text into Word (or similar). It is not possible to email entries to yourself.
Citing Entries
If you wish to make reference to any of the entries in your bibliographies, you need to know how to cite them correctly. As the resource is dynamic, there will be regular changes to content, so you need to refer to the version you have viewed. To view the correct citation details for an entry, click on Cite this entry at the top of the menu on the left side of the screen. You will then see the details that you should use when citing this entry in your work. For example, if you choose to cite the entry on Philo of Larissa, the details for citation will be displayed as:


You will need to reformat the citation into your preferred citation style, e.g. Harvard, MHRA etc.

Help
There is limited on-screen help with searching on the Advanced Search page.

Logging Off
Simply close your web browser to exit the encyclopedia, or navigate to another website.

For more Essentials guides see: www.exeter.ac.uk/library/guides/essentials

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