

Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO)



Frequently Asked Questions

1) Why is there an ECCO II and how did it arise?

The scope to create an additional collection arose out of several circumstances. Firstly, since the release of ECCO I, the ESTC has uncovered a wealth of valuable new material and new holdings of previously unavailable titles. Secondly, rapid developments in scanning technology have enabled Gale to digitize works too fragile to be handled at the time of ECCO's original production.

When ECCO was released in 2003, it included the material that had been scanned through the end of 2002 for the underlying film collection. Since that time, Gale has continued to locate new materials, though at a slower rate than before. The material in ECCO II includes those items from libraries where we were still finishing scanning in 2003 as well as new items in the English Short Title Catalogue (ESTC), the basis for the collection. Again, this includes both new titles that have been added to the ESTC as well as newly reported holdings information, meaning that works to which we may not have been able to get rights prior to 2003 may now have been reported as a holding at a library with which we had a contract to source material.

The titles cover the same subjects areas as the original collection, with a special emphasis on Literature, Social Science and Religion titles. This second edition will release in two parts. Segment I represents 90% of the overall content and is available now. It includes 46,000 titles with 6.4 million pages from the library holdings of world-renowned institutions such as the British Library, Bodleian, Cambridge, National Library of Scotland and National Library of Ireland. The remaining material in Segment 2 will be available in late 2009 and will contain 3,000+ titles with approximately 500,000 pages sourced from the Ransom Center at the University of Texas.

2) Will there be updates of additional material after the release date?

The University of Texas material will be added later this year. This additional content is included in the ECCO II collection price. Beyond that, Gale has no plans for additional material.

3) Are there going to continue to be more ECCO parts?

There are no plans for an ECCO III. When Gale finishes scanning at the Ransom Center/University of Texas later in 2009, we plan no further additions to the database. NOTE: the material being added from University of Texas is part of an ECCO II purchase, though it will not be loaded until later in the year.

4) May I yet purchase only ECCO I?

Yes, Gale offers ECCO purchases for either ECCO I, ECCO I and II, or ECCO II if ECCO I has already been purchased.

5) What is the title count and how much is new content?

There are currently over 46,600 titles in ECCO II and the content from University of Texas will bring the total up to about 50,000 titles. **These are all new, distinct entries from the ESTC.**

6) What does the pricing for ECCO II provide?

The price for ECCO II includes online access to the new content, including the material still being added from University of Texas, updated archive backups in the form of hard disks, and use of the new user interface. MARC records for ECCO II are not included in the base price of ECCO II.

7) Clarify the Gale statement about the free upgrade to the new ECCO II interfaces? Aren't upgrades in interfaces free?

An ECCO user that does not wish to purchase the ECCO II content may still move to the new interface at no charge. They will continue to pay their annual hosting fee as before.

8) Is the pricing for ECCO II reduced if you already own ECCO? Can I access only ECCO II on my library or trial site?

ECCO II is only available to customers that already own ECCO, so there is no reduction in price for ECCO ownership – it is assumed. ECCO and ECCO II content is loaded together to make the student/researcher's job easier. Gale is in the process of adding a limiter to allow you to see results for just ECCO or just ECCO II, but they are still part of the same system.

9) Will there be a hosting fee?

There is no additional hosting fee for ECCO II.

10) What is the importance of ECCO II since we have already purchased ECCO?

ECCO has become an essential tool for 18th century research with ECCO I and II representing the largest and most comprehensive online historical archive of the eighteenth century. Its breadth of content affords a unique ability to find references to items, people and events using the database's full-text search functionality. ECCO II brings 50,000 additional titles for scholars, researchers and students, providing the means for even more comprehensive research than before, and is certainly of equal value and necessity as is ECCO I. The additional content offered by ECCO II will be welcomed by 18th century scholars, researchers and students everywhere.

11) What are Gale's sources for the new content in ECCO II?

The source libraries for ECCO II are as follows, listed in order of contribution, ranging from the British Library at 25% to UCLA less than 1%.

- British Library
- Oxford University (Bodleian)
- National Library of Scotland

- Cambridge University
- Library of Congress
- Boston Public Library
- National Library of Ireland
- University of Texas
- University of London
- Trinity College (Dublin)
- Kansas University
- Trinity College (Hartford, CT)
- National Library of Wales
- University of California, Los Angeles

12) Is the 18th Century microfilm project completed?

It will be completed when we finish scanning material at University of Texas, same as with ECCO II.

13) Are there works in the film collection that will not be in ECCO and ECCO II?

There were a very few works in non-Roman alphabets that were not included in the online database because of the inability to provide full-text searching to their content.

14) How are the titles divided into subject areas?

The classification into a subject module is done by Gale bibliographers that have worked on this and other similar collections for years.

15) When will the MARC records be available?

The MARC records for ECCO II are currently scheduled to be available in June 2009.

16) Will the new MARC records have Library of Congress subject headings?

Yes, the ECCO II MARC records will include both the Library of Congress subject heading and the expanded title fields, the two components of the enhancement project on the original MARC records.

17) Can a PDF or the entire monograph or chapter be created for printing?

A user may download up to 250 pages at a time. This will accommodate approximately 70% of the ECCO works in a single download. For works that are larger than 250 pages, multiple downloads will be required.

18) Will Gale offer a subscription based model in addition to the purchase model?

There are currently no plans to offer ECCO on a subscription basis.

19) Is there any overlap between ECCO II and Proquest's Early English Books Online (EEBO), and are they now cross-searchable?

There should be none (or extremely minimal), as ECCO starts chronologically where EEBO ends.

Yes, they are cross-searchable. This is a new feature and the result of a collaborative effort to bring broad value to the market where and as possible with such collections.