The reason why I chose that time and place, was that I thought somewhat might perchance fall out in his enterprize contrary to my expectation, in which case I assured my selfe the worst that could bee, was but to fall into the water, where being able to swim well, I hoped to receive little or no hurt in my fall. But when I was once over in safety, O how did my heart even swell with
EARLY ENGLISH BOOKS ONLINE™

More than a decade ago, Early English Books Online (EEBO) debuted with 125,000 works, microfilmed over 70 years from more than 250 libraries worldwide. Today, with approximately 147,000 titles and associated bibliographic records, EEBO is one of the most successful digitized research collections ProQuest has ever produced, trusted by students and scholars in thousands of universities and research organizations worldwide.

No other resource for early modern scholarship is as comprehensive as EEBO. Users can explore complete, digitized images of all the works listed in the key bibliographic records of English literature: The Short-Title Catalogue (Pollard & Redgrave, 1475-1640); The Short-Title Catalogue II (Wing, 1641-1700); The Thomason Tracts; and the Early English Books Tract Supplements, as well as original almanacs, pamphlets, musical scores, prayer books and other intriguing primary sources.

Early English Books (EEBO) is now on the ProQuest platform. With its clean interface and responsive design, the ProQuest platform delivers a modern research experience that guides users’ discovery, access and management of rich, diverse content sources. As a result, Early English Books Online will be more discoverable as users will be able to cross-search its content along with scholarly journals, news, historical documents and other relevant sources.

“Access to Early English Books Online (EEBO) provides a classic example of how new technology can rejuvenate traditional research. Extending access to the resource has fundamentally changed the way all of us can manage and maintain first-class scholarly research.”

— Justin Champion, Professor of the History of Ideas, Royal Holloway, University of London

The 2022 annual update includes Wing 146 and approx. 350 titles. The titles published between 1640 and 1700, cover a period in British history that saw shockwaves reach as far as Europe.

Charles I was executed in 1649, but before this momentous historical event, the document “farewell-speech unto the Lords Commissioners” (1648) hints at his increasing isolation. A King and No King is a Jacobean era stage play by Beaumont and Fletcher and was first published in 1619. However, the play re-emerged in 1687 as it was used repeatedly in the polemical literature of the mid-century political crisis to refer to the problem and predicament of King Charles I.

The restoration period in 1660, saw the return of monarchy in Charles II. In this period, we see works such as The Poor Whores’ Petition. This was a satirical letter written by brothel owner Madam Cresswell, whose business was affected by the Bawdy House Riots of 1668. The petition was addressed to Lady Castlemaine, then lover of King Charles II of England. It requested that she come to the aid of her “sisters” and pay for the rebuilding of their property and livelihoods.

This release provides many more insights such as these, at a time when old forms of monarchy were being challenged and modernized whilst being held to account from different layers of society.
EEBO on the PQ platform provides scholars with a modern research experience. Users will benefit from the following features and search enhancements:

- Ability to search using USTC subject classification
- Ability to filter your results post-search using multiple facets such as author, USTC subject classification, place of publication or language
- Ability to see your results over time with the results page histogram
- Ability to see your search terms highlighted in the list of results or the document pages
- Ability to see your search terms in context within the full text directly on the list of results using the Keywords in Context feature
- Ability to email, print, cite or export records directly from the list of results
- Ability to view up to 100 results per page

EEBO images integrated with TCP texts is easy and intuitive enough to support everyone from undergraduates writing papers on topics such as witchcraft to Shakespeare, to faculty tracing the uses of a word or concept across three centuries of the English printed records.
A 2015 study conducted by Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford, and commissioned by Jisc and ProQuest focused on the impact to research and teaching of Early English Books Online (EEBO).

The study showed that both the use and citations of EEBO in research papers have increased steadily since EEBO was launched in digital form over 16 years ago. It also showed that citations include a diverse range of disciplines, showing EEBO to be valuable to students and scholars across the curriculum.

EEBO usage has been increasing at a relatively linear pace. Whereas usage doubled from 50k page views per month to 100k per month from 2005-2008, it stayed there until 2011. The next doubling to 200k page views per month took a further 4 years, underscoring the fact that digital collections take time to become embedded in research.

“EEBO has been transformative for scholarship since its inception, and continues to be. The ability to string match for spelling variation across thousands of examples of printed text between 1470-1700 opens so many new possibilities for scholarship in book history, literary history, linguistics, cultural history, and the history of science to name just a few disciplines. And it’s a tremendous classroom resource, helping students understand the world of print history in and around Early Modern England.”

— Dr Heather Froehlich is the Literary Informatics Librarian at the Pennsylvania State University, where she supports text and data mining initiatives. She has sustained expertise in quantitative approaches to the language, variation, and change in Early English printing.
TAKE HISTORICAL RESEARCH EVEN FURTHER WITH EARLY MODERN BOOKS

Early Modern Books (EMB) provides an integrated search and browse experience across both Early European Books (EEB) and EEBO. Materials can be searched and/or browsed by the following, amongst other options:

- Date
- Author
- Country of publication
- Language
- USTC classification
- Page features

Searching both English printed titles alongside European titles could provide new discoveries of works that have travelled geographically and linguistically across Europe.

THE BOOK EXPERIENCE … ONLINE

Early European Books (EEB) embraces the two-and-a-half centuries following Gutenberg’s invention of movable type, which witnessed an unprecedented proliferation and dissemination of literature throughout Europe. In keeping with the tenor of the time, religious works dominate, but there is no shortage of secular material concerning every field of human thought and activity.

EEB offers an experience as close as possible to being with the physical book, with every page and feature rendered onscreen in fine, crisp color images.

- Each item is captured in its entirety, complete with binding, edges, endpapers, blank pages and any loose inserts.
- Meticulous indexing and specialist search fields ensure relevant results are returned each time.

PREMIER PARTNERS

As an ever-growing collection, EEB is produced by ProQuest in partnership with major European libraries including Det Kongelige Bibliotek (KBDK)/The Royal Library, Copenhagen; Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze (BNCF)/National Central Library (Florence); Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KBNL)/The Royal Library of the Netherlands in The Hague; Wellcome Library, London; Bibliothèque National de France (BnF)/National Library of France, Paris.
Our partner libraries

ProQuest is a proud partner of the Universal Short Title Catalogue (USTC) of the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. Together, our two organizations will select future collections for EEB; in addition, USTC will provide enhanced metadata to improve access and discoverability within and across the collections.

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Comprehensive interdisciplinary research requires content diversity. Primary sources, combined with secondary sources such as ebooks from ProQuest, enable researchers to develop critical thinking skills by examining evidence, identifying questions, and drawing conclusions. Supported with user-centered technology that makes it easy to discover, access, mine and manage, content from ProQuest allows libraries to align their collections with the evolving needs of their researchers.

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