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# Whaley's Encyclopedic Dictionary of Magic 1584-2000

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availability be delayed. Embargo periods vary from three to 12 months and affect about one third of the collection.

Some of EBSCOhost terminology could be tightened up a bit. For example, it seemed strange in a collection of peer-reviewed academic journals to limit by "magazine" or to "cover stories." Semantics aside, this is a nice collection of journals available through a well-designed interface.

**The Bottom Line: Sociological Collection** is a growing and well-documented database of full-text journals in an important liberal arts discipline. It is especially valuable for the ability users have of moving seamlessly from results in **Sociological Abstracts** to articles in the **Collection**. Recommended for academic and public libraries, especially those subscribing to **Sociological Abstracts** through EBSCOhost. —Deanna Barmakian, Harvard Law Sch. Lib., Harvard Univ.

**CD-ROM** **WHALEY'S ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MAGIC**  
**1584-2000**

Black Bart Magic  
(1416 Pine St., Key West, FL 33040;  
bart.whaley@britannica.com).  
Windows 95+. 2000.

Price: \$78.

**Whaley's Encyclopedic Dictionary of Magic** contains nearly 4000 terms and phrases used in the performance and study of magic from 1584 (the year the first English-language book by a magician was published) to the present day. The quality of the content appears to be accurate, reliable, and thorough. For comparison's sake, I consulted the printed *Encyclopedia of Magic and Magicians*, published by Facts On File in 1988, which defines the phrase "hocus-pocus" as "a synonym for illusion created by trickery or deceit." **Whaley's** entry not only states three additional uses of this phrase but also cites the etymology from the *Oxford English Dictionary* and provides a number of quotations using this phrase in context, as well. The endnotes in all entries cite the sources of the content and often provide citations for further reading. The level of detail and research provided here is quite impressive.

Less impressive are the disc's minimal navigational and database technologies. It is not possible to search the entire disc at once; instead, you must choose a

Readers and producers should contact Cheryl LaGuardia, Instructional Services, Harvard College Library, Cambridge, MA 02138; 617-496-4226; FAX 617-496-9802; <claguard@fas.harvard.edu> with feedback and suggested electronic products for review.

subset of the alphabet from the A-Z pull-down menu before selecting the "find" option. Another disadvantage is that if "find" doesn't locate the term being searched, nothing changes on the screen, an oversight that could confuse users who are used to systems and software that tips them off when a search is unsuccessful. I expected to see hyperlinked cross references, but they are not here. Copying text can only be accomplished by choosing "copy" from the pull-down menu (and not by the use of the right mouse button). And,

last but not least, every time I tried to print, the program ended abruptly in an "illegal operation" error.

**The Bottom Line:** While the content is good, **Whaley's Encyclopedic Dictionary of Magic** can't be recommended in its currently poor technical implementation; wait for the next version.—Elizabeth McKeigue, Widener Lib., Harvard Univ.

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