Quick Guide to Entries in the Oxford English Dictionary

Status Symbol- dagger stands for obsolete word no longer in use in English language.

1. Identification- Includes main form of word, its pronunciation, part of speech, and variant forms or spellings. May also include identifiers such as sense, subject, or status labels.

2. Etymology and Form History- Includes such things as derivation, subsequent form history, and information such as language (i.e. French, Latin, etc). Usually in bold brackets [like this].

3. Signification- Definition(s) of word. Will give earliest meaning first. C=circa (about).

4. Illustrative Quotations- Includes date of publication, author, title and text of quotations.

For Further Reading: Books on the OED available at the STC Library


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