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The ECEG-database

a database of eighteenth-century English grammars and grammar writers

Nuria Yáñez-Bouza
Manchester, UK
nuria.yanez-bouza@manchester.ac.uk

María E. Rodríguez-Gil
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain
merodriguez@dfm.ulpgc.es

British Academy
School of Languages, Linguistics & Cultures, The University of Manchester

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Alston's 'English (distinct) Grammars'

This volume is devoted **exclusively** to English grammars written in English by Englishmen, Americans, and in one or two cases foreigners, as well as a very few grammars written in Latin by native speakers.

[...] the following **sorts of books** are specifically **excluded** here:

- (1) spelling-books containing abstracts of grammar;
- (2) miscellaneous works, epistolary manuals, &c., containing brief grammars;
- (3) dictionaries containing grammars;
- (4) polyglot grammars;
- (5) grammars of English written in foreign languages, as well as grammars written in Latin by foreigners and published abroad.

(Alston 1965:1.xiv)

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ECEG

- **Eighteenth-Century English Grammars Database**

A new electronic data source for the study of C18th English grammars (bibliographic information) and grammar writers (biographical information)
- **Aims:**
 - i. to revisit Alston's early bibliographic work
 - ii. to provide an up-to-date resource for the study of the C18th grammatical tradition at macro- and micro-level
 - iii. to turn 'to the original texts and view *them and their authors* in the social and intellectual context of their time' (Beal 2004)

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The term 'English Grammar'

'Clearly, a flexible tool'

Criteria

- i. deals with morphology and syntax
 - ✗ universal grammar, style
- ii. written in English
 - ✓ polyglot grammars
- iii. written by native speakers
 - ✓ 'naturalized English speakers'
- iv. printed in the British Isles & America
 - ✓ few exceptions

EG in ...

- grammar books
- dictionaries
- treatises on language
- rhetoric/elocution
- letter-writing manuals
- spelling-books
- books of exercises
- manuscripts
- miscellany

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Reference Sources

Bibliographies

- Kennedy (1927)
- Alston (1965-2008, vols. I-VIII, Supplement, Addenda)
- Evans's American bibliography (1903-1959)
- Bristol's supplement (1970-71)

Scholarly works

- Leonard (1929)
- Poldauf (1948)
- Michael (1970, 1987)
- Vorlat (1975)
- Sundby et al. (1991)
- Mitchell (2001)

Collections & facsimiles

- ECCO (2010)
- Evans Digital Collection of American Imprints
- English Linguistics 1500-1800

Biographical databases

- ODNB (2004)
- Lexicon Grammaticorum (1996)
- Universal Index of Biographical Names (Koerner 2008)
- modern scholars' research

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Contents – Fields

Grammars

1. Title
2. Year
3. Edition (first)
4. Editions (other)
5. Place of Printing
6. Printers
7. Booksellers
8. Price
9. Physical description
10. Type of work
11. Divisions of grammar
12. Subsidiary contents
13. Target audience

Authors

14. Name
15. Gender
16. Place of Birth
17. Occupation
18. Biographical details

Reference

19. Holding libraries
20. Sources
21. Compilers' comments

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Online database

<http://www.llc.manchester.ac.uk/research/projects/eceg/>

- Access request form
- User Guidelines
- Project information
- References
- Browse – Search – Download

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Website: Info & Access request form

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Website: User Guidelines

- Aims
- Methodology
- ECEG Database**
- Research
- References
- Contact

Browse Layout

(Check out Figure 1 and Figure 2)

The records (=entries) in the Browse layout are chronologically sorted, so that record 1 dat Users can browse record by record, or jump to a particular record by clicking on the hyperlink.

The contents of each record are displayed in two sections:

- top row, which is always visible, and
- six clickable tabs, visible one at a time

Fields are arranged as below. An asterisk indicates that a drop-down value list is not available layout. (See [here](#) for a detailed description of each field)

- Top row:
 - Year
 - Edition
 - Title*
- Author:
 - Name
 - Gender
 - Place of birth (Country, County, City)
 - Occupation (Category, Description*)
 - Biographical details*
- Contents:
 - Types of work
 - Divisions of grammar
 - Subsidiary contents
 - Target audience (Age, Gender, Instruction, Specific Purpose)
- Imprint:
 - Place of printing (Country, County, City)
 - Printers*
 - Booksellers*
 - Price
 - Physical description

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Website: User Guidelines

- Aims
- Methodology
- ECEG Database**
- Research
- References
- Contact

Search

(Check out Figure 3 and Figure 4)

To search the database, click on Enter Search Criteria at the top of the page in the Browse layout.

The structure of the Search layout will mirror the Browse layout described above. Simply enter the search criteria into the boxes provided for each field. Users can search a maximum of 10 fields at a time - any 10 fields. A drop-down value list will appear in some fields giving sample values that can be searched for; a 'null' value is also available. (Some tips about operators are provided in the Show Search HELP tool.)

For combined searches (X and Y in the same record), the formula is $X \& Y$

For instance, $\text{-Region} \& \text{-Education}$ in the field 'Occupation' will show all authors whose occupation had something to do with religion AND education.

For multiple searches (either X or Y), the formula is $X|Y$

For instance, $\text{Scotland}|\text{England}$ in the field 'Place of Birth' will show authors who were born either in Scotland or in England.

The number of hits ('search results') will display on the top-right of the page (e.g. 11 records). To view the records, click on Browse Search Results on the menu at the top of the page. Users may download data by clicking on Configure Download from the top menu. The downloadable file can be saved as .csv or .xls (Excel) format. (See Figure 5)

To start a new search, simply click on Clear Search Criteria from the menu at the top of the Search layout. To view the database in full again, click on Return to Browse All.

If you have any queries, do not hesitate to [contact us](#).

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ECEG interfaces

Browse

Search

download

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Browsing ECEG

13 Browsing ECEG

Year Edition Title

Author Contents Imprint Editions References Comments

1783 1 An easy introduction to the arts and sciences: being a short, but comprehensive system of useful and polite learning, divided into lessons, illustrated with cuts and adapted to the use of schools and academies. London: Printed for S. Crowder, No. 14, Paternoster-Row.

Turner, Richard male England, Worcestershire, St Helen's

schoolmaster

reverend doctor

writer (educational writer)

Turner, Richard (bap. 1753, d. 1788).

Jun. of Magdalene Hall, Oxford. Author of An Easy Introduction to Geography (title page).

Source: J. Sheaman and N. Sheaman, 'Turner, Richard (bap. 1753, d. 1788)', Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Oxford University Press, Sept. 2004; online edn, Jan 2008 [http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/27859, accessed 25 March 2008].

Turner, Richard (bap. 1753, d. 1788), educational writer and schoolmaster, was baptised on 26 December 1753 at St Helen's, Worcester, the second surviving son of Richard Turner (bap. 1720, d. 1791), Church of England clergyman and educational writer, and his wife, Sarah Greene (d. 1800). Thomas Turner (bap. 1747, d. 1809), a porcelain manufacturer, was his elder brother.

14 Browsing ECEG – Authors

Name Gender Place of Birth

Turner, Richard male England, Worcestershire, St Helen's

Occupation

Education schoolmaster

Religion reverend doctor

Writing writer (educational writer)

Biographical Details

Turner, Richard (bap. 1753, d. 1788).

Jun. of Magdalene Hall, Oxford. Author of An Easy Introduction to Geography (title page).

Source: J. Sheaman and N. Sheaman, 'Turner, Richard (bap. 1753, d. 1788)', Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Oxford University Press, Sept. 2004; online edn, Jan 2008 [http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/27859, accessed 25 March 2008].

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15 Browsing – Grammar Contents

Divisions of 'Grammar'

Type of Work

Subsidiary contents

Audience

age gender instruction specific

1761 1 The rudiments of English grammar; adapted to the use of schools. London: Printed for R. Griffiths, in the Strand

English Grammar

Rhetorical material

Prose/verse passages

Derivation of words

Verb conjugation/aspect/tense

Style

Target Audience

Age	Gender	Instruction	Specific Purpose
children & advanced	mixed	institutional	non-specified

16 Browsing – Grammar Imprint

Place of Printing (CCC)

printers

booksellers

price

Physical description

1761 1 The rudiments of English grammar; adapted to the use of schools. London: Printed for R. Griffiths, in the Strand

Scotland, Edinburghshire/Midlothian, Edinburgh

printed by Alexander Donaldson and John Reid. For A. Donaldson, Dumfries; and W. Inglis, in Lanark.

and sold at his shops in Edinburgh and London; E. Wilson, in Dumfries; and W. Inglis, in Lanark.

Price

six shillings bound

Physical Description

xxiv, 112 p.; 16 cm. 8^o

17 Browsing – Grammar Editions

edition

1758 1 A compleat introduction to the art of writing letters; universally adapted to all classes and conditions of life; designed not only for the use of youth in general but for every person who would learn to write letters well. [] To which is prefixed, a short but useful grammar of the English language, and an Introduction, containing proper directions how to address persons of rank and eminence. By S. Johnson. London: Printed for Henry Dell, at the Angel and Bible in Great Tower-Street; and J. Staples, opposite Stationer's Hall, near Ludgate Street.

Year	Number	Place	Description
1758	1	London	
1760	2	London	with great additions, improvements
1764	3	London	with the addition of some elegant poetical epistles, and a postscript

year

number

Place (city)

description

18 Browsing – References & Comments

Sources

Libraries

Compilers' Comments

Alton 1965, vol.1

ECCO

Evans

Kennedy 1927

Leonard 1929

Poldauf 1949

Sundry et al. 1991

Albany, New York State Library

Edinburgh, National Library of Scotland

Hartford, Trinity College Library Watkinson Collection

'A compendious grammar of the English tongue' (pp. 1-21). [DNB] Title differs from the announcement on the title page 'a short but useful grammar of the English language'.

Alton (1970:III, part 1, p.62, no.267); [Grammar, pp. 1-21.]

Alton (1970:III, part 1, p.62, no.267); Johnson, [Samuel]. Cited here as Mr S. Johnson.

Michael (1987:491-2); "Alton, III, no.267-268, calls him Samuel, but Hill and Powell, "Boswell's Life of Johnson", V, 553, refer to him by the initial only".

COPAC lists a 3rd edn from London, 1764, held in Glasgow. The item is, however, catalogued as by Samuel Johnson (1709-94), the biographer. [DNB. Mistakenly]

