



# McGraw Hill Encyclopedia of Science & Technology (McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science & Technology (20v.))

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### Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 9 Up. Updating a 20-volume set for a 5-year revision of Science & Technology is a difficult task. When original articles are written by experts in their fields, basic information may remain the same, but it is hoped that some "recent developments" would be added. Updated materials are evidenced in entries such as Asia, climate modeling, geologic thermometry, and global positioning systems. In some sections, such as compact disc, computer graphics, electric-power generation, gravitation, nuclear engineering, and production of human insulin, there are no changes to the text, but the bibliographies have been updated. Entries on acquired immunological tolerance, aircraft design, fingerprinting, industrial trucks, and narcotics have not been updated. There are new entries in this revision, such as climate history, clinical immunology, fullerene, global warming, geographic information systems, object-oriented programming, and nuclear medicine. Some of the entries have been completely rewritten by new authors, such as those on acquired immune deficiency syndrome, aircraft-collision avoidance system, breast disorders, geological time scale, North America, nuclear magnetic resonance, and radiation chemistry. Topics from 1994-1997 yearbooks, such as hanta viruses, are not included in this revision. According to the publishers, 23% of 7100 entries are new or totally revised, 1750 of 13,000 illustrations are entirely new, and 6 color plates are new. This encyclopedia set is recommended for high schools that do not have the 1992 edition. Note: be sure to keep the 1994-1997 yearbooks. P. A. Dolan, Illinois State University, Normal  
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From Library Journal

Known for its tradition of excellence, the McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science & Technology (MEST) sets the standard for science encyclopedias. First published in 1960, MEST serves as an excellent resource for those who need an authoritative overview of a subject within the major disciplines of science and technology. Contributed by 5000 internationally known researchers (1500 more than in the eighth edition), the 7100 articles are well written and well organized. The excellent illustrations, primarily drawings with some black-and-white photographs and color plates, are central to the text. The topical index groups article titles under broad subject categories, while the 500-page analytical index provides more specific indexing. The set is updated every five years, with this edition's comprehensive revisions emphasizing industrial engineering, information technology and computing, chemistry and chemical engineering, physics and astronomy, the biomedical sciences, and the environmental, earth, and climate sciences. The short bibliographies at the end of each article have been revised, and the study guides have been expanded to cover 15 major scientific disciplines such as agriculture, electronics, and environmental science. Aside from this, very little is changed from the eighth edition. Both MEST and the recent Encyclopedia of Physical Science and Technology (EPST) are excellent science encyclopedias and complement each other. Although the sets are comparable in size, EPST has only 790 articles, a difference that results from MEST's breaking up a topic into several individual articles. In contrast, EPST organizes the information into fewer chapter-length articles, making it better suited for self-study. Because MEST has slightly broader coverage and costs about \$1000 less than EPST, most libraries would probably prefer to purchase this set if they have to make a choice. Highly recommended for all libraries. [Access Science, the e-version of this encyclopedia, is available at a price based on an institution's FTE, starting at \$595 for a single user per year.-Ed.]-Teresa Berry, Univ. of Tennessee Libs., Knoxville  
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From [Booklist](#)

It has been 5 years since the publication of the eighth edition of this internationally known encyclopedia and 42 years since the first edition. For students, the general public, and researchers, the *McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science & Technology* has become the most-used general encyclopedia covering science and engineering technology. From its first edition in 1960, its goal has been to provide information that was understandable and authoritative for the general public, secondary school students, undergraduates, and researchers. The principal purpose is stated in the preface: "To provide the widest possible range of articles that will be understandable and useful to any person of modest technical training who wants to obtain information outside his particular field of specialization." It has maintained this goal through the years, with no other science encyclopedia targeting such a wide range of readers.

There are still 20 volumes, printed in double-column format, with good use of white space, excellent illustrations, bibliographies, and a detailed analytical index. The ninth edition contains 7,100 signed articles written by more than 5,000 authors from universities, industry, and government agencies, including 30 Nobel Prize winners. Each article begins with a definition and concise overview of the topic, followed by a discussion, and ends, in most cases, with a brief bibliography. Within the articles there are some 62,000 cross-references to related articles, providing the reader the widest possible access to all related topics. The index volume contains a list of all contributors with their affiliations and the titles of each articles that he or she has written.

Of particular use are the 15 subject study guides that provide a program of study and reference that can be used by educators in secondary schools and colleges. These guides permit an individual to become informed on a particular topic. The topical index is a useful tool that groups the 7,100 articles under 87 major subject categories. Finally, the analytical index provides access to all of the information included in the 19 volumes of text. The color of the line drawings has changed from a lavender tone to a turquoise tone. The color illustrations are the same and excellent. However, the black-and-white photographs were in many cases better and crisper in the eighth edition. The binding should hold up to extreme use.

Though editors state that the encyclopedia has been extensively revised and new entries have been added, the total number of articles is the same as reported in the eighth edition. There is no indication which articles were dropped and which are new. With an encyclopedia covering such a wide range of topics, one cannot expect all articles to be completely rewritten. However, one would expect articles on topics of great interest to the general public to have some revision. The entry for *Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)* has had no revision, even though great advances have been made in the treatment of the disease, and there is no bibliography. In spot-checking other articles, it appears that revisions are minimal. Some articles have had one or two new additions to the bibliography. There has been some expansion on material relating to the human genome, biotechnology, neuroscience, and forensic science. When the total number of articles remains the same, it makes one wonder what was dropped to add the six new entries covering forensic science.

All in all, this is still a highly recommended encyclopedia for general information on science and technology. It is not intended to be the last stop for the latest information on current "hot topics." For libraries on a limited budget, the ninth edition may not be necessary if the eighth edition is owned, especially if a good collection of up-to-date, specialized encyclopedias and dictionaries has been purchased.

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## **Users Review**

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#### **Leonie Blazek:**

The reason why? Because this McGraw Hill Encyclopedia of Science & Technology (McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science & Technology (20v.)) is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap that but latter it will zap you with the secret this inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who all write the book in such wonderful way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book possess such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

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#### **June Ortiz:**

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