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## The changing world of publishing

The following excerpts come from the Declaration on Books in the 1990s, made by the International Publishers Association at its 23rd Congress in London in June 1988, a convention attended by over 650 publishers. These excerpts are not only noteworthy in themselves but draw attention to changes in the perception of what books are, what publishers do, and how new media affect (and help to create) the concept 'work of the mind':

- 'Books express and develop the values and aspirations of society. They are pre-eminent as vehicles for information, the foundation of education and research, and as a source of culture and recreation, serving national development and the enrichment of individual human life . . . Reading and literacy form the basic foundation of civilization. Reading transcends national and cultural barriers. We therefore call upon all concerned to encourage the production and dissemination of books throughout the world.'
- 'It is important to resist sanctions or restrictions on the free flow of books and ideas, based on political acceptability or otherwise of any particular regime.'
- 'The copyright system must provide protection for electronic and similar works of the mind in the same way as for the traditional works, reflecting the fact that normal access to such works will often be to obtain only a short extract of the whole work, and that such access should be protected by copyright.'

- 'There must be a co-ordinated international campaign against the widespread and damaging piracy of works of the mind.'
- 'Publishing today is subject to major technical developments which affect publishing methods and production techniques, and which are creating new forms of cultural products, particularly those based on audiovisual and computer media. These require new investment on which it can be difficult to secure a fair return.'
- 'The particular skills of book publishers are of great relevance in designing information products for new information technologies, and book publishers should ensure that these skills are being used, and that the resources of information technology are not left to be exploited only by high technology companies.'
- 'Inevitably, new technologies, by creating new production and distribution systems, require new standards to ensure the optimum ease of access and distribution. Publishers should therefore give priority to establishing common standards to ensure that a critical mass of published materials is available by common means of access, so that economies of scale and a viable market for a wide range of products available by electronic means can be created.'
- 'To enable texts to be easily available for different forms of exploitation, publishers should use standard forms of generic coding in the text-inputting process, for example the internationally accepted Standard Generalised Markup Language.'

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## Some facts and figures on the OED

Tim Bray, Technical Team Manager of the *New OED* project, was curious about the parts of speech of *OED* headwords. His preliminary analysis reveals that of the *OED* entries approximately 53% are nouns, 23% are adjectives, and 16% are verbs, with the balance made up of other grammatical entities. His calculations also produced 146 suffixes and 85 prefixes. There remains some uncertainty about the noun figure due to the structure of the *OED*. While these

results are tentative, they open up interesting research potentials. Now that the *Supplement* is on line, the project team are able to generate statistics on its size. The four volumes contain about 15 million words and occupy 129 megabytes of on-line storage. There are 69,372 main entries and 44,103 sub-entries supported by 560,415 quotations, and 99,467 cross-references. The total number of main entries in the *OED* and the *Supplement* together is therefore 321,631 with 142,658 sub-entries, 2,421,627 quotations and 574,049 cross-references. The entire work occupies 530 megabytes.