The Oxford English Dictionary

Consider yourself a Scrabble expert or a serious wordsmith? Do you occasionally stumble over an unfamiliar word and wish you had a really good dictionary available? In September the UCF Libraries acquired web-based access to the OED, the Oxford English Dictionary. (http://library.ucf.edu/Databases/)

The web version also includes new words on a quarterly basis. Among the newest words added are bippy, celebutante, bada-bing, Islamophobia, looky-loo, and wonky. The purpose of the OED, other than spelling, definitions, and pronunciation for words in the English language, is to give the context in which the word was first used and continues to be used.

bippy, n. you bet your (sweet) bippy and variants: be assured, certainly; cf. bet v. c. Hence: the buttocks, the backside.

1968 N.Y. Times Mag. 6 Oct. 146/1 [On Rowan and Martin’s Laugh-in] we say things like, ‘You bet your bippy!’ or ‘You bet your osphal!' I’m sure some people attach a dirty connotation to those words. We don’t even know what they mean; they’re just funny. 1999 Los Angeles Times (Electronic ed.) 4 Dec. 1 If the victims had been children of the established residents,...you bet you’re [sic] sweet bippy you would have heard some outcry.

You won’t have to read all the Oxford English Dictionary (OED), but you might like to read this account of how the first edition was compiled during the late 19th century. Dr. W.C. Minor, an American Civil War veteran living in England, provided thousands of entries to the editors. He was actually a certified lunatic living in the Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum.

The Professor and the Madman, a Tale of Murder, Insanity and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary.


http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/housing/ahs/ahs.html

551,000 housing units in the United States DO NOT have a flush toilet.

Reference Books: Online Versions & Excerpts - provides links to some encyclopedias, dictionaries, and other reference resources for which the UCF Libraries provide online access. http://library.ucf.edu/GovDocs/refcallnbr.asp


2,060,000 households in the United States DO NOT have a television set.