

## Comparing world Englishes: a research guide

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**ABSTRACT:** This paper presents a practical research guide to world English, with particular emphasis on comparative studies of varieties of English. Part I is a select bibliography of journal articles, books, and book chapters relating to comparative studies of English dating from 1992 to 2002. Part II lists the journals included in Part I, and includes details such as contact information and frequency of publication. Part III deals with electronic resources. Specifically, it provides information about currently available electronic corpora of contemporary English, together with contact details and ordering information.

### INTRODUCTION

As the papers in this volume amply demonstrate, the comparison of varieties of English has become a major area of academic research. This is partly due to the pioneering work of such scholars as Manfred Görlach, Sidney Greenbaum, and Braj Kachru. The availability of electronic corpora of world Englishes has also contributed very significantly to the recent growth. In the case of the International Corpus of English (ICE), many of the component corpora represent the first ever attempt to compile a database of the national or regional variety.

The literature of world Englishes is well documented in comprehensive bibliographies such as Viereck, Schneider, and Görlach (1984), Görlach (1992), and Glauser, Schneider, and Görlach (1993). The scope of the present research guide is narrower than these general bibliographies. It is specifically concerned with *comparative* studies of varieties of English, and it includes papers in major journals, books, and book chapters, published during the period 1992 to 2002 inclusive. This research guide is selective rather than exhaustive. It is aimed primarily at research students, though established scholars in the field should also find it useful.

Many of the journals included in this research guide provide a table of contents and sometimes abstracts of articles in recent issues, free of charge, via the Internet. Rather than listing each individual website, I would suggest that a web search by title via the name of the journal will generally retrieve the homepage of the relevant journal. While tables of contents are available free of charge, the fulltext electronic version of journals is generally available in one of two ways. For subscribers to the print version of a journal, the electronic version may be included in the price, or – more usually – for an additional charge. If the library in your institution subscribes to the printed version of a journal it is worth checking if the electronic version is also available. Depending on policy, you may be able to get a special password – generally an Athens password – which will allow you to access electronic journals and databases both on-campus and from your home or other location.

While it is important to scan individual journal titles and their contents to keep abreast of the literature, detailed subject or author searches over a period of time can be done

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much more effectively via a range of electronic databases. Two of the key databases consulted in the compilation of this Research Guide are the *MLA* (Modern Language Association) *International Bibliography* and *LLBA* (*Language and Linguistic Behavior Abstracts*). The *MLA International Bibliography* provides indexing and abstracting of critical scholarship in literature, language, linguistics, and folklore. Covering 35,000 journals and other sources, it provides abstracts of journal articles, series, books, dissertations and conference papers. Coverage is from 1963 to the present. A range of indexes allow the user to search by author name, keyword, subject, title, journal name, year of publication and so forth. The major journals in the field of world English are covered in both databases, including *English Language and Linguistics*, *English Studies: A Journal of English Language and Literature*, *English Today: the International Review of the English Language* and *World Englishes*.

While these two databases are key sources for the indexing and abstracting of journal articles in the field of world Englishes, coverage is quite extensive across a range of databases, including *Linguistic Bibliography*, *Linguistics Abstracts*, *Education Abstracts*, *Periodicals Contents Index*, *Social Sciences Citation Index*, *Sociological Abstracts*, *Abstracts of English Studies*, *Arts and Humanities Citation Index*, *Bibliography of English Language and Literature*, and *Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature*.

Searches of library catalogues by author, title, or subject have been greatly enhanced by the development of *COPAC* (<http://www.copac.ac.uk>), which provides free access to the merged catalogues of 22 of the largest research libraries in the UK and Ireland, including the British Library.

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## II. JOURNALS

### *American Speech*

1925-. Quarterly. Duke University  
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### *Arbeiten aus Anglistik und Amerikanistik*

1976-. Two issues per year. Germany: Gunter Narr Verlag  
Text in English and German  
(not refereed)

### *English Journal (EJ)*

1912-. Bi-monthly. Urbana, IL: National Council of Teachers of Education (NCTE)  
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### *English Studies: A Journal of English Language and Literature*

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*English Today: The International Review of the English Language*

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*Language in Society*

1972-. Five times per year. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

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*Studies in the Linguistic Sciences*

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*World Englishes: Journal of English as an International and Intranational Language*

1982-. Four issues per year. Oxford and Malden, MA: Blackwell

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### III. ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

The corpora in the International Corpus of English (Greenbaum, 1996) are available under licence for non-commercial, academic research. For details, see <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/english-usage/ice/index.htm>.

The following ICE corpora are currently available: East Africa (Kenya and Tanzania), Great Britain, India, the Philippines (written component only), New Zealand, and Singapore. The spoken component of the Philippines corpus has also been completed, and will be available soon. Similarly, the Hong Kong corpus has been collected and computerized, and will be available in the near future. For news and updates relating to the ICE corpora, readers are invited to join the ICE Mailing List. To join the Mailing List, go to <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/english-usage/ice/mail.htm>.

All the ICE corpora consist of one million words of spoken and written English dating from the 1990s. They are all lexical corpora, with the exception of the British component (ICE-GB), which has been tagged for parts of speech and syntactically analysed. ICE-GB

is supplied with its own retrieval software, ICECUP (the ICE Corpus Utility Program). For details, see <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/english-usage/index.htm>.

The International Computer Archive of Modern English (ICAME) is a major source of electronic corpora. ICAME distributes a large number of corpora on CD-ROM, including the following:

- Kolhapur Corpus of Indian English
  - Australian Corpus of English (ACE)
  - Wellington Corpus of Written New Zealand English
  - Wellington Corpus of Spoken New Zealand English
- For full details, see <http://www.hd.uib.no/icame.html>.

The 100 million-word British National Corpus (BNC) is accessible online via the following website: <http://www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk/>. For American English, the most up-to-date corpus is the Santa Barbara Corpus of Spoken American English (SBCSAE). See <http://www ldc.upenn.edu/projects/SBCSAE>.

Other major sources of electronic corpora include the Linguistic Data Consortium (LDC) (<http://www ldc.upenn.edu>) and the European Language Resources Association (ELRA) (<http://www.elra.info>).

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