

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9911054605103321
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Titolo	The Making and Meanings of a Computing Reference Work : Exploring the Encyclopedia of Computer Science // by William Aspray, David Hemmendinger
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer Nature Switzerland : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2026
ISBN	3-032-07417-7
Edizione	[1st ed. 2026.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (135 pages)
Collana	SpringerBriefs in History of Computing, , 2662-3013
Disciplina	004.09
Soggetti	Computers - History Literature - History and criticism Computers and civilization Technology - Sociological aspects Education - Data processing Cultural property History of Computing Literary History Computers and Society Science, Technology and Society Computers and Education Cultural Heritage
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	1. An Encyclopedia of Computer Science -- 2. Audience -- 3. Stance and Style -- 4. Content -- 5. The Editorial Process.
Sommario/riassunto	This manuscript is about an artifact, the Encyclopedia of Computer Science (ECS). From the time that computer science was mature enough to have its own reference book until printed reference books began to be eclipsed by online products—that is, roughly the final quarter of the 20th century—ECS was the premiere reference work for this field. A second purpose of this book is to introduce with this important case study a theoretical examination of how one can study the history of a professional field through a deep examination of its reference tools

(encyclopedias, dictionaries, atlases, yearbooks, etc.). To better understand ECS, an examination was conducted on the extensive literature about the history of encyclopedias and then used it to ask probing questions about ECS.
