Using the Oxford English Dictionary

The Oxford English Dictionary (OED Online) is helpful in finding the meanings of words, how the meanings have changed over the years, and examples of how the word has been used in the past. It’s quick and easy.

Go to the library’s website (http://library.cui.edu). On the homepage, click on Oxford English Dictionary in the left hand column under CONNECT ME WITH:

This is the Search Page: Type in the word and click on ‘Find Word.’

The results you see are for the word ‘loquacious.’ The four buttons below the word provide options for various parts of the entry for the word. Following that are references to its use throughout history.

If you misspelled the word, you will see a list of the closest words to your spelling in the left hand column of the information page.

At the bottom of the entry you will see some options. List by date will show you other words that came into usage at the same time. Entry map will show the screen information in a different format. Print and Mail are just that. Help will give you some further direction on using the program. Advanced search is not covered in this brief primer, but online help is available within the program. It can also help you locate the word as used in works by various authors, etc.