MODERN NINE-SQUARES

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Thousands of nine-squares are known to logology, so one of the remaining challenges is to build them from restricted sources. This article discusses building a nine-square using only words and phrases that are in current use. Consider, for example, the following nine-square:

	Webster's Third (1993)	New Shorter Oxford (1993)	Random House Second (1993)	Chambers (1998)	www.google.com counts (6/2001)
DISPACING				X	0
INTONATOR		X		X	294
STORYTIME					79,000
PORIMANIA					0
ANYMOMENT					167,000
CATAMARAN	X	X	X	X	98,000
ITINERATE	X	X	X	X	2,900
NOMINATES	X	X	X	X	49,000
GREATNESS	X	X	X	X	447,000

Two of the words in this square, DISPACING and PORIMANIA, occur in Webster's Second but have no citations on the most complete index of the World Wide Web (Google, which as of June 2001 indexes over 1.3 billion Web pages). These words have fallen out of current use.

	Webster's Third (1993)	New Shorter Oxford (1993)	Random House Second (1993)	Chambers (1998)	www.google.com counts (6/2001)
MATAGALPA	X		X		3,520
ANALYSERS		X		X	30,100
TACKRIVET	X				2,050
ALKIODIDE	X				0
GYROMETER					130
ASIDERITE			X		25
LEVITICAL	X	X	X	X	16,900
PREDETAIL			X		22
ASTERELLA	X				202

However, the word ALKIODIDE has no current citations. The editors of Merriam-Webster report that the last-known use was in 1950 (Chem Abstracts, Vol. 44, No. 5, p 1978). They do not intend to include it in the next edition of the International Dictionary.

Phrases also go out of current use. For example, Webster's Third contains the phrase TRAM CRANE. It can be used in the following nine-square:

	Webster's Third (1993)	New Shorter Oxford (1993)	Random House Second (1993)	Chambers (1998)	www.google.com counts (6/2001)
BEATCOLOR				–	0
EMBRASURE	X	X	X	X	3,420
ABBATICAL		X			120
TRAMCRANE	X				0
CATCHINGS			X	X	266
OSIRIFIES	X				34
LUCANIDAE	X	X			1,260
ORANGEADE	X	X	X	X	2,070
RELESSEES	X				20

Unfortunately, there are no citations for this phrase on the Web, nor any for its companion BEAT COLOR.

Dictionaries allow unusual word formations such as the superlative of the adjective RESTED. This leads to this square:

	Webster's Third (1993)	New Shorter Oxford (1993)	Random House Second (1993)	Chambers (1998)	www.google.com counts (6/2001)
DEATHSTAR				X	56,000
EXTRALINE					16,000
ATHEROMAS	X	X	X	X	4,790
TRENDWEST					100
HARDPASTE	X	X	X	X	1,510
SLOWAHEAD					366
TIMESENSE	X				5,450
ANASTASIS			X	X	4,270
RESTEDEST					0

Unfortunately, this unusual word form cannot be found on the Web and therefore cannot really be considered to be in current use. However, the idea bears fruit with another unusual superlative that is in current use: SELECTEST.

	Webster's Third (1993)	New Shorter Oxford (1993)	Random House Second (1993)	Chambers (1998)	www.google.com counts (6/2001)
ATTITUDES	X	X	X	X	1,500,000
TURNERITE		X			21
TRIFLORAL					13
INFOELITE					329
TELELOGIC					10
UROLOGIST	X	X	X	X	49,000
DIRIGISTE	X	X		X	1,740
ETATISTES		X		X	34
SELECTEST					215

This square contains all words and phrases that are in current use. The word TRIFLORAL is probably not included in dictionaries because its meaning is obvious from its parts.

The phrase INFO ELITE and the word TELELOGIC are presumably too new to have made it into any current dictionary. Here is how one Web author defines TELELOGIC:

Ball-Rokeach and Reardon (1988) conceptualized different types of communication in terms of telelogic communication, defined as communication which involves alternating dialogue between people at a distance who use both conventional and unconventional language and electronic or optical channels. The typology of telelogic communication relationships created by Ball-Rokeach and Reardon (1988) consisted of (1) associational telelogues, (2) debate telelogues, and (3) exchange telelogues.