Maxime Kristanek (ed.), *L'Encyclopédie Philosophique* (URL: https://encyclo-philo.fr)

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The *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, edited by Edward N. Zalta and hosted by Stanford University, is arguably the world's best online open access reference work for philosophy. Now there is a similar product in French, *L'Encyclopédie Philosophique*, edited by Maxime Kristanek. According to the website this is the first online open access academic encyclopedia for philosophy in French.

The editorial structure consists of four groups: the authors of the articles, the reading board composed of members who review the submitted articles and give feedback to the authors, the editorial board who assures that the review process is double blind, and finally the scientific board who advises the editorial board in relation to the choice of articles and authors. Unlike the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, *L'Encyclopédie Philosophique* does not only offer one type of article but two, one for academics (students, researchers, professors) and one for the general public (and in particular high school students). The encyclopedia presently offers some 200 articles on philosophical terms, theories and philosophers, and new articles are published every two months. According to the website an impressive number of over 60000 readers have visited the site.

The idea is without any doubt a good and laudable one: to build an open access encyclopedia of philosophy in French. Such a reference work is particularly helpful for students and researchers working in French, for example in order to get an overview of a particular field in a short time. It is also an important tool for helping to spread the findings of philosophy beyond the limits of the academic field and even beyond academia. It can therefore also be a way of developing the French language.

A cursory reading of some paragraphs of different articles reveals that the quality of the articles is very good. However, there are also some deficiencies in the implementation of the idea. I would like to point out three of them.

First, the website does not mention by whom it is supported financially. It also does not mention any postal address. It seems as if the project was not supported by any institution, neither financially nor structurally. I suppose that this is not the case, and more transparency would be very welcomed.

Second, the idea to distinguish between two types of articles, one for academics and one for the general public, is interesting. But to include the two types of articles for the same term in one and the same encyclopedia forces the reader to decide which one to consult. Without knowledge of the precise contents of both articles it is not possible to make a good choice. One wonders: Is the one for the general public a mere summary, or are some aspects simplified or left out, and do some aspects only appear here? Should one start with the one for the general public and then continue with the other? Or should one start with the one for academics and if need be switch onto the other? To answer such questions and make a good choice one would

need to have a closer look at both articles, if not read them completely. Furthermore, the articles for the general public are quite long. They seem to have a standard length of about 3000 words – this is much longer than in a general encyclopedia. One wonders who would read such a long text who is not already interested in the topic and who would not also be interested in reading the longer and more in depth article (which are on average only about three times the length).

Third, compared to the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, *L'Encyclopédie Philosophique* does not offer the same features. In particular, the following are missing: hyperlinks in the content menu of each article to allow for a direct access to a particular paragraph, links to other internet resources and to related entries, and the possibility to convert the text into a pdf.

I conclude: *L'Encyclopédie Philosophique* implements a very good idea with high quality articles but also has some deficiencies: it lacks editorial and financial transparency, it lacks clarity in regard of the guiding distinction between articles for academics and articles for the general public, and it lacks some features one would expect of an online encyclopedia such as hyperlinks in the content menu and links to other articles and internet resources.