

EEBO search

title keyword 'conversion' (460 hits in 414 records)

An EEBO search with the title keyword 'conversion', limiting the results to 1473 (earliest date available) to 1700, produced 460 hits in 414 records; the first 20 of these records, sorted according to date, have been printed and attached to this report. The following is meant as a short synopsis of the results in lieu of a full print-out.

The **earliest of the records** is *The conuersyon of swerers*, 1509, by Stephen Hawes, "groome of the chambre of our souerigne lorde Kyng Henry the Seuenth," followed by a second edition of the same in 1551.

From 1579 on, we see 'conversion' being used (at least in book titles) mostly in the **religious context** (e.g. *A reproofe, spoken and geeuen-fourth by Abia Nazarenus, against all false Christians, ... their false deuices, punishment, and condemnation together with the conuersion from their abominations and their preseruacion in the godlynes...*, 1579), sometimes using expressions such as 'conversion unto God', 'conversion towards God', 'conversion of the soul', or 'conversion of a sinner'. There are also publications on St. Paul's conversion.

Some **anxiety in the sincerity of religious conversion** is reflected in titles such as Thomas Shepard's *The sincere convert discovering the small number of true beleeuers* (1640, followed by dozens of subsequent editions).

A Robert Greene play in 1592 carries the subtitle "*With the conuersion of an English courtizen, reformed this present yeare.*"¹ This **'moral' dimension** can also be seen in works such as Erasmus's *Seven dialogues both pithie and profitable*, the fourth of which is "of the conversion of a harlot," 1606, or Martin Parker's *The vvhoremongers conuersion, and his exhortation to's worshipfull friend, to leaue haunting whores*, 1629. Touching upon another gender-specific hazard is Sebastien Michaelis's *The admirable history of the posession and conuersion of a penitent woman Seduced by a magician that made her to become a witch...*, 1613.

Other titles suggest a certain amount of fascination with the **conversion of non-Christians** – not only of the Jewish people,² but of the American natives³ and other ethnicities.⁴ John Elias tells the tale of those less successful in their attempts in his *A true and strange relation of the travels, adventures, and*

¹ The full title is *A disputation, betweene a hee conny-catcher, and a shee conny-catcher whether a theefe or a whoore, is most hurtfull in cousonage, to the common-wealth. Discovering the secret villanies of alluring strumpets. With the conuersion of an English courtizen, reformed this present yeare, 1592. R.G. , Imprinted at London : By A. I[effes] for T. G[ubbin] and are to be solde at the west end of Paules, 1592.*

² For example Thomas Cooper, *The blessing of Iapheth prouing the gathering in of the Gentiles, and finall conuersion of the Iewes. Expressed in diuers profitable sermons*, 1615.

³ For example J. Day, *A publication of Guiana's plantation Newly undertaken by the Right Honble. the Earle of Barkshire... Wherein is briefly shewed the lawfulness of plantations in forraine countries; hope of the natives conversion*, 1632.

⁴ See, for instance, Samuel Smith, *the Ethiopian eunuchs conuersion*, 1632, and Jean d'Espagne, *The joyfull convert: represented in a short but elegant sermon preached at the baptizing of a Turke, who renouncing the law of Mahomet...*, 1658.

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great persecution of four eminent Quakers of Glocestershire who in the year 1673 travelled through France, Italy and Turkey, to promote their religion. : Wherein is fully and faithfully declared the designs, endeavours and attempts of these zealous Quakers, for the conversion of the great Turk and the pope ... : also of their voyage to Constantinople, and of their most barbarous cruel and bloody death, 1674. Nevertheless prophecies of “the miraculous conversion of the Turks and Jews to the Christian faith” were published alongside the predictions of the famous astrologer William Lilly.⁵

A number of texts published in 1643 (during the English Civil War), for instance the anonymous *The Cities warning-peece in the malignants description and conversion, or, The round-head turn'd poet where a feast of prose and verse invites curiosity to be nibbling uses*, or John Taylor's *The conversion, confession, contrition, comming to himselfe, & advice, of a mis-led, ill-bred, rebellious round-head which is very fitting to be read to such as weare short haire, and long eares, or desire eares long*, refer to not just spiritual but also **political conversion**.

We do also witness the use of the **legal term 'trover and conversion'** in William Sheppard's *Actions upon the case for deeds viz. contracts, assumpsits, deceipts, nusances, trover and conversion, delivery of goods, and for other male-feasance and mis-feasance : collected out of the many great volumes of law already extant...*, 1675, as well as in the anonymous *A Treatise of trover and conversion wherein the true notion of that action is stated, with the differences from other actions of the like nature, and in what cases the said action properly lies...*, 1696.

Further searches in EEBO using the **keyword 'conversion' combined with a subject** (i.e. alchemy, mathematics, geometry, astronomy) were conducted, although we do need to bear in mind that not all the EEBO texts are text-searchable. They are meant to mostly highlight the non-religious uses of the term, e.g. the conversion of one substance into another, conversion of propositions in Euclid, etc.

Below are some **selections** from these; the entry numbers refer to the EEBO results list sorted by date (full results are not included but can be replicated by using the same search parameters).

⁵ *The great and wonderful predictions of that late famous astrologer Mr. Lilly; and Mr. Partridg and Mr. Coley, concerning this present year 1683 To which is added a true and faithful account of the famous prophecies of the three German prophets; predicting and foretelling, some years since, this present invasion of the Turks into the empire of Germany and Hungary, with the events of the same, to the admiration of all that shall hear or read the same. Also their strange and wonderful predictions concerning the Pope, and the King of France: with the total and sudden destruction of the papal power; and the miraculous conversion of the Turks and Jews to the Christian faith. As also presaging the uniting of all religions into one visible church. Which prophecies have been had in esteem by many famous and illustrious persons of these times, 1683.*

EEBO search, keyword 'conversion', subject 'alchemy' (88 hits in 18 records)




Some samples:

1. Bacon, Roger, 1214?-1294.

The mirror of alchimy, composed by the thrice-famous and learned fryer, Roger Bachon, sometimes fellow of Martin Colledge: and afterwards of Brasen-nose Colledge in Oxenforde. Also a most excellent and learned discourse of the admirable force and efficacie of art and nature, written by the same author. With certaine other treatises of the like argument, London : Printed [by Thomas Creede] for Richard Oliue, 1597.

Date: 1597

Bib name / number: STC (2nd ed.) / 1182

...properties , and after the  conuersion of their natures : and...
...vnlesse it be after the  conuersion of theyr natures , and...
...53 CHAP. XVI. The  conuersion of the foresaid Stone into..

2. Basilius Valentinus.

Basil Valentine his Triumphant chariot of antimony with annotations of Theodore Kirkringius, M.D. : with the true book of the learned Synesius, a Greek abbot, taken out of the Emperour's library, concerning the philosopher's stone., London : Printed for Dorman Newman ..., 1678.

Date: 1678

Bib name / number: Wing / B1023

Bib name / number: Arber's Term cat. / I 310

...after our Death, such a  Conversion of Things and Men (...)

4. Du Chesne, Joseph, ca. 1544-1609.

A breefe aunswere of Iosephus Quercetanus Armeniacus, Doctor of Phisick, to the exposition of Iacobus Aubertus Vindonis, concerning the original, and causes of mettalles Set foorth against chimists. ... , At London : Printed [by R. Robinson?], anno. Dom. 1591.

Date: 1591

Bib name / number: STC (2nd ed.) / 7275

...stone. I answere , this  conuersion of mettalles is the reducing...

6. Glauber, Johann Rudolf, 1604-1670.

A description of new philosophical furnaces, or A new art of distilling, divided into five parts. Whereunto is added a description of the tincture of gold, or the true aurum potable; also, the first part of the mineral work. Set forth and published for the sakes of them that are studious of the truth. / By John Rudolph Glauber. Set forth in English, by J.F. D.M., London : Printed by Richard Coats, for Tho: Williams, at the signe of the Bible in Little-Britain, 1651.

Date: 1651

Bib name / number: Wing (2nd ed.) / G846

Bib name / number: Thomason / E.649[3]

EEBO search, keyword 'conversion', subject 'alchemy' (88 hits in 18 records)

Some samples:

...thou dost not beleeeve the conversion of things materiall 310 ...
...how wilt thou beleeeve the conversion of things immateriall , as...
...But thou sayst that the conversion of honey into sugar is...
...in sweetness, but not the conversion of it into Tartar, because...
...the good together, and a conversion of it in|to litharge ,...

8. L. C.

Fundamenta chymica: or, A sure guide into the high and rare mysteries of alchymie; L.C. Philmedico Chymicus. , London : Printed by William Godbid, for William Barlow ..., 1658.

Date: 1658

Bib name / number: Wing (2nd ed.) / C5436A

...54 Chap. 2 Of the conversion of the Spirit into Earth;...
...67 CHAP. 2. Of the conversion of this Spirit into Earth;...
...be perceived , but by conversion of mor perfect Bodies into...
...But I aver, That this conversion cannot be effected , save...
... conversion, ...

15. Ripley, George, d. 1490?

The compound of alchymy. Or The ancient hidden art of archemie conteining the right & perfectest meanes to make the philosophers stone, aurum potable, with other excellent experiments. Diuided into twelue gates.... Set forth by Raph Rabbards Gentleman, studious and expert in archemicall artes. , London : Imprinted by Thomas Orwin, 1591.

Date: 1591

Bib name / number: STC (2nd ed.) / 21057

...furthermore, the preparation of this conuersion : From thing to thing,...
...in water existent, And this conuersion accordeth to our intent. Then...
..., Which is in fire, conuersion true is this. The wheele...

18. Webster, John, 1610-1682.

Metallographia, or, A history of metals wherein is declared the signs of ores and minerals both before and after digging ... : as also, the handling and shewing of their vegetability ... : gathered forth of the most approved authors that have written in Greek, Latine, or High-Dutch ... / by John Webster ... , London : Printed for A.C. for Walter Kettilby ..., MDCLXXI [1671]

Date: 1671

Bib name / number: Wing / W1231

...Minerals are generated be|fore this conversion into Water. But there is...
...that is bred before the conversion of the exhalation into Water,...

EEBO search, keyword 'conversion', subject 'mathematics' (22 hits in 5 records)

Some samples:

2. Moxon, Joseph, 1627-1691.

Mathematicks made easy, or, A mathematical dictionary explaining the terms of art and difficult phrases used in arithmetick, geometry, astronomy, astrology, and other mathematical sciences wherein the true meaning of the word is rendred, the nature of things signified discussed, and (where need requires) illustrated with apt figures and diagrams : with an appendix exactly containing the quantities of all sorts of weights and measures, the characters and meaning of the marks, symbols, or abbreviations commonly used in algebra and sundry other observables / by Joseph Moxon. , London : Printed for J. Moxon, 1679.

Date: 1679

Bib name / number: Wing / M3006

...a Tail; be|cause in the Conversion of the World, these Cir|cles...
...probably , that the Diurnal Conversion of the World, is not...
...Tropè a Greek word signifying Conversion, or Returning , whence the...
...[from the Gr. Tropè a Conversion or Turning] Two lesser...

3. Newton, John, 1622-1678.

Institutio mathematica, or, A mathematical institution shewing the construction and use of the naturall and artificiall sines, tangents, and secants in decimal numbers, and also of the table of logarithms in the general solution of any triangle, whether plain or spherical, with their more particular application in astronomie, dialling, and navigation / by John Newton. , London : Printed by R. & W. Leybourn, for George Hurlock ... and Robert Boydel ..., 1654.

Date: 1654

Bib name / number: Wing / N1061

.... 15. §. In the conversion whereof Mr. Briggs in his...
...Semicircle, being ta|ken in each conversion. It will be necessary to...
...recliners , and after this conversion, let the hours on the...

4. Wallis, John, 1616-1703.

Due correction for Mr Hobbes· Or Schoole discipline, for not saying his lessons right. In answer to his Six lessons, directed to the professors of mathematicks. / By the professor of geometry. , Oxford, : Printed by Leonard Lichfield printer to the University for Tho: Robinson., 1656.

Date: 1656

Bib name / number: Wing (2nd ed.) / W576

Bib name / number: Madan, III, 2315. /

Bib name / number: Thomason / E.1577[1]

...2 to 1) also, by conversion, the first to the second...

EEBO search, keyword 'conversion', subject 'geometry' (85 hits in 8 records)

Some samples:

1. Digges, Leonard, d. 1571?

A geometrical practise, named Pantometria diuided into three bookes, longimetra, planimetra, and stereometria, containing rules manifolde for mensuration of all lines, superficies and solides: with sundry straunge conclusions both by instrument and without, and also by perspectiue glasses, to set forth the true description or exact plat of an whole region..., Imprinted at London : By Henrie Bynneman, Anno. 1571.

Date: 1571

Bib name / number: STC (2nd ed.) / 6858

...expressed , so that by  conuersion of the proportions there founde...

2. Euclid.

The elements of geometrie of the most auncient philosopher Euclide of Megara. Faithfully (now first) translated into the Englishe tounge, by H. Billingsley, citizen of London. Whereunto are annexed certaine scholies, annotations, and inuentions, of the best mathematiciens, both of time past, and in this our age. With a very fruitfull praeface made by M. I. Dee, specifying the chiefe mathematicall scie[n]ces, what they are, and wherunto commodious..., Imprinted at London : By Iohn Daye, [1570 (3 Feb.)]

Date: 1570

Bib name / number: STC (2nd ed.) / 10560

Bib name / number: Thomas-Stanford, C. Early eds. of Euclid's Elements, 41. /

...chiefest and proper kind of  conuersion

...Geometrie is o tentimes vsed  conuersion of propositions . As this...

...and most pro|per kind of  conuersion is , when that which...

...is the chiefe kind of  conuersion vniforme and certayne . 16...

...is an other kind of  conuersion , but not so full...


6. Ramus, Petrus, 1515-1572.


Via regia ad geometriam. = The vway to geometry Being necessary and usefull, for astronomers. Geographers. Land-meaters. Sea-men. Engineres. Architecks. Carpenters. Paynters. Carvers, &c. Written in Latine by Peter Ramus, and now translated and much enlarged by the learned Mr. William Bedvvell. , London : Printed by Thomas Cotes, and are to be sold by Michael Sparke; at the Blew Bible in Greene Arbour, 1636.


Date: 1636


Bib name / number: STC (2nd ed.) / 15251

...made : How by a  conuersion, a Circle, Spheare , Cone,...

...and Cylinder. Therefore in the  conuersion or turning about of a...

...a plaine onely may that  conuersion or turning about of a...

...Spheare is made by the  conuersion of a semi|circle, the diameter...

...same spheare , by the  conuersion of a semicircle having for...

EEBO search, keyword 'conversion', subject 'astronomy' (51 hits in 9 records)

Some samples:

2. Castlemaine, Roger Palmer, Earl of, 1634-1705.

The English globe being a stabil and immobil one, performing what the ordinary globes do, and much more... London : Printed for Joseph Moxon ..., 1679.

Date: 1679

Bib name / number: Wing / C1242

...Projection, but, by the bare  conversion of the Terms , the...

3. Collins, John, 1625-1683.

The sector on a quadrant, or A treatise containing the description and use of four several quadrants... Each of them accomodated for dyalling; for the resolving of all proportions instrumentally ..., London : printed by J.M. for George Hurlock..., 1659.

Date: 1659

Bib name / number: Wing (2nd ed., 1994) / C5382


...Sines; but the like mutual  conversion of the Sines into Tangents...

4. Galilei, Galileo, 1564-1642.

Systema cosmicum autore Galilaeo Galilaei ... in quo quatuor dialogis, de duobus maximis mundi systematibus, Ptolemaico & Copernicano, utriusque rationibus philosophicis ac naturalibus indefinitè propositis, differitur..., Londini : Prostat voenale apud Thomam Dicas ..., 1663.

Date: 1663

Bib name / number: Wing / G168

...dissolvi possint unica circa Solem  conversione , quae minimum uno mense...

...Terrae putatur argu|mentum. Nam si  conversione diurna rotaretur Turris, cujus è...

...quomodo iuter multiplices hasce regyraciones  conversione ter|rae non excidant, quoque modo...

...esse: & si ab universali  conversione dese|rentur, tanto intervallo retrò cederent,...

...partem negativam prae af|firmativa, de  conversione terrae productas. Restat jam instantia,...

6. Manilius, Marcus

The sphere of Marcus Manilius made an English poem with annotations and an astronomical appendix / by Edward Sherburne, Esquire. , London : Printed for Nathanael Brooke ..., 1675.

Date: 1675

Bib name / number: Wing / M432

Bib name / number: Arber's Term cat. / I 196

...by one and the same  Conversion, it is whirl'd and turn'd...

...e. Umbilicus; for by its  Conversion is made a small Circle,...

...of the Mo|ti n and  Conversion of the Heavens , Sun,...