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Disclaimer:

This pathfinder contains suggested materials on robots and robotics that are available at the College of Engineering Library II. However, some references were not included.

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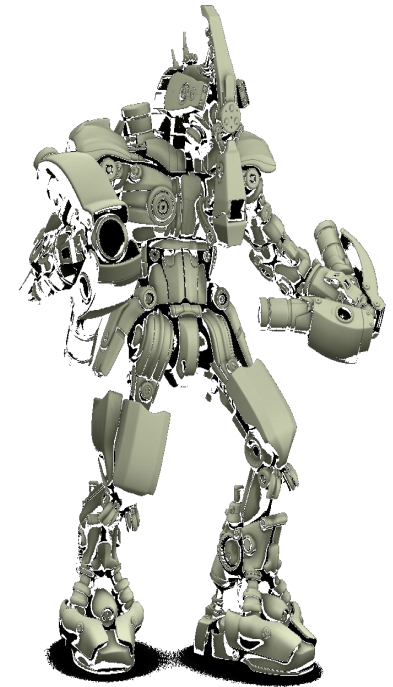


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ROBOTICS

PATHFINDER



ROBOTICS

- The science or study of the technology associated with the design, fabrication, theory, and application of robots.
- A field of engineering concerned with the development and application of robots, and computer systems for their control, sensory feedback, and information processing. The many types of robotic systems include robotic manipulators, robotic hands, mobile robots, walking robots, aids for disabled persons, telerobots, and microelectromechanical systems.

Source: Sci-Tech Encyclopedia *McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology, 5th ed. published by The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.* (<http://www.answers.com/topic/robotics>)

WORD HISTORY

Robot is a word that is both a coinage by an individual person and a borrowing. It has been in English since 1923 when the Czech writer **Karel Čapek's** play *R.U.R.* was translated into English and presented in London and New York. *R.U.R.*, published in 1921, is an abbreviation of Rossum's Universal Robots; **robot** itself comes from Czech **robota**, "servitude, forced labor," from **rab**, "slave." The Slavic root behind **robota** is orb-, from the Indo-European root *orbh-, referring to separation from one's group or passing out of one sphere of ownership into another. This seems to be the sense that binds together its somewhat diverse group of derivatives, which includes Greek orphanos, "orphan," Latin orbus, "orphaned," and German Erbe, "inheritance," in addition to the Slavic word for slave mentioned above. Czech robota is also similar to another German derivative of this root, namely Arbeit, "work" (its Middle High German form arabeit is even more like the Czech word). Arbeit may be descended from a word that meant "slave labor," and later generalized to just "labor."

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