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Rise and fall of words

The word Omega appears largely in science or religion related books, as well as science-fiction books through much of the period analyzed. Around the early 2000s we started seeing military fiction novels about spec-ops units called “omega force”. There’s a strangely large amount of these novels about military units called omega force in the early 2000s. The use of the word in books spikes significantly at this time according to google ngrams. The word began to rise in the 1960s, and saw a similar spike in the 1980s. Perhaps these were science fiction books which grew in popularity around this time and which co-opted the Greek alphabet to sound more futuristic, similar to the word’s use in military fiction. Advances in science over time could also help explain the exponential increase in the word’s appearance. The term’s popularity peaks around 2012 and begins to fall shortly after. Around 2012 the appearance of smut novels using the term Omega also showed up. Strangely enough, one of these novels [fell before a federal judge](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/23/business/omegaverse-erotica-copyright.html) around this time as well. I like to imagine the data partly reflects members of the judiciary doing research for this case and having to dive into the terminology behind this strange wolf-kink erotica.

<https://books.google.com/ngrams/graph?content=omega&year_start=1800&year_end=2019&corpus=26&smoothing=3&direct_url=t1%3B%2Comega%3B%2Cc0#t1%3B%2Comega%3B%2Cc1>

Unauthorized fictional writing, set in or based on copyrighted material and typically authored by amateur writers, fanfiction seems to be on the decline. When Harry Potter was first released it likely wasn’t uncommon for fans to picture themselves in the Novels’ world, imagining what house they’d be sorted into and weaving head-canons around them. According to google trends, “Fanfiction”, these nerd-dreams published online, do not appear in any meaningful way until 2010. The term spikes in 2014 and begins to drop off after 2016. This may signify the growth of this type of literature alongside the growth of social media as well as a subsequent correction as courts grapple with intellectual property laws in the digital age. Literature of this kind likely existed prior, but the continued growth of the internet provided a platform to put this material online. One caveat rest in the fact that google made a change to its data collection around 2016 which could explain the decrease in searches. The most popularity for this term appeared in West Virginia followed by Kentucky and Arkansas. Related searches involve Twilight and the Percy Jackson series. Both of these series were published in 2005, five years before the spike in popularity for this term.

<https://trends.google.com/trends/explore?date=all&geo=US&q=fanfiction>