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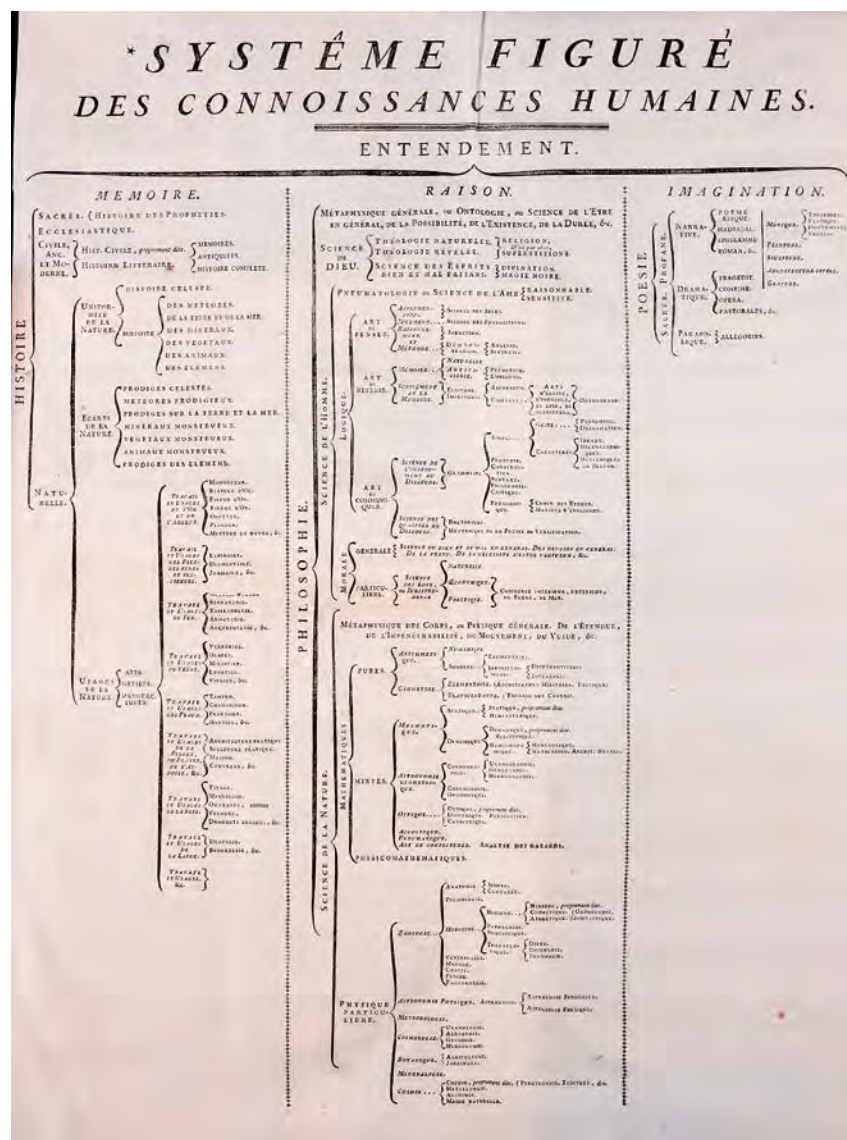
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Figurative System of Human Knowledge

edited by Denis Diderot and Jean le Rond d'Alembert

Diderot and d'Alembert, French Enlightenment intellectuals, wrote and published the first *Encyclopedia*. It was a book containing knowledge of all subjects that would be constantly updated with learning in all subjects from many countries. This page shows an image ("figure") of their theory about what the concept of knowledge meant in all its abundant forms. Like a "taxonomy" in science, the diagram below sets out to sort all types of knowledge into progressively more detailed groups and classifications.

Primary Source:



Citation: "Figurative System of Human Knowledge," in *Encyclopedia, or a Systematic Dictionary of the Sciences, Arts, and Crafts*, eds. Denis Diderot and Jean le Rond d'Alembert (Paris: André le Breton, Michel-Antoine David, Laurent Durand, and Antoine-Claude Briasson, 1751), n.p.