Dibs

"I got dibs!" a customer announces gaily as she flings her arms around what she proclaims as her selection at the car dealership.

"Oh yeah..." another customer smiles, "I got dibs." He reclines on the footstep to an SUV in the same lot of cars.

Hysteria ensues, and all the customers at this particular car dealership run from vehicle to vehicle, stating their "dibs" on whichever suits their tastes, needs, and spontaneity.

Many brands of vehicles are being sold at the "employee discount" rate. Above I've described my favorite commercial of the lot, which happens to be for Saturn, a branch of GM. I've seen Ford, Chrysler (both also GM), Chevrolet, and even Hummer offering such deals. Evidently this is a step to help sales.

But what has my mind cranked into motion is from the above dialogue: what is "dibs" anyway?

I started thinking if there were any root words. For example, in the same way that "stats" is slang for "statistics." I came up with nothing.

Can you just call "dib" on something, rather than the plural "dibs"? Can you place dibs, call dibs, lay dibs, make dibs? Are there sizes of dibs? Will there be physical dibs? He/she/it has dibs. We/they have dibs. How would you translate this into another language?
And so, I turned to the internet.

*Dictionary.com* identifies it as slang, but it is clearly recognizable in the English language today. "Dibs" formerly referred to money and “dibstones,” which were counters used in a children’s game.

I'm a strong believer in knowing what words mean in order to use them, rather than just going along with the general consensus (i.e. use of the word "ignorant" to mean rude or obnoxious instead of uninformed).

So think about that... do you have dibs?