

## Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center Content/Indexing Issues

In July 2005, the CCL-EAR Committee undertook a brief study to compare the Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center (OVRC) with its print counterpart, *Opposing Viewpoints Series*. The primary purpose of the print series is to provide readers with paired pro and con essays on a wide variety of topics.\* However, this purpose is somewhat impaired in OVRC for two main reasons: one concerns content; the other indexing and hyperlinking.

1) Some essays found in the print volumes were not found in the database. Often, only one of the two-paired essays found in a print volume will appear; however, in at least one case, neither was found. Is OVRC supposed to include all of the content in the print series?

Examples:

A. "Multiple genders" as keyword pulls up:

"The Idea of Multiple Genders Is Wrong" by Leonard Sax. *Male/Female Roles*. 2005.

But does not pull up:

"The Idea of Multiple Genders Must Be Accepted" by Anne Fausto-Sterling. *Male/Female Roles*. 2005.

B. "Feminism" as subject pulls up:

"Women Should Reject Feminism" by Resa LaRu Kirkland. *Male/Female Roles*. 2005.

But does not pull up:

"Women Should Embrace Feminism" by Katha Pollitt. *Male/Female Roles*. 2005.

C. "Twelve-Step" as keyword and as a subject pulls up:

"Twelve-Step Programs Are an Effective Treatment for Addiction" by Krista Conger. *Addiction*. 2004.

But does not pull up:

"Twelve-Step Programs are Inadequate to Treat Addiction" by Maia Szalavitz. *Addiction*. 2004.

D. "Internet Gambling" as keyword pulls up:

"Internet Gambling Should Be Banned" by Richard Blumenthal. *Addiction*. 2004.

But does not pull up:

"Internet Gambling Should Not Be Banned" by Fred E. Foldvary. *Addiction*. 2004.

E. "Public Surveillance" as keyword pulls up:

"Public Surveillance Cameras Violate Privacy Rights" by Barry Steinhardt. *Civil Liberties*. 2004.

But does not pull up:

Public Surveillance Cameras Can Be Beneficial” by Eugene Volokh. *Civil Liberties*. 2004.

F. “Ten Commandments” as subject pulls up:  
"The Ten Commandments Should Not Be Posted in Public Areas" by Barbara Dority. *Civil Liberties*. 2004.

But does not pull up:  
“The Ten Commandments Should Be Posted in Public Areas” by Janet Parshall. *Civil Liberties*. 2004

G. “Gun Control” as subject pulls up:  
"Most Gun Control Laws Are Ineffective" by James B. Jacobs. *Crime and Criminals*. 2004.

But does not pull up:  
“Gun Control Laws Can Reduce Violent Crime” by Garen Wintemute. *Crime and Criminals*. 2004.

H. “Entertainment and Censorship” as keyword pulls up:  
"The Entertainment Industry Should Be Censored" by David Lowenthal. *Censorship*. 2002.

But does not pull up:  
“The Entertainment Industry Should Not Be Censored” by Virginia Postrel. *Censorship*. 2002.

I. “Prison System” as keyword pulls up neither:  
“America’s Prison System Needs to Be Reformed” by The Economist. *Crime and Criminals*. 2004.

“America’s Prison System Is Effective at Controlling Crime” by Jeff Jacoby. *Crime and Criminals*. 2004.

2) Sometimes a subject search will find one of the paired essays but not the other. By searching with the author’s name the “missing” essay can be found.

Examples:

A. “Feminism” as subject pulls up:  
"Men Are Not Experiencing a Masculinity Crisis" by Deborah Orr. *Male/Female Roles*. 2005.

But does not pull up:  
“Men Are Experiencing a Masculinity Crisis” by Lionel Tiger. *Male/Female Roles*. 2005.

B. "Working mothers" as subject pulls up:  
"Women Should Not Be Encouraged to Be Stay-at-Home Mothers" by Reed Karaim.  
*Male/Female Roles*. 2005.

But does not pull up:  
"Women Should Be Encouraged to Be Stay-at-Home Mothers" by Sibyl Niemann.  
*Male/Female Roles*. 2005.

One solution to this problem would be to have each essay include a hyperlink to its mate. This would alleviate problems with indexing. In addition, for some topics in OVRC, the results list can be quite lengthy. Unless the essays' titles happen to start with the same words it can be difficult to find the pairs. Hyperlinks between the paired essays would solve this issue, as well.

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\* It should be noted that while OVRC includes the *Opposing Viewpoints Series*, it also provides access to reference articles, statistics, full-text articles from periodicals, images, primary documents, and websites. As such, it is not simply an online version of the print series; nonetheless, the essays constitute the heart of this database.