

**CCL-EAR COMMITTEE REVIEW
LITERATURE DATABASES CONTENT ANALYSIS
DECEMBER, 2006**

In December 2006, selected members of the Council of Chief Librarians, Electronic Access to Resources Committee (CCL-EAR) undertook a hands-on comparative study of the contents of three major literature databases: Ebsco Literary Reference Center, Gale Literature Resource Center, and Proquest Literature Online.

Each reviewer independently, or in concert with other qualified professionals on their campus library staff, reviewed and evaluated these databases. Though other faculty and/or staff may have helped in the review process, completion of the form was by the CCL-EAR committee member only and not transferred to another.

Each of the three literature databases under consideration includes periodical content and content from monographs and monographic series. Gale Literature Resource Center and Proquest Literature Online also include website links. The Proquest product includes a substantial amount of primary source material (poetry, prose and drama) and the Gale and EBSCO products include some source material derived from literary magazines, with EBSCO having some monographic source materials as well, mostly supporting British authors.

Here is data from Serials Solutions showing the number of journal titles and the overlap between coverage between the three products. In the Ebsco LRC, there are 311 serial titles, in Proquest LION there are 193, and in Thomson Gale LRC there are 278 titles. As indicated, there is about a 50% overlap in the journal coverage of the three titles.

Serials Solutions Overlap Analysis Results, December 2006

Database	Unique Titles	Overlap Titles	Total Titles	Percent Unique
Ebsco Literary Reference Center (LRC)	184	127	311	59.2
Proquest Literature Online (LION)	79	114	193	40.9
Gale Literature Resource Center (LRC)	136	142	278	48.9

Definitions

- Unique Titles: Journal holdings available in only one database
Overlap Titles: Journal holdings available in more than one database (counted each time the holding appears across all databases in the collection)
Total Titles: The sum of unique and overlap holdings

Ebsco Literary Reference Center

Content Analysis

General database information can be found at:

<http://www.epnet.com/thisTopic.php?marketID=1&topicID=548>

Complete title list of 1430 titles of journals and books, some multiple volumes, can be found at:

<http://www.epnet.com/titleLists/lf-coverage.xls>

PRINT REFERENCE BOOKS: 966 Titles, some multiple volumes. Some are:

1. 490 titles from Harold Bloom's BioCritiques, Guides, Major Dramatists, Modern Critical Interpretations, Modern Critical Views, Notes, and Period Studies. Some of the chapters in these titles are indexed and abstracted only.
2. All of the titles in the database MagillOnLiterature including Masterplots, Literary Annuals (1990-2004), and Critical Surveys of...
3. 236 titles from Taylor & Francis Ltd. covering British literature, such as D. H. Lawrence, English Novel in History 1700-1780, James Joyce, Shakespeare and Modernity.
4. 21 titles from Peter Lang Publishing Inc, such as (Underground) Railroad in African American Literature.
5. 16 M.E. Sharpe titles, such as Archetypes and Motifs in Folklore and Literature, Introduction to Classical Korean Literature.
6. Oxford Illustrated History of English Literature
7. Handbook of African American Literature
8. Continuum Encyclopedia of American Literature
9. Columbia Companion to the Twentieth-Century Short Story
10. Continuum Encyclopedia of American Literature
11. Continuum Encyclopedia of British Literature
12. Continuum Encyclopedia of Children's Literature
13. The New Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics
14. Beacham's Research Guide to Biography and Criticism (six volumes)
15. The Literary Encyclopedia

PERIODICALS

1. 240 academic journals, including ATQ (1990-date), Critique (1974-date), Explicator (1976-date), Hispanic Review (1990-date), Journal of Victorian Culture, Joyce Studies Annual, MELUS, Modern Language Quarterly, and Sewanee Review.
2. 79 magazines, including Atlantic (2004-date), Booklist (2002-date), Fantasy & Science Fiction (1994-date), Kenyon Review (1974-date), New Yorker (2004-date).
3. Of the 12 basic literature titles recommended in *Magazines for Libraries*, 5 are in EBSCO's LRC:

- a. American Literature (1929- with 12 month embargo)
 - b. Contemporary Literature (1975- with 12 month embargo)
 - c. The Review of Contemporary Fiction (1993-)
 - d. Studies in English Literature 1500-1900 (1975-1998)
 - e. Victorian Studies (1974-).
4. Some backfiles date from 1929 or 1974, but many are in the 90's and 2000's.

Besides primary literature (poems, stories) found in the journals that are indexed, EBSCO's LRC also includes some monographic primary sources, with an emphasis on the British authors. Sample titles are:

Alexander Pope: Selected Poetry and Prose
British Folk Tales and Legends
Canterville Ghost, by Oscar Wilde
Dante's Comedy: The Inferno
Hound of Heaven and Other Poems, by Francis Thompson
Four Plays, by Moliere
The Rape of the Lock, by Alexander Pope
Rubayat of Omar Kayam
Russian Animal Tales
Russian Legends
Salome, by Oscar Wilde
Sea Gull, by Chekhov

WEBSITES

No websites are recommended.

OTHER REVIEWS OF EBSCO LITERARY REFERENCE CENTER

LaGuardia, Cheryl. "E-Views and Reviews: Literary Luminescence." Review of Literary Reference Center. *Library Journal* 1 Oct. 2006:25. Academic Search Premier. EBSCO. Citrus College Lib., Glendora, CA. 27 Nov 2006 <<http://www.epnet.com>>.

Charnley, Marie. "Subscription Web: Literary Reference Center." Review of Literary Reference Center. *Library Media Connection* Oct 2006: 92. Academic Search Premier. EBSCO. Citrus College Lib., Glendora, CA. 27 Nov 2006 <<http://www.epnet.com>>.

Brisco, Shonda. "Find Me the Money: Literary Reference Center." Review of Literary Reference Center. *School Library Journal* July 2006: 64-65. Academic Search Premier. EBSCO. Citrus College Lib., Glendora, CA. 27 Nov 2006 <<http://www.epnet.com>>.

Gale Literature Resource Center (LRC) Content Analysis

General database information can be found at:

<http://www.gale.com/LitRC/>

Complete content information can be found at:

http://www.gale.com/title_lists/

I. Print Reference Books

For major Gale literary criticism sets (eg/ Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism, Shakespearean Criticism), newer volumes' content ranges from 50%-92%; the content of older volumes includes "limited selections on most-studied authors." The most-studied authors list is included on the first website listed above.

All of Contemporary Authors is included (except some photographs). For Contemporary Authors New Revisions Series, the most recent and complete author's entry is included. For both sets, the electronic version is more up to date than the print.

For the Dictionary of Literary Biography, everything is included except images, yearbooks, and the Documentary Series.

Includes selected essays from other reference works, including St. James Press titles.

II. Periodicals

LRC includes access to 280 periodical titles. Of these, 56 titles (20%) are no longer having new content added; another 13 titles (5%) appear to have an embargo on the most recent issues. Backfiles for 274 titles (98%) begin in the 1990s or later.

LRC's periodical content was compared to recommended titles listed in *Magazines for Libraries*. 51 titles found in LRC are listed in this publication. Of the 12 basic literature titles listed in *Magazines for Libraries*, 6 are in LRC:

- Contemporary Literature (1992-1999)
- Essays in Criticism (1997-1998)
- Review of Contemporary Fiction (1993-)
- Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900 (1993-)
- Victorian Studies (1993-)
- World Literature Today (1994-)

Of the 13 basic literary review titles listed, 3 are in LRC:

- Kenyon Review (2001-)
- Prairie Schooner (2001-)
- Triquarterly (1992-)

III. Websites

Under the additional resources section of LRC, websites are included if available. This statement is included under the list of websites:

Each website included in the Literature Resource Center was reviewed and selected by a team of Internet researchers using specific editorial criteria. Chief among these criteria is the presence of substantive biographical, bibliographical, and critical information about the author; hyperlinks from the website to related authors and/or literary topics; and the update frequency of the website.

Proquest Literature Online (LION)

Content Analysis

Chadwyck-Healey is the provider for Proquest's Literature Online (LION) and the database is served from a Chadwyck-Healey URL.

Literature Online includes more than 350,000 works of poetry, prose and drama; 174 journals; several complete reference books; 794 poetry video clips; 230 student guides; and 5,250 selected web sites.

Literature Online is available in a lower-cost version, Literature Online Reference that does not include the primary source material content (poetry, prose and drama). For a higher cost, additional content modules can be added to Literature Online, such as the MLA International Bibliography and other subject content.

General database information and content summary can be found at:

http://www.il.proquest.com/products_pq/descriptions/literature_online.shtml

The Literature Online journal title list is available here:

http://lion.chadwyck.co.uk/infoCentre/journal_info.xls

Literature Online contains electronic versions of the following print reference works:

A Shakespeare Glossary (compiled by C. T. Onions, rev. and enl. by Robert D. Eagleson)

Columbia Dictionary of Modern Literary and Cultural Criticism (Columbia University Press, 1995)

Concise Oxford Dictionary (10th ed.)

Concise Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms (Oxford University Press, 1990)

Encyclopedia of American Poetry: The Nineteenth Century (Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 1998)

Encyclopedia of Post-Colonial Literatures in English (Routledge, 1994)

Encyclopedia of the Novel (Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 1998)

King James Bible

New Essays on the American Novel (Cambridge University Press, 38 volumes)

New Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics (Princeton University Press, 1993)

The Columbia Companion to the Twentieth-Century American Short Story

(Columbia University Press, 2001)

The Columbia Dictionary of Modern European Literature (Columbia University

Press, 1980)

Webster's Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged

The Modern Humanities Research Association's The Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature (ABELL), the British index of literary criticism, is a key component of Literature Online. It contains over 880,000 records of literary criticism from 1920 to current.

Other content in Literature Online includes: biographical entries for over 3,800 authors, bibliographies for over 1,400 major authors, "KnowledgeNotes" introductions to major literary works, and 5250 links to outside websites relevant to the study of literature.

OTHER REVIEWS OF THESE PRODUCTS

Ebsco Literary Reference Center. Reviewed in September 2006 CHOICE.

Gale Literature Resource Center. Reviewed in September 2006 CHOICE.

Proquest Literature Online with MLA. Reviewed in January 2006 CHOICE.