

In Reference...

(March 2000 *Action for Libraries* newsletter)

Encyclopædia Britannica Online

Encyclopædia Britannica Inc. has added a new reference source to the Britannica Online service. The Encyclopædia Britannica Intermediate, created for students in grades five and higher, complements the information from the Encyclopædia Britannica itself and provides additional features valuable for upper elementary schools, middle schools, public libraries and community colleges and universities offering degrees in education.

A few of the new features include:

- More than 38,000 articles and 4,200 illustrations, drawings, maps, flags, graphics with easy-to-understand articles written for grades five and higher.
- Easy-to-use "Not sure of your spelling?" feature for spell checking.
- Spotlights Special editorial features provide in- depth, multimedia-rich tours through selected topics.
- Search Results a list of 10 hits or matches that result from your keyword search with links to the top of the article.
- Caption Pages Thumbnail images within articles that link to full-size images of photos and maps with captions or descriptions. Copyright information is also included.

For information regarding subscriptions, including extending a current subscription or becoming a new member, contact Jim Hensing (jhensing@bcr.org).

SilverPlatter Information SilverLinker Update

SilverPlatter has added several new features and enhancements to its SilverLinker technology which allow users to integrate bibliographic references with the corresponding full text. Enhancements include:

- Filtering by journal title.
- Links to a broader variety of electronic providers.
- Links to select local collections.
- The availability of the service on Internet and Partner Hosted Servers.

The new features will simplify administration of the SilverLinker technologies and give librarians complete control over collection decisions. Libraries will be able to link selected local collections of electronic journals as well as link to publishers' Web sites.

SilverLinker contains more than 4,000 unique journal titles and nearly one million unique articles. The SilverPlatter Web site (www.silverplatter.com) contains up-to-date lists of the SilverLinker databases, along with the newest information on SilverLinker electronic journal providers (www.silverplatter.com/silverlinker/slpubs.htm).

SilverPlatter and Elsevier Partnership

SilverPlatter has contracted with Elsevier to provide links to scientific e-journals available only through Science Direct. Links to this database will be available following the release of SilverLinker enhancements.

SilverPlatter Products Discontinued

The Foods Intelligence and RecPark databases are no longer available.

FirstSearch News

OCLC has updated the FirstSearch Usage Statistics Online (www.stats.oclc.org) screen displays to reflect the appearance of the New OCLC FirstSearch service. The "New FirstSearchMigration Schedule: Frequently Asked Questions," has been revised to include current information about the status of the New FirstSearch service. See www.oclc.org/oclc/fs_new/migration_faq.htm.

"OCLC FirstSearch Database Update Status Report" has been added to the New FirstSearch Web page at www.oclc.org/oclc/fs/en/status.htm. Users can now access information regarding the status of FirstSearch. OCLC will revise the report three times each week.

OCLC has temporarily set the session timeout for all Web users of the New FirstSearch service to five minutes as OCLC staff continues to work on resolving performance issues. This change does not affect any full-text timeouts that are set in the administrative module and, when discontinued by OCLC, all session timeouts will revert to the original administrative module settings. Z39.50 users are not affected by this temporary change.

OCLC and the Gale Group will discontinue per-search access to the Health Reference Center and the Health Reference Center-Academic databases on both the current and new OCLC FirstSearch services on April 1. Current per-search users will want to consider subscribing instead. For more information, contact Karen Graham (kgraham@bcr.org).

OCLC WorldCat Collection Sets

OCLC has enhanced its WorldCat Collection Sets (formerly known as the OCLC Major Microform Service) so that users are now able to catalog records representing electronic databases and access records through the OCLC Cataloging service. They may also download records into their local online public access catalog. CORC (OCLC's Cooperative Online Resource Catalog) project participants will have access to these records as well. Catalog cards are no longer available for WorldCat Collection Sets.

Cataloging records for netLibrary, Project Muse, Academic Press IDEAL, JSTOR, Kluwer, Documenting the American South and Elsevier are now available through WorldCat Collection Sets. Springer, Wiley, MCB Press, Royal Society of Chemists, Institute of Physics and American Physical Society will be included in the near future.

OCLC libraries will find increased options for processing cataloging records, particularly in field 856 (Electronic Location and Access), along with more flexibility in the deletion and addition of other fields. Increased user access and lower cost by way of reduced staff involvement to catalog records are both valuable by-products of this enhancement.

H.W. Wilson News

The H.W. Wilson Company has added more than 25,000 biographies to its Wilson Biographies Plus Illustrated database. These enhancements include profiles featuring black men and women, figures from the world of art, women, international headliners and notables in other categories. The database now offers users more than 72,000 profiles of persons along with links to full-text articles, article abstracts, index citations from Wilson bibliographic databases and more than 26,000 images. H.W. Wilson anticipates adding more than 1,000 profiles annually and adding links to information on the Web.

For questions or to subscribe to any reference database CD-ROM, online or Internet- accessible contact BCR's Jim Hensing (jhensing@bcr.org) or Karen Graham (kgraham@bcr.org).

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