



Action for Libraries — September 2001

Major Changes Coming to Britannica Online

By James Speed Hensinger

Encyclopædia Britannica is making major changes to Britannica Online. By the end of September, Britannica plans to launch a new, enhanced Britannica Online Educational subscription service. New features are:

- An integrated search that pulls results from both Encyclopædia Britannica and Britannica Intermediate articles, as well as the Internet Guide and a daily news archive of current events coverage.
- Thousands of revised articles and more than 350 new articles.
- A new database feature, Britannica Heritage, that explores articles, images and media from past Britannica editions.
- The ability to e-mail articles from the encyclopedia to other Britannica Online users.
- More than 300,000 related Internet links from Britannica Online articles to other Web resources.
- A new video section that allows users to search multimedia and full-motion video on the site (coming in October).
- A timeline browse feature for searching historical events (coming in October).

Britannica for Kids, an encyclopedia for students in Grades 4-6, is scheduled to be available in early 2002.

Libraries can subscribe to Britannica Online through BCR at 34.5-cents per FTE per year. In the meantime, Britannica.com, formerly a free consumer-oriented Web site, is now a subscription service. Single-user access is \$50 annually and is unavailable through BCR.

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