DATABASE OVERVIEW & CONTENTS

Facts on File Online Databases provide a variety of encyclopedias and reference sources based on Facts on File print collection. It is difficult to generalize about the products because of the variation in the subject coverage of the databases. There were 14 databases on the home page at the time of the trial, six of which were specific to history. The history databases include the following: American History Online, American Women's History Online, African-American History Online, American Indian History Online, Modern World History Online, Ancient and Medieval History Online. A federated search tool is available to search across multiple history databases. In the History databases, the editors at Facts on File have created "**Learning Centers**" composed of entries on people, events, topics, primary sources, and additional resources such as images, maps and graphs, and chronologies. These "Learning Centers" also provide links to overview essays and other related entries.

The other available databases include the following: World Atlas, Science Online, Health Reference Center, Curriculum Resource Center, Curriculum Resource Center: Junior Edition, Literary Reference Online, Ferguson's Career Guidance Center, and Personal and Business Forms.

Many of the databases include biographies, graphs and charts, pictures, maps, primary source documents, timelines, and hyper-linked subject entries.

Figure 1. Facts on File Online Databases Home Page

The search interface is easy to use and straightforward. Individual variations in the search feature of each database may be frustrating for some students. The system defaults to a basic search screen. Advanced searching has several options: all words, exact phrase, at least one of the words, and without the words. There is also the option to limit the search to the full text or the title/heading in some databases.

FINAL RECOMMENDATION:

Facts on File Online Databases offer a variety of encyclopedias and reference materials covering a broad spectrum of subjects. Most of the content from the Facts on File Databases are of value to students within the California Community Colleges. Based on this first look, I recommend that the CCL-EAR Committee proceed with a mini or full review of the Facts on File Online Databases.