

What?! GVRL Text Suppression?

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Gale Virtual Reference Library (GVRL) has now been around for six years and Chabot, like most community colleges, has been purchasing individual books and collections in place of their print counterparts. However, Gale has not been forthcoming about the content that is omitted in the online versions of Gale and Gale imprints.

Some Gale ebooks do not include the complete full text. Some searches return this message: "This text has been suppressed due to author restrictions." Chabot has recently found that in its over 300 titles or series in GVRL, 23 of them have missing content totaling 364 documents—all from Gale and Gale imprints. In the document itself the phrase appears for each page where the original print text would be found.

Looking over the content of the suppressed text, I found that there are three different types of documents that often are missing: primary source materials, literary criticisms, and viewpoint essays. In fact, in books that feature these three types (such as Essential Primary Sources, Literary Criticism, the For Students series, and Greenhaven imprints such as Global Viewpoints), the omitted essential content is often 13% or more of the print version. Other sources include encyclopedias or series such as the In Context series where primary texts are featured in a sidebar.

Looking at Gale's online GVRL catalog (<http://www.gale.cengage.com/gvrl>), I noticed that Gale includes a disclaimer for individual titles: "While Gale strives to replicate print content, some content may not be available due to rights restrictions. Call your Sales Rep for details." However, as most colleges order titles via order forms, whether through Gale (such as the recent one month sale) or through the consortium, there is no disclaimer attached to these titles at all. Furthermore, Gale is not always consistent in placing their disclaimer in the online GVRL catalog. For example, *Black Literature Criticism, 2nd Edition* is missing around 36% of the literary criticisms in the set. For some authors there are no criticisms at all (only biography, bibliography, etc.), but there is no disclaimer in the online GVRL catalog for this title.

Looking at the recent trial on CCL, the total number of documents that are missing text is 1972. Below is a list of resources that have 15 or more documents with the phrase "This text has been suppressed due to author restrictions." If you are wondering what titles in your collection may be missing text, type this phrase into the search box of your GVRL collection.

It is my opinion that Gale needs to be more explicit about which titles do not include 100% full text. It is also my opinion that Gale needs to do a better job securing rights to electronic full text for all of its titles. Some libraries such as ours have budgets where we can only afford one format of content. As a result, like many other libraries, we are purchasing more of our reference content in the online format only. Because of my recent findings, we will no longer be considering Gale or Gale imprint titles or series that feature Primary Sources, Literary Criticisms, or viewpoint essays as a key component.

Note: One notable exception in literary criticism where the entire series is available 100% full text in GVRL is the Twayne series (Chabot knows this as we have the entire series).

Series/Titles Missing Key Full Text in GVRL	Disclaimer on GVRL Catalog website?
1. American Decades: Primary Sources 344	Yes
2. Poetry for Students 212	Yes
3. World Eras 135	Yes
4. Children's Literature Review 108	Yes
5. Feminism in Literature 93	Yes
6. History in Dispute 72	Yes
7. American Decades 57 (not on catalog in website)	
8. Novels for Students 56	Yes
9. Arts and Humanities Through the Eras 47	Yes
10. Issues that Concern You 47	Yes
11. Introducing Issues with Opposing Viewpoints 44	Yes
12. Family in Society: Essential Primary Sources 43	Yes
13. Short Stories for Students 35	Yes
14. Drama for Students 35	Yes
15. Global Viewpoints 34	Yes
16. Environmental Issues: Primary Sources 32	Yes
17. Black Literature Criticism 29	No
18. Constitutional Amendments: Beyond the Bill of Rights 26	Yes
19. Nonfiction Classics 25	Yes
20. Human and Civil Rights: Essential Primary Sources 23	Yes
21. Perspectives on Diseases and Disorders 23	No
22. Gothic Literature: A Critical Companion 21	Yes
23. Terrorism: Essential Primary Sources 21	Yes
24. Literary Newsmakers 20	Yes
25. Gender Issues and Sexuality: Essential Primary Sources 19	Yes
26. Historic Events for Students: The Great Depression 17	Yes
27. Shakespeare for Students 15	No