

CCL-EAR COMMITTEE PREVIEW Salem Online Preview March 2015

DATABASE CONTENT/FORMAT

Consider functionality, appropriateness of format, database content, adequacy of coverage (retrospective, current), and value to the California Community Colleges as a whole.

Salem online is a database of content from Salem Press' reference books on health, history, literature, and science. Purchase of a qualified print title includes complimentary access to the corresponding online content, but not any updates. Purchasing a newer edition replaces the older edition. The content mirrors their print version of the title, which are encyclopedic articles and reference information and also includes photographs, charts, and diagrams.

Salem Health includes titles such as *Infectious Diseases & Conditions*, *Magill's Medical Guide, 7th edition*, and *Psychology & Mental Health*. The series includes information relevant to biology and medical students, as well as general students. Salem History includes biographical, historical, and primary source information. The history content can include information from several series they publish, such as the *The Decades Series*, *Defining Documents*, *Milestone Documents*, *Great Events from History*, & *Great Lives*. Salem's Literature collection includes titles for author and title-specific reference works and surveys. Series titles include *Critical Insights*, *Critical Surveys*, *Introduction to Literary Context*, *Magill's Literary Annual*, and *Masterplots*. Salem Science provides coverage on a variety of science related topics. Series titles available include *Applied Science*, *Careers*, *Contemporary Biographies*, *Earth Science*, *Encyclopedia of Energy*, *Encyclopedia of Environmental Issues*, *Encyclopedia of Mathematics & Society*, and *The Solar System*.



HOME SEARCH VIEW SUBJECT INDEX MY FOLDER HELP ABOUT CONTACT ACTIVATE TITLE/ADMINISTRATOR LOGIN

SALEM PRESS

Salem provides online access to all of its award-winning content

Enter Keyword

ADVANCED SEARCH

For your own 24x7 access from anywhere and your own folder, **REGISTER NOW!** or **LOGIN** to access your account.

Welcome to [College Name] College's Collection of Salem Press Titles.

- **Literature**
 - Critical Surveys
 - Critical Survey of Graphic Novels: Heroes & Superheroes, First Edition
- **History**
 - American Industry and Careers, Survey of
 - Survey of American Industry & Careers
- **Science**
 - Encyclopedia of Energy
 - Encyclopedia of Energy
 - Encyclopedia of Global
- **Health**
 - General Health
 - Genetics & Inherited Conditions
 - Infectious Diseases & Conditions

SEARCH INTERFACE

Consider the functionality and ease of use of the interface. Is it intuitive or is an excessive amount of training required? Are any crucial features missing from the search interface?

The search interface was updated in January 2015. There are several ways to perform a search including basic (which is the default) with links to both an advanced search and subject index (for browsing by title of item and then within the item selected). These links are available at the top of every page. In both the basic and advanced search screens you can select which fields (all, title, full text, etc.) and category (such as history) to search. Additionally, one can search an entire book (such as *Notorious Lives* or *The Fifties in America*) or select multiple titles to search simultaneously.

Once a relevant article is discovered, there are print, email, save, and citation features. The citation feature includes three citation formats to choose from: MLA, APA, and Chicago. To save articles a user must register, which is a short, quick process that also allows them to save searches and citations. Articles also include a 'see also' section that hyperlinks to related articles.

USER SUPPORT SERVICES

What types of customer and technical support are available for end users and library administrators?

A link to "Help" is at the top of every page within Salem Reference. This link takes the user to contact information for technical support--phone and email. There are neither help guides nor articles for users or librarians. Technical support via phone is available from 9:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m. EST but this is not published next to the contact information.

When asked about more help/support content, the customer service representative said that these pages/content are being developed.

COST

If cost is available, does it seem reasonable in terms of comparable products?

Based on their print/e-access model, Salem's prices have been reasonable.

AVAILABILITY/ACCESSIBILITY OF SERVICE

Is access/connection to product reliable and stable? Is response time adequate? Is product accessible to users with disabilities?

There is no information on Salem's online interface about accessibility and 508 compliance. Customer service representatives were not able to provide any information on the site's accessibility.

There is no feature that allows users to change the size of the text. Images do not include alternate text.

FINAL RECOMMENDATION

While Salem's content is relevant for community college collections, the reviewers do not suggest a full review until Salem makes the interface more accessible to users with disabilities and provides a basic level of do-it-yourself support.

OTHER REVIEWS OF THIS PRODUCT

Salem Literature reviewed in *Choice Reviews for Academic Libraries* September 2010 (48-0023)

Salem Health reviewed in *Choice Reviews for Academic Libraries* May 2008 (454742)

Additional reviews available for specific titles in the Salem Press catalog in *Choice* and *Library Journal*