

CCL-EAR COMMITTEE
PREVIEW
PalgraveConnect Ebook Collections (for Community Colleges)
October 2013

INTRODUCTION/DESCRIPTION

PalgraveConnect Ebook Collections for community colleges is comprised of 118 scholarly ebook collections from publisher Palgrave Macmillan covering subjects in the social sciences, humanities, and business. Imprints range from the 1990's to the present, but the focus of this preview is 2013 collections comprised of titles published in late 2012 through 2013 only. The size and nature of these collections make them appropriate and cost-effective purchases for community college libraries looking to expand current, relevant, academic ebook offerings in a way that doesn't require too much site administration or explanation to use.

CONTENT

PalgraveConnect is the search and retrieval host platform for Palgrave Macmillan electronic publications, including books and journals. For 2013, there are eleven social science, humanities, and business ebook collections available as part of the community college offer. Topics and titles are appropriate for the lower- and upper-division academic curriculum. By the end of 2013, these will contain a total of 1,373 ebooks, with individual collections ranging in size from 22 to 300 titles¹:

Business & Management: 122
Economics & Finance: 110
History: 129
Education: 50
Language & Linguistics: 22
Literature: 177
Media & Culture: 139
Political & International Studies: 300
Religion & Philosophy: 90
Social Science: 195
Theatre & Performance: 39

Libraries may select and buy individual collections, with significant volume discounts offered for multiple collection purchases. Complete title lists to-date are available at http://www.palgraveconnect.com/pc/info/title_lists.html#sub.

Purchases include perpetual ownership rights to the ebooks acquired, and include unlimited simultaneous access as well as permissive DRM to any title in the collection. Books

¹ According to the vendor, final counts may vary slightly due to publication delays or other unforeseeable circumstances. As of August 2013, approximately 2/3 of expected titles were available.

that are downloaded (in PDF or EPUB format) to compatible devices by authorized users never expire and are accessible until removed by the user. Free Nielsen MARC21 records are delivered to customers (or can be downloaded from the PalgraveConnect site) in a single .mrc file that can be configured and uploaded into an ILS. Records are also available in OCLC for subscribers to that service (charges may apply per a site's OCLC contract).

INTERFACE

The site itself has a typical and well developed web interface that should be easy for most users to figure out, with a quick keyword search box and help option placed prominently near the top of each screen:



Other options that appear just below “Quick search” on the screen:

- “subject collections” leads to directed discipline area searching (see Appendix B for complete description);
- “reference products” takes users to digital version of reference books from the publisher (none of which are part of the community college collections, but may be purchased separately by customers).
- “topic pages” include short articles (appropriate for the lower-division curriculum), key titles, a Twitter feed, and links to articles.

Searching

“Advanced search” offers more options for expanding or restricting searching and results through field and other limiter searching:

Advanced Search

<input type="checkbox"/>	Title	<input type="text"/>	All words
<input type="checkbox"/>	Author / Editor	<input type="text"/>	All words
<input type="checkbox"/>	Keywords	<input type="text"/>	All words
<input type="checkbox"/>	Full Text	<input type="text"/>	All words
<input type="checkbox"/>	Publication date	from : <input type="text" value="mm/yyyy"/> to : <input type="text" value="mm/yyyy"/> (eg 08/2008)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Online date	from : <input type="text" value="mm/yyyy"/> to : <input type="text" value="mm/yyyy"/> (eg 08/2008)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	ISBN / ISSN / DOI	<input type="text"/>	

[Filter by Journal Title](#)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Volume:	<input type="text"/>	Issue:	<input type="text"/>	Start Page:	<input type="text"/>
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Book Subject	<input type="text"/>
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SEARCH TIPS

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Would you like
from 24/7 access
to 1000s
ebooks in
subject areas?

>>

Click here
to recommend
Palgrave Connect
to your library

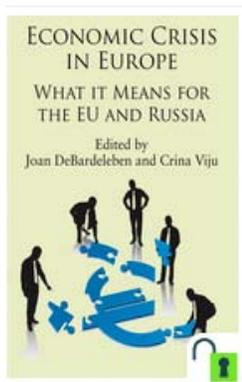
“Browse” offers guided searching of subject collections, narrower subjects, series, or year of publication:

Browse eBooks	Browse Journals
<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 5px 0;">COLLECTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Business & Management <input type="checkbox"/> Dictionary of Economics Archive <input type="checkbox"/> Economics & Finance <input type="checkbox"/> History 	<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 5px 0;">SUBJECT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Anthropology <input type="checkbox"/> Art and Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Astronomy and Space <input type="checkbox"/> Books for Schools and Colleges
<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 5px 0;">SERIES BY SUBJECT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Anthropology <input type="checkbox"/> Business and Management <input type="checkbox"/> Criminology <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural and Media Studies 	<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 5px 0;">PRINT PUBLICATION YEAR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 2012 <input type="checkbox"/> 2011 <input type="checkbox"/> 2010 <input type="checkbox"/> 2009

Results

Sample searches of the current collections (repeated in the “Quick search” box, “subject collections” option, and “advanced search” feature) yielded current and reliable books on timely topics. For example, searches of ‘global recession,’ ‘European debt crisis,’ and ‘abortion and election,’ retrieved several relevant titles, e.g.,

Economic Crisis in Europe What it means for the EU and Russia



Edited by [Joan DeBardleben](#) and [Crina Viju](#)

Print Pub Date: February 2013

Online date: March 2013

DOI: 10.1057/9781137005236

ebook ISBNs: 9781137005236 PDF 9781137005243 EPUB

Print ISBNs: 9781137005229 HB

Pages: 288 pp

» [Political & International Studies Collection 2013](#)

[View](#) [Download](#) [Mobile Download](#)

Entire books can be viewed onscreen using the embedded site viewer, or saved/downloaded in PDF or ePub formats to a computer or mobile device using a variety of readers:

The screenshot displays a digital reader interface. On the left, a book cover for 'Greece, Financialization and the EU' is visible. Below the cover, there are navigation options: 'Info Related' and 'List of Contents'. The 'List of Contents' section includes an introduction and several chapters, such as 'GREECE, FINANCIALIZATION AND THE EU' and 'THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF DEBT AND DESTRUCTION'. The main area of the reader shows the 'International Political Economy Series' information, including the series editor Timothy M. Shaw, a description of the series, and a list of titles included in the series. The titles include works by Vassilis K. Foukas and Constantine Dimoulas, Harry Besada and Shannon Kindorany, Caroline Kuzemko, Hans Löfgren and Oswin David Williams, Timothy Cadman, Ian Hudson, Mark Hudson and Mara Fridell, and Godfrey Baldacchino.

PalgraveConnect reader "view"

Reviewers searched, viewed on screen, and downloaded/opened Palgrave ebooks using a combination of readers (Adobe Digital Editions, Adobe Reader, Bluefire Reader, Overdrive Console), browsers (Firefox, Safari, IE, Amazon Browser), and devices (Mac and PC computers, iPad, iPhone, and Kindle Fire 1st Generation) and were able to download/open and read books one way or another with all but the Kindle Fire.

Users can export citations in .ris format to another program, or can cut/paste a preformatted generic citation into another document, but there are no specific style options.

Results may include citations and links to related content that the library hasn't purchased and is unable to fully access, with options for users to purchase, recommend to their library, and preview (select pages, chosen by the vendor):

The Russian Public Debt and Financial Meltdowns

Andrey Vavilov
 Print Pub Date: July 2010
 Online date: October 2010
 DOI: 10.1057/9780230282087
 ebook ISBNs: 9780230282087 PDF
 Print ISBNs: 9780230248939 HB
 Pages: 288 pp
 » [Economics & Finance Collection 2010](#)

[Preview](#)

- CITATION EXPORT
- RECOMMEND THIS 1
- PURCHASE A COPY
- MARC RECORDS
- SHARE

Related content

[Local Econom Global Compe](#)
 The book resp growing concer scholars. nrofe

Libraries can't restrict the database interface to show purchased and/or full-text content only, but users can manipulate searching and results to accessible content in two ways:

- “Advance Search” lets users filter results by selecting a *Content Type* or choosing *Hide unsubscribed content* (in the *Filter By Access* limiter)

Book Subject
 Subject subcategories
 Book Collection
 Book Series

Content type Books Palgrave Pivot Titles Chapters Journal Article:

Filter by access All content Hide unsubscribed content

- on the home screen, a large blue icon offers users to “Click here to browse the ebooks your institution has access to”:



Screens also include advertising for the publisher's other products, though these are clearly marked as "Advertisement" or as a link to other products/collections from Palgrave.

The vendor interchangeably uses the terms "subscription," "purchase," "ebooks," and "journals," throughout the database even when an institution's collection is limited to a certain type of content (e.g., only purchased books or subscribed journals). This may confuse users or librarians who search the product with expectation that they will retrieve something that they won't, the mixing of content like this is becoming more common on publisher-hosted sites (e.g., ScienceDirect), but as users become more familiar they may be less bothered by it.

ACCESSIBILITY

PalgraveConnect uses PDF and Adobe Digital EPUB formats. Entire books, individual chapters, and pages are easy to download for reading on compatible devices, or users may load, navigate, and read directly online.² No checkout is required, and downloads do not expire. As noted previously, reviewers successfully downloaded and viewed ebooks on several different platforms, and encountered problems only with the *Kindle Fire* 1st generation ereader.³ Libraries concerned about readability on specific devices should test them. There are no limits on concurrent users or downloads.

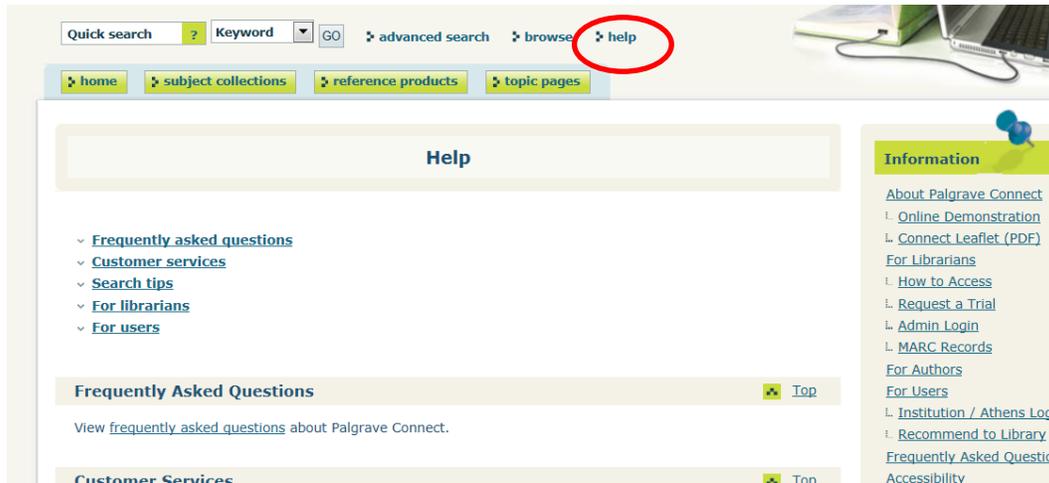
The site is accessible using a variety of authentication methods, and is compatible with most browsers and assistive technologies. Content is OpenURL compliant for incoming links only into the database (not outbound through their content). Complete information about accessibility is available at <http://www.palgraveconnect.com/pc/info/accessibility.html>.

² Only titles from 2011 onward can be downloaded; backfile collections containing older imprints can only be read online using the database-hosted reader.

³ PalgraveConnect technical support was unable to resolve the problem, but advised everything would work on the newer Kindle HD; reviewers were unable to confirm this.

SUPPORT

A “Help” link next to the “Quick Search” box provides users and librarians with extensive and on screen support:



However, the ability to do a keyword search of the help and FAQ pages would be useful, since it's not always clear which link in the linear-organized help pages users should go to for assistance. Vendor responses to email queries by CCL-EAR were quick and thorough, and user/technical support responded to (and followed up on) emailed questions quickly.

COST

The price-per-book is so low that libraries that can afford the upfront cost of the collection should consider this an effective way to meet some of the increasing demand by students for ebooks. Alternatively, although customers can't purchase individual titles on PalgraveConnect, they can create and purchase custom collections at reasonable prices by arrangement with the publisher. The vendor charges a small annual access fee, but that is waived for customers that purchase additional content from the vendor annually.

This review assessed pricing available through July 31, 2013. Libraries interested in the 2013 collections and all other backfiles after that date should contact CCL or vendor directly for current rates.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

PalgraveConnect 2013 community college collections offer libraries a large number of current, curriculum-relevant ebooks through an easy to search, navigate, and retrieve interface. Furthermore, the flexible ownership and access model may be unequalled in the industry at this time, and eliminates many of the complexities and challenges that community college libraries

face with other platforms or vendors. For libraries that have funds to purchase a collection upfront, PalgraveConnect is a reasonable option for making ebooks available to students.