



CHOICE

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[Internet Resource]

SAGE eReference. Sage Publications, CA. Complete catalog of titles costs \$8,000.00; titles are also sold individually. (Reviewed in the November 2007 issue of CHOICE.)

URL: <http://www.sage-ereference.com/>

[Visited Aug'07] This database is a collection of nearly 50 Sage encyclopedias with content that mirrors the print versions. Will librarians and users hold the electronic version in the same high regard as the print collection? Yes, most definitely, given the content's quality and the smooth interface. This user-friendly database presented none of the glitches that can accompany the initial use of a new product. Whatever users like about a print product should carry over into the digital format; furthermore, the digital product should provide additional enhancements. *SAGE eReference* offers three points of entry to content: Search all eReference Encyclopedias (which a specific library has purchased); Browse Encyclopedias (A-Z listing); or Choose a Subject (from the listing on this first screen).

When this reviewer selected the subject Education, the next screen brought up six full-text education-focused encyclopedias, listed alphabetically, from *Encyclopedia of Children, Adolescents, and the Media* to *Encyclopedia of School Psychology*. For each title, users see the cover and a brief text selection. Click into one of the six titles, and a new screen offers the options: Search the encyclopedia; Reader's Guide (find entries by browsing topics); Entries A-Z; and Index. The sidebar, About This Reference, offers PDF files listing the editorial board, information on the editor/contributors, the preface, and appendixes—important material not always available in full-text databases. All the encyclopedias are identically designed, and the book-like feel makes them very familiar and accessible. One can flip through the text much as one would in the print version (even if it's not possible to use a highlighter!).

An electronic text collection should replicate the existing published print versions, offer an intuitive feel, and provide expected results. Besides the access provided by the various browsing features, Quick Search and Advanced Search allow users to zero in on very specific information quickly. Advanced Search permits searching across all encyclopedias or selected works, using multiple search terms, Boolean operators, and Refine Search options. One can search for material in specific encyclopedia sections, e.g., the title, text, or sidebar within the entries; or search the front and back matter. A sample Advanced Search in the entries section for "education" and "dyslexia" yielded 15 results from the six education encyclopedias. Each article is signed by the author, and search terms appear in boldface throughout the text. A link to Further Readings at the end of each entry revealed good sources with the option to search My Library for selected titles. Positioning the Return to Search Results link more clearly would be helpful. This excellent reference resource includes a brief tutorial.

Summing Up: Highly recommended. Academic libraries supporting lower-level undergraduates and above.—*L. Lord, University of Kansas*