Purchase Recommendations for Globalizing Online Collections at Community College Libraries

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Abstract

Focused on community colleges in North Carolina participating in the Scholars of Global Distinction initiative, the goal of this white paper is to assist librarians in their efforts to thoughtfully increase global and area studies online resources available at their libraries. Through this paper, the author hopes to increase global library resources around North Carolina without duplicating research efforts across the state. The author reviews online paid resources that are global in scope or that provide the information commonly sought by community college students in globalized courses. For each database, the author considers the following criteria: global content, depth of coverage, accuracy, currency, authority, source information, usability, special features, and suitability for community college users. After being reviewed individually, the databases are compared within groups on the above criteria. Finally, the reviewer takes into account current pricing of the databases prior to making final recommendations.

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Introduction

The purpose of this white paper is to make recommendations on specific online resources which meet the needs of a community college library supporting the global scholars initiative. With online collections that are more globalized, the libraries will be able to facilitate the teaching of and research in global courses which are critical elements of the global scholars program. In the fall of 2013, Davidson County Community College (DCCC) implemented the Scholars of Global Distinction (SGD) initiative. To earn the "Global Distinction" designation on their transcript a student must complete globally intensive courses, participate in "internationalized" campus and community activities, engage in a global experience, and give a capstone presentation. The SGD initiative is driving globalized course and international activity development on campus, which creates a demand for globalized library resources supporting instructors in global course creation and students in global course completion. The SGD initiative is now in planning or implementation stages at almost fifteen community colleges in North Carolina. The goal of this final report is to allow librarians around North Carolina to thoughtfully increase global and area studies online resources available at their libraries without duplicating research efforts across the state.

The first section, Method, will explain the process and criteria used by the reviewer to select and review resources. The second section, Recommendations, will describe the overall

purchase recommendations and comparison tables of groups of resources. The third section, Resource Reviews, will contain an individual, stand-alone, review for each item selected for consideration by the reviewer. Finally, the Conclusion section will discuss limitations of the project, future considerations for the SGD libraries and suggestions for how the SGD libraries might work together on licensing the recommended products.

Method

The first consideration prior to selecting resources for review is defining the users and their needs. The audience and needs analysis is based on the reviewer's personal experience working with community college students, community college instructors, and providing reference and instruction for globalized research assignments in courses globalized for the SGD program. Community college students tend to be inexperienced researchers who have never done research using a library database. Thus, community college students require supports to be successful in their preliminary research attempts. Further, most community college students begin research online and are most comfortable using online resources for research.

Some community college instructors require students to use scholarly peer reviewed articles, but most accept any library resource or well vetted web resource as suitable for their assignments. Global modules or assignments created by community college instructors for globalized courses tend to be short (less than ten pages for papers and less than ten minutes for presentations) and thus do not require large amounts of hyper specialized information (such as that required by an upper-level college or graduate level assignment). The courses being globalized are first and second year college courses which are generally survey or introductory courses satisfying requirements for an associate's degree. The information students seek for the

globalized assignments created by instructors, tends to fall in the following categories: cultural information and profiles for nations and regions; political and economic data about nations; demographic and survey data about nations and regions; information and perspectives on major world news events, issues, and controversies; non-US perspectives on events, issues, and controversies; and world history information.

With these considerations in mind, the reviewer created the following criteria for products to be considered for review: First, the review will only cover paid resources because the goal of the paper is to recommend sources for purchase. Second, the review will only cover resources that are global in scope or that provide the information commonly sought by students in globalized courses. Finally, the review will focus on online resources only. Using these criteria, the reviewer searched *Choice*, *American Reference Books Annual (ARBA online), Resources for College Libraries (RCL),* RUSA's *Outstanding Reference Sources* website, *Recommended Reference Books for Small and Medium Sized Libraries and Media Centers*, and *ALA Guide to Sociology & Psychology Reference* at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Libraries for reviews of online paid resources that meet the above criteria. The reviewer also consulted with subject and area studies librarians at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign as well as librarians at current North Carolina SGD colleges for recommendations of resources which meet the criteria.

In researching to identify databases to be examined, the author also came across reviews of many free online resources and individual book titles that librarians at SGD colleges might find useful. While these titles are outside of the scope of this project in terms of being up for review, the author felt librarians might have some interest in perusing these resources, so a list of

those items are provided in Appendix A: Free Online Resources and in Appendix B: Pertinent

Book Titles. See table 1 for the list of products identified for inclusion in the present review.

The author found that the databases identified for review fell into the following

categories: culture and geography, data sources, global issues, global policy, global politics,

other global topics, world history, and world religions. With a list of products identified, the

reviewer requested free trials of the products for analysis. For each database, the author

considered the following criteria: global content, depth of coverage, accuracy, currency,

authority, source information, usability, special features, and suitability for community college

users. First, each database was reviewed on its own merits, and then the databases were

compared within groups on the above criteria. Finally, the reviewer requested pricing data, and

the cost of each database was taken into account prior to making final recommendations.

Table 1. Resources selected for review by category

Category	Database Name	Vendor
Culture and Geography		
	A to Z World Culture	World Trade Press
	CultureGrams	ProQuest
	CultureWatch	CountryWatch
	World Geography and Culture	Infobase
	World Geography: Understanding a Changing World	ABC-CLIO
Data Sources		
	Polling the Nations	Polling the Nations
	Statista	Statista
	World Almanac Online	Infobase
Global Issues		
	Global Issues in Context	Gale
	Issues and Controversies	Infobase
	Issues: Understanding Controversy and Society	ABC-CLIO
	World News Digest	Infobase

Global Policy		
	CIAO (Columbia International Affairs Online)	Columbia Univ.
	PAIS International with Archive	ProQuest
	World Politics Review	EBSCO
Global Politics		
	Country Reviews	CountryWatch
	Political Handbook of the World	Sage/CQ Press
Other Global Topics		
	Human Rights Studies Online	Alexander St. Press
	World at War: Understanding Conflict and Society	ABC-CLIO
	eHRAF World Cultures	HRAF at Yale
Videos		
	SAGE Video: Politics and International Relations	Sage/CQ Press
	Ethnographic Video Online Second Edition (Vol I & II)	Alexander St. Press
	Ethnographic Video Online Vol III – Indigenous Voices	Alexander St. Press
World History		
	Annual Register	ProQuest
	Daily Life through History	ABC-CLIO
	History Online and History Study Center	ProQuest
	History Reference Center	EBSCO
	Modern World History Online	Infobase
	World History: Ancient and Medieval Eras	ABC-CLIO
	World History in Context	Gale
	World History: The Modern Era	ABC-CLIO
World Religions		
	World Religions Online	Infobase
	World Religions: Belief, Culture, and Controversy	ABC-CLIO

Recommendations

In making the following recommendations, the author seeks to suggest a core collection of globalized resources that provide the most global information to the largest variety of students in the largest assortment of classes. Unlike a large research university, a community college does not buy resources for highly specific research areas. With a limited budget, community college librarians must make purchase decisions that will benefit a variety of researchers in many fields. For this reason, none of the very niche or specific databases is recommended as core purchases.

However, there is a review for each database in the Resource Reviews section, so a librarian can learn more about some of the more specialized products to see if they might fill a unique need on a certain campus. As mentioned above, each database was considered based on global content, depth and breadth of coverage, accuracy, currency, authority, source information, usability, special features, and suitability for community college users and then compared to competitors based on those same criteria as well as cost. Exact pricing will not be mentioned in this paper because the final cost of a database can change based on a number of different variables. The reviewer received price quotes in order to be able to make broad judgements on the value of the information versus the cost of the information for an institution.

Table 2. Comparison of culture and geography databases

Culture and Geography	Cost	Culture	History	Gov't/Econ	News	Total
A to Z World Culture	$$	5	4	3	4	16
Contains commonly sought information on culture and covers it at an appropriate depth for college students.						
CultureGrams	$$$$	4	3	3	3	13
While containing quality information, the breadth and depth of coverage does not meet college student needs.						
CultureWatch	$	1	3	3	3	10
The cultural information is extremely lacking and will not meet the needs of student researchers.						
World Geography and Culture Online	$$	3	4	3	5	15
While covering a breadth of topics, the coverage is brief and tends to be slightly dated.						
World Geography: Understanding a Changing World	$$	3	3	2	2	10
Descriptions of cultural elements are not detailed enough for the needs of a college researcher.						

The first core need of any institution supporting students and instructors at a SGD college is a resource with high quality cultural information. Of the culture and geography databases reviewed, the recommended database is A to Z World Cultures from World Trade Press. This resource has extremely robust discussions on cultural topics and includes great support for travelers at a reasonable price compared to its competitors. For these databases, the reviewer looked at the quality, quantity, and currency of the four types of information found across all the

databases. Each database covers cultural information, historical information, government and economic information, and current events information. Each of those elements was rated on scale from one to five, with one being the worst and five being the best. See table 2 for the comparisons of these databases and a brief statement on the quality of the database.

Unfortunately, all of these databases lack attribution to data sources within the text of the articles which would allow a researcher to check facts or explore further research. For example, in a comparison of the Guatemala articles' information on childbirth the author noted that one database mentions the practice of burying the placenta after birth, one databases mentions placing the umbilical cord on a roof or under a table leg, and one database mentions a practice of cutting the umbilical cord on a painted ear of corn with a new obsidian knife. Are all of these facts true? Why is there such a difference in the coverage of cultural practices around childbirth from the same country? Where did the databases get the information: interviews, ethnographies, reference works? Students will probably take the information in these resources at face-value without questioning its veracity, but it would still be best practice for the databases to provide source information in-text.

The second core need of an institution supporting students and instructors at a SGD college is a resource with current information on global controversies and issues. Of the global controversies and issues databases reviewed, the recommended database is Global Issues in Context from Gale. This resource has supports for novice researchers while also providing a variety of source types on an extensive list of global topics. For these databases, the reviewer looked at the breadth of topics available, the degree of global perspective, and the variety of source types included. Each criterion was rated on a scale from one to five, with one being the

worst and five being the best. See table 3 for the comparisons of these databases. Individual

resource evaluations are provided in the Resource Reviews section.

Table 3. Comparison of global issues databases

Global Issues	Cost	Topics	Global	Sources	Total
Global Issues in Context	$$$	5	5	5	15
Contains current an abundance of relevant global topics with a variety of source types on each topic.					
Issues and Controversies	$$$	2	2	3	7
Most topics are not global in nature and there are not many different source types.					
Issues: Understanding Controversy and Society	$$	5	4	2	11
There is a large global selection of global and domestic topics, but little variety in source type.					
World News Digest	$$$	4	3	3	10
The topics tend to be covered from a US perspective and there is little variety in source type.					

The third core need of an institution supporting students and instructors at a SGD college

is a resource with comprehensive coverage of world history. In this category, the reviewer has

two recommendations. The best stand-alone product that will cover all of the world history, as

well as the US history, needs of community college students is History Online and History Study

Center from ProQuest. While it is the most expensive of the history databases, it is

comprehensive in time period, global region, and topic coverage and provides the supports

needed by novice community college researchers. Further, it contains reference, primary source,

journal, and multimedia materials. The next recommendation is World History in Context by

Gale. While it does not cover all of a campus's history needs in one database like the first

recommendation, it is likely that an institution could purchase both US History in Context and

World History in Context for the same price or lower than History Online and Study Center and

thus cover all world and US history needs with the two databases. World History in Context is

recommended for the same reasons as Global Issues in Context: it provides robust support for

novice researchers; it has a wide variety of source types; and has extensive world history topic

coverage. Table 4 shows the comparison of the world history databases.

Table 4. Comparison of world history databases

World History Databases	Cost	All time periods	US and World	Primary Sources	Journals	Reference Works
Annual Register (ProQuest)	$$	No	Yes	No	No	No
Daily Life through History (ABC-CLIO)	$$	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
History Online and History Study Center (ProQuest)	$$$$$$	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
History Reference Center (EBSCO)	$$$$$	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Modern World History Online (Infobase)	$$	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
World History in Context (Gale)	$$$$	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
World History: Ancient and Medieval Eras (ABC-CLIO)	$$	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
World History: The Modern Era (ABC-CLIO)	$$	No	No	Yes	No	Yes

The rest of the world history databases have the problem of being too specific, making it

cumbersome for a library to fully cover every history information need with one or two

subscriptions. With ABC-CLIO, a library needs to buy two world history products just to cover

all of world history and then additional products to cover US history. A standout product from

ABC-CLIO is the Daily Life through History database. It is highly recommended, but this

resource could not stand-alone as the single history resource at an institution. Another issue with

the ABC-CLIO and the Infobase/Facts on File databases is that the history information tends to

come almost exclusively from their own reference works and a few primary documents, student

researchers would not be able to find journal articles or other secondary documents in those databases.

The final recommendation for an SGD library is to have a database with current political and election coverage from around the globe. The recommended database for this information is Country Reviews from Country Watch. Country Reviews has the most up-to-date and highly detailed election and political coverage of the two databases reviewed. The Political Handbook of the World has quality information, but the information is not updated quickly enough. For instance, an election and change in leadership that occurred in November of 2015 has not yet been updated in the handbook. Further, Country Reviews has ample economic data as well. The CountryWatch Premium package which includes Country Review is very well priced for a yearly subscription. Beware, not every product from Country Watch is as valuable as Country Reviews, so it is not recommended to buy a package of all of their products.

As noted, this reviewer believes a core community college online collection of globalized resources needs to include a culture and geography database, a global issues and controversies database, a world history database, and a global politics database. In reviewing for this paper, the author also assessed databases from a number of different categories. While some of the resources from other categories might be nice to have or might support a specific instructor or assignment, this reviewer does not believe that products from those categories make up what is needed in a core collection of online library resources supporting instructors and students in a Scholars of Global Distinction program. In summary, the recommended core collection of databases is: A to Z World Cultures, Global Issues in Context, Country Watch Premium, and either World History in Context or History Online and History Study Center. See table 5 for a list

including the recommended database from each category reviewed. There is much more detailed

information on individual databases below in the resource reviews section.

Table 5: Recommended Database from Each Category

Category	Database Name	Vendor
Culture/ Geography	A to Z World Culture	World Trade Press
Global Issues	Global Issues in Context	Gale
Global Policy	CIAO (Columbia International Affairs Online)	Columbia Univ.
World History	World History in Context	Gale
World History	History Online and History Study Center	ProQuest
Data Sources	Statista	Statista
Global Politics	Country Reviews	CountryWatch
World Religions	World Religions: Belief, Culture, and Controversy	ABC-CLIO
Videos	Ethnographic Video Online Second Ed. (Vol I, II, & III)	Alexander St. Press
Other Global Topics	Human Rights Studies Online	Alexander St. Press
Other Global Topics	eHRAF World Cultures	HRAF at Yale
Honorable Mention	Daily Life Through History	ABC-CLIO

Resource Reviews

Annual Register (ProQuest)

For an overview of what the Annual Register contains, the best explanation comes from

the "About the Annual Register: A Record of World Events" page of the database:

> The Annual Register is a year-by-year record of British and world events, published
>
> annually since 1758... opening with the history of Britain, then a section on foreign
>
> history covering each country or region in turn. Following these are the chronicle of
>
> events, brief retrospectives on the year's cultural and economic developments, a short
>
> selection of documents, and obituaries of eminent persons who died in the year. The

online version of The Annual Register includes every volume published and will be

updated with the latest volume each year.

While this unique source of information definitely fits the criteria of being global, it does not

meet the needs of a community college library because of its limited scope. Students can find

current event information and historical information more readily in other sources, and other

sources will provide multiple perspectives that the Annual Register does not provide. This

reviewer believes the Annual Register serves a niche audience of historical researchers, so it is

not recommended for purchase to globalize a community college online library collection

because it will not meet the needs of a majority of community college students researching in

globalized courses.

A-Z World Culture (World Trade Press)

A-Z World Culture provides a page on each country of the world focused on culture and

geography. Researchers can select the country they would like to view from a scrolling menu, by

clicking on a map, or by searching. The search box is at the bottom of the home screen and is

less prominent, almost invisible, making the preferred navigation method selecting a country

from the list or from the map. The map is small, so users need to zoom in to be able to click on

smaller countries. Within the country report, the left side menu has topic sections listed

alphabetically which is a logical and egalitarian organizational scheme; no section can be seen as

more important than another.

Each report covers many aspects of culture and geography that student researchers often

need for assignments: history, life-cycles and milestones; religion; cultural universals: gift

giving, greetings and courtesies, superstitions and folklore; food and recipes; history; and travel

information. Some of the topic sections credit a writer, but this is not consistent; the practice is

explained in the About section on the Contributors page as being due to the collaborative nature

of the writing process for the topics. There are no in-text citations within the articles which is a

common practice across competitors, and there is no bibliography of data sources (which some

competitors do provide). Each topic is written in accessible language and the topics are covered

well beyond an overview. For example, the section on Time Orientation includes subsections

(each at least a substantial paragraph or more) on Perception of Time, Traditional Calendar,

Attitude Toward Time, Social Engagements, and Business Engagements. The coverage of

cultural universals in this resource is extremely robust. It briefly covers data on climate, the

government, and the economy however these sections are mostly lists of statistical data with

little detail or context.

  For the student researcher, the database provides suggested citations in APA, Chicago,

and MLA. While there are a number of images included with each topic, during this review,

some of them did not load, which may be a bug needing attention by the publisher. The images

have attributions and captions, but there is no built in feature for the student to download the

image or cite the image. This database supports the needs of travelers with extensive currency,

language, and other travel information. It makes a good primer for students studying abroad.

More detailed comparisons to similar competitor products can be found in table 2, but ultimately

this database is highly recommended because of the depth of the topic articles and breadth of the

cultural topics covered in each country report.

CIAO (Columbia International Affairs Online)

Columbia International Affairs Online (CIAO) is an online resource of documents and articles on international politics and related fields. With documents from international publishing institutions, CIAO is a library of full-text articles from government research organizations, independent think tanks, university analysis centers, and scholarly journals. According a CIAO sales representative, an editorial decision has been made whereby any non-full-text articles will either be removed or archived into a separate section on CIAO, and this work will be on-going. At the moment, however, some non-full-text hits will appear in the results list, and there is no mechanism for filtering to full-text only. In assessing the database, the reviewer attempted searches on common topics chosen by community college students. Each search yielded at least a few useful results for the community college researcher, from policy briefs, to working papers, to journal articles. The biggest drawback of CIAO, for community college students, is that it does not provide preformatted citations for articles like many other databases do. Many community college students struggle with creating citations, so having a citation provided by the database to use as a starting point is helpful and expected by students. Overall, CIAO would definitely meet the needs of community college students performing research in globalized courses.

Country Watch

Country Watch provides a number of different products including Country Review, Culture Watch, Country Briefings, Election Central, Videos, and Forecasts. Often information from one product is duplicated in other products. There is a lot of overlap among the products, and it can be confusing to parse out what one product provides over another.

Culture Watch provides a page on each country with cultural information. Sections of each country page are written by a member of the editorial staff and sometimes the author is named at the end of the article. It also says to check the bibliography for research sources, but there is not an obvious link to locate the bibliography within Culture Watch though it can be found in the Country Reviews product. The weakest sections of the Culture Watch country pages are the cuisine, sports, holidays and festivals, and culture and arts. There is no description of the cuisine; it just includes a few recipes. The sports section links to a list of sports popular in each country; it does not discuss the details of sports and recreation in each individual country. Holidays and festivals is a very basic list with no explanation. For some countries, the Culture and arts section simply says "content to come!" The history section has no author listed, but the endnote states that certain entries use open source content from the State Department Background Notes and Country Guides. Very little context or explanatory content is provided in the history section. For example, the article notes "The constitution came into being in 1985, and became effective in January 1986. It was suspended in May 1993 but reinstated in June 1993" with no further explanation. One nice element of Culture Watch is the primer on the most recent national elections. It explains the context of the recent elections well, but other sections could use more robust explanations to provide more context. The country report menu lists a "Leader Biography," but in the Guatemalan article it simply recycles the election primer. Images are not provided for every country. Culture Watch is not a recommended purchase because of the lack of quality in-depth cultural information for every country.

The Country Reviews product contains more political and economic information in addition to a duplication of the Culture Watch data. The only parts from Culture Watch not

included in Country Reviews are the cuisine, sports, and holidays & festival pages which have limited content as noted above. Each country page in Country Review has sections in the navigation menu for connecting to the bibliography, source materials, reliability of content, and credentials of the writing staff. Each Country Review is downloadable as a PDF. The political overview section in Country Reviews is really strong and has helpful sections on history, political conditions, human rights, national security, foreign relations, and an election primer on the most recent election. The political data is really the most up-to-date and accessible of any of the reviewed databases. Country Briefings are a shorter version of the Country Reviews, with only the politics and economy sections, missing the investment, social, environmental overview sections.

Neither Culture Watch nor Country Briefings are worth purchasing for a community college, as a researcher would just need more information than they provide and the school would have to purchase something else to supplement. While the Country Watch videos have some good content, it is the same content as the Country Reviews pages. The videos seem to be someone reading aloud the Country Review page for the country. For the most part, the videos are slideshows of still images. The database does not have a video for every country either. For North Carolina community colleges, there are probably comparable videos already in Films on Demand and available on YouTube. Elections Central has good information, but the information is replicated in the Country Review pages. For the needs of a community college, the recommended purchase from County Watch would be a subscription to Country Watch Premium which includes access to Country Reviews; Country Wire, a daily international news feed; Country Watch Map Gallery and few other products. Country Reviews is highly recommended

for the political, economic, and elections coverage which is current, easily accessible, and digestible for the community college student.

CultureGrams (ProQuest)

CultureGrams provides a page on each country of the world focused on culture. The researcher finds a country report by first selecting World Edition, then using a map to select a continent or selecting a continent from a written list. Once a continent is selected the researcher can select a country from either the map or the written alphabetical country list. Each report is similar with the table of contents navigation menu on the left side. The sections of every report are: Land and Climate, History, Population, Language, Religion, General Attitudes, Personal Appearance, Greetings, Gestures, Visiting, Eating, Family, Housing, Dating and Marriage, Life Cycle, Diet, Recreation, The Arts, Holidays, Government, Economy, Transportation and Communications, Education, Health, and Contact information. The reports also have interviews with locals, photos, videos, short profiles of famous people, and recipes. The coverage in each of the content sections is brief. While helpful, the information may not satisfy the needs of a college student. The target audience of the resource is more likely K-12. There is a nice infographic of the average person for each country which should appeal to students. Each report contains various versions of country maps that can be downloaded and both a color and outline version of the flag. There is a brief summary of country data, but a college student researcher would need to supplement with another source for more in-depth demographic data. More detailed comparisons to similar competitor products can be found in table 2, but ultimately this database is not recommended because of the brevity of the topic articles. The database truly contains high quality information and the supplemental resources such as the interviews and images are

highlights, but the community college student simply requires more information and data than the CultureGrams reports provide.

Daily Life through History (ABC-CLIO)

Daily Life through History essentially provides a cultural history with information on the daily lives of people in different periods of history as well as regions of the world. The focus is not on events or politics, but rather the society and culture at a certain period and in a certain place. Students can navigate to information by using one of three main tabs across the top of the database: Topics, Idea Exchange, and Library. The "Idea Exchange" section lists a variety of what the publisher calls "Enduring Questions" with an overview of the question and three varied responses to the question. Each response has an author listed, references, and suggested further reading. The "Library" tab is essentially the Advanced Search page where a researcher can enter a search term and limit results by resource type, topic, region, or subject. When a user attempts to type in the quick search box, the words "quick search" must be deleted or they become a part of the search. It is not possible to just click in the box and start typing a fresh search which is frustrating. This is a bug that needs to be fixed because students tend to use a search box when operating a database independently rather than browsing.

Search results from either the "Library" tab advanced search or the quick search box are displayed in a tabbed format. The first tab is from the "library" which has individual entries that contain the keyword, usually reference articles, maps, or glossary terms. The second tab of the search results shows the Topics that relate to the keyword. The tabs are hard to see and students may not notice the topics tab at all. If there is a topic related to the student's search, a topic page would give them more information than the individual reference articles from the "library."

Related Idea Exchange articles also appear as a tab when a topic is searched, but the tabs are hard to see and it would be easy for a student to miss them in their search.

The most powerful way for a researcher to find information in the database is to use the Topics tab. There are six overarching time-period headings: ancient world, 10,000 BCE-500 CE; medieval world, 500 CE-1400 CE; renaissance, the 15th and 16th centuries; the 17th and 18th centuries; the 19th century; and the modern world, 1900-present. Listed beneath each time period heading are topics based on area of the world, for instance, the choices under "Life During the Renaissance, the 15th and 16th Centuries" include: Elizabethan England, Inca Civilization, Ottoman Empire, Reformation, Renaissance Europe, Mesoamerica and South America in the Age of Discovery, North America in the Age of Discovery, and Colonial Latin America. While not every area of the world has a topic under every time period, there is wide coverage and would not be considered biased to western cultures.

Each of the topic articles covers the same sections: overview, family life, children, urban & rural life, work, language & literature, education, food & drink, housing, entertainment, and sports & games. There is media for each topic, either photos, illustrations, audio, or video, and there are primary documents for each topic such as literature, letters, or narratives. Each section of each article has suggested further reading, lists an author by name, and provides preformatted citations in APA, MLA, and Chicago styles. Each article is detailed, well written, and interesting. This database provides a unique perspective on culture and history not found in many other databases. While this could not stand alone as the only history resource purchased for a library, this database has extremely helpful information that is organized for easy retrieval. If this

database fits the need of a specific instructor or assignment, it is a highly recommended purchase.

eHRAF World Cultures (HRAF/Yale)

eHRAF World Cultures contains ethnographies on just over 300 cultures from around the world (their goal is not to contain every culture in the world, but to contain a sufficiently diverse survey of world cultures). The cultures are organized into eight major world regions and then into sub regions. The documents available in the collection are dissertations, books, monographs, and journal articles (the vast majority of documents are text based). The database is essentially a digitization project of the HRAF Collection of Ethnography (often called for short the "HRAF Files") started by Yale researchers. Documents in the collection must be culture specific, so documents are not based on nationality or topic. A special feature of the database is paragraph level indexing. The eHRAF database uses two subject classification systems, the Outline of Cultural Materials (OCM) and an Outline of World Cultures (OWC). For example, if a journal article was written about the Mayan culture, it would be included in the database because it is culture specific, and then an anthropologist would index each paragraph. So, a paragraph might be labeled as being about diet, taboos, and Maya. So, if a researcher searches for information on diets, the paragraph would appear in the results list. The paragraph would also appear if the researcher searched for Maya or taboos. With that said, the keyword search function of the database is not very helpful to the average user.

The two best ways to search the database are to browse by culture name or to do an advanced search and select and combine subject terms. There is a large learning curve with the eHRAF database, but the staff at HRAF is extremely supportive of member institutions.

Librarians, instructors, and students can receive training on the database from HRAF staff. The paragraph level indexing makes the documents easily accessible, but the information is not "pre-packaged" or explained. Another possible drawback of the eHRAF World Cultures database is the age of the information. There is no document newer than 2001 and most documents date back to the 1940s through the 1980s. So, the focus is on what can be called "traditional lifeways" and the researcher must ask the question "is this older information still relevant?" There is no single answer to this question, and the researcher would have to supplement eHRAF data with more recent ethnographies.

Another tricky question to answer is whether this is a recommended purchase for globalizing a community college library collection. Certainly, every community college library does not need this database. However, this database has the potential to be the perfect resource to support an anthropology or sociology instructor or instructors from many different disciplines who want to look at their topics from a cross-cultural lens. Ultimately, the reviewer recommends that community college librarians become familiar with eHRAF World Cultures and decide if it meets the unique needs of their campus. The eHRAF website has an excel spreadsheet listing all the cultures covered and the number of pages of documents for each culture. This document could help an instructor designing instruction informing them of which cultures might work best to cover in an assignment. This is not the type of database in which a casual community college researcher would find value, but if the database fits the needs of a specific assignment designed around the contents of the database it could be extremely valuable.

Ethnographic Video Online: Volumes I, II and III (Alexander Street Press)

Ethnographic Video Online is a resource for the study of human culture, behavior and society globally. The three collections hold streaming video, including ethnographic films, documentaries, and select feature films. There are traditional ethnographic productions and also indigenous-made films which highlight underrepresented perspectives. On the landing page, users have a variety of browse options including by cultural groups, authors/ethnographers, and subjects. There is also a simple search box and a link to the advanced search page. Each video includes a transcript and closed captions. These videos would be particularly useful for an anthropology or sociology course. While this collection has a large amount of high quality content, the content only serves a niche market at the community college. Subscribing to or purchasing the content would most certainly support the needs of instructors and students in globalized courses, but the library would need to evaluate how many instructors or classes would make use of the content before purchasing.

Global Issues in Context (Gale)

Global Issues in Context contains extremely current information in return for searches on common community college student topics such as: human trafficking, drug trafficking, AIDS, Haiti, women's rights, child marriage, and deforestation. Many topics have a "Topic Page" overview article written by Gale/Cengage staff or sourced from a reference work. Students can browse by topic or can do a basic or advanced search. If a student searches by the exact topic term (or selects the topic from the list), the "Topic Page" overview will appear at the top of the search results along with "Featured Content" for the topic. The overview articles are appealing to the community college student audience because they provide a starting point for complicated

topics. As with all the "in context" databases, the results are displayed split into source type

groups with only the top five results from each group. Students can click on a source type to then

view all of the results in that source category. The "Featured Content" grouping contains articles,

presumably selected by editorial staff, which is integral to understanding the topic. The

"Featured Content" section only appears with those topics from the list not just any keyword

search. If the search term is similar to one of the "Topic Pages," the database will suggest a

related topic page at the top of the search results. All search results will usually fall into the

following categories: Global Viewpoints, Reference, Academic Journals, Primary Sources,

Audio, Magazines, Biographies, News, Websites, Videos, and Images.

Global Issues in Context is ideal for the community college audience because of the

scaffolding provided for inexperienced researchers. The organization of the information returned

in the search results and the overview articles allow community college students to become

comfortable with searching a library database without feeling overwhelmed or confused as they

might be in a database geared more towards upper-level college and graduate level researchers.

A possible criticism of the "Topic Pages" and "Featured Content" boxes might be that they do

not require students to practice advanced critical thinking and information literacy skills in

selecting resources. As mentioned above, this reviewer feels these supports are scaffolding for

inexperienced researchers and act as a stepping stone for students as they move towards more

complicated search engines later in college. In addition to the topic coverage, Global Issues in

Context also provides ample coverage on the countries of the world. Each country, city-state, and

semi-autonomous state has a "Topic Page." Further, the database has articles from *Worldmark*

Encyclopedia of Religious Practices, *Worldmark Conflict and Diplomacy*, *Countries of the*

World and Their Leaders Yearbook, *Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations*, and other reference works covering much of the information students seek about countries and cultures. Other helpful features available from the "in context" databases are both Google and Microsoft integration. As many schools either use Google or Microsoft for email and document sharing, these features just add to the usability for students allowing them to easily save documents to their school accounts. Based on the currency of the information available for students, the extensive coverage of popular topics and country information, the scaffolding for inexperienced researchers, and the added features, Global Issues in Context is highly recommended for purchase. Still, check table 3 for a comparison of the competitors in this group prior to making a purchase decision.

History Online and History Study Center (ProQuest)

History Online and History Study Center is a comprehensive history database which encompasses all time periods and global regions (including coverage of American history). For the librarian, this it is a nice choice because one can be sure they are meeting the needs of all history classes with a single subscription. The database includes reference books, essays, journal articles, historical newspaper and magazine articles, maps, rare books, government documents, transcripts of historical speeches, images and video clips. There are also Study Units which provide material selected by editors on over 500 historical topics. This database is essentially a one-stop-shop for the community college history researcher because it contains reference works, other secondary source documents, and primary source documents on global history from ancient history to present day. From the homepage researches can browse one of the five collections: study units, historical documents, maps & reference, multimedia, or journals. These designations

are helpful because students often come looking for specific type of resource, for example the assignment specifies a journal article or specifies a primary-source document.

Most students will gravitate towards the simple search box at the top of the page. Next to the search box is an option to narrow down from searching in all content to searching in one of the five main categories. If a student does a simple search without narrowing down, the search results are organized in order to provide scaffolding to the novice researcher. The search results are split into the five main groups, and the top five results in each of the groups are displayed. For example, a search for "Han dynasty" returns 823 total results, yet on the results page the student actually sees 16 results: one Study Unit result, five Historical Document results, five Maps & Reference results with the ability to click to view the whole list of 82, one multimedia result, and five Journals results with the ability to click to view the whole list of 734. This type of organization is less overwhelming than a list of results where all types of sources are mixed up in one long list that the researcher must sort through.

One drawback of the database, from a student perspective, is that the only pre-formatted citation style provided for documents is MLA. While most community college history instructors do require MLA, if a student from a different course, like sociology, was using the database for historical research on a topic, they would be disappointed not to find APA citations. An interesting feature of the pre-formatted citations is the ability for students to edit the citations within the database. There is a place to click to "Show edit citation form," so a student can make changes to the citation if it is incorrect. Ultimately, this is a highly recommended database because it is so comprehensive, covering all history topics, providing a variety of resource types for students, and providing supports to help inexperience researchers.

History Reference Center (EBSCO)

History Reference Center is a comprehensive history database which encompasses all time periods and global regions (including coverage of American history). For the librarian, this it is easy choice because one can be sure they are meeting the needs of all history classes with a single subscription. History Reference Center contains academic journals, magazines, reviews, reference books, newspapers, biographies, trade publications, and primary source documents. The main page of the database is an advanced search page with various search limiters available for the researcher. Students tend to default to a simple search, but with instruction, they can be taught to use the timeline limiter which this reviewer thinks is the most useful limiting tool in this database. By selecting a time period from this tool, the database limits results to those labeled with the selected time period. All results are displayed in a main list sorted by relevance (this is the default). There are limiting tools in a menu on the left side of the page such as source type, publication date, and document type. For each document, the database provides pre-formatted APA, MLA, and Chicago style citations (along with a number of other styles as well). There is no doubt that it contains high quality information, and it sufficiently covers world history topics needed for a globalized history course. However, this database does not provide supportive scaffolding that can assist an inexperienced community college researcher.

Human Rights Studies Online (Alexander Street Press)

Human Rights Studies Online is a database providing documents and materials covering the major human rights violations and atrocity crimes worldwide from 1900 to 2010 such as the Holocaust, Cambodia, Rwanda, and more than thirty additional subjects. The collection includes primary and secondary materials of various media formats and content types for each selected

event such as full text books, primary documents, videos, and articles. On the home landing page there are a variety of ways a user can browse for materials such as by location, by discipline, by human rights themes, and, of course, a user can browse by event. There is also a simple search box on the main page and a link to an advanced search page. Each event has a page; in the top left corner is the title of the event, an image, the event date, a description, a biography of the subject advisor, and discussion questions. When a user first arrives at the event page, there are three "Editor's choice" items at the top of the screen. The "Editor's choice" box can be closed, and the user can then see a list of all the materials related to the event. The researcher is also able to refine results using a menu on the left side of the screen. The content is robust and the browse and search features make it easily accessible. The biggest drawback of the database is its limited scope. This is not the sort of resource that a variety of students in many different courses would be able to use for research. A specific instructor and a specific assignment might make it worthwhile, but it is not recommended as a core resource for globalizing online collections.

Issues and Controversies (Infobase/Facts On File)

In reviewing this database as a library seeking to globalize the perspective of online collections, the first consideration is the overwhelming U.S. point of view of the "Issues" covered in this database. Even the issues listed under the subject "Global Issues & World Affairs": Foreign Policy, Middle East Policy, Nuclear Weapons & Arms Control, Population & Demographics, Sanctions, Terrorism, United Nations, and War & Conflict, are almost completely discussed from a U.S. lens. This factor means that the database is not recommended as a resource for globalizing the library's online collections. However, in the interest of providing a full picture of the database, here is a more comprehensive review. The database

contains approximately 70 "Issues." Each Issue then contains a number of articles based on a question or statement about that issue. For example, under the issue "Foreign Policy" one of the articles responds to the statement "The United States government should substantially increase its economic and diplomatic engagement with the People's Republic of China." The article starts with two short statements, one labeled "Supporters Argue" and one labeled "Opponents Argue." The article then fully explains all the possible arguments in support of or in opposition to the statement or question including images, charts, and graphs. Finally, the article lists discussion questions, a bibliography, additional sources, contact information, and keywords. The Issues and Controversies are extremely relevant to a community college audience in that they provide context to complicated issues and create scaffolding which support the students' critical thinking on the issues. The bibliography, additional sources, contact information, and keywords are also a great stepping stone for inexperienced researchers providing them with simplified next steps for research on the topic. The database also contains Reuter's news articles and videos of debates on many of the issues, so the students do have access to other sources of information beyond the articles written by Facts on File. A drawback of the database is that it only provides MLA and Chicago citations for the students; there is no option for an APA citation. Ultimately, Issues and Controversies could be a useful resource for community college students, but it does not fill the need of globalizing a library's online collections.

Issues: Understanding Controversy and Society (ABC-CLIO)

This database is focused on hot topic issues from the U.S. and around the globe. Students can navigate to information by using one of three main tabs across the top of the database: Topics, Idea Exchange, and Library. The "Idea Exchange" section lists a variety of what the

publisher calls "Enduring Questions" with an overview of the question and three varied

responses to the question. Each response has an author listed, references, and suggested further

reading. The "Enduring Questions" are overwhelmingly focused on U.S. topics, so this section is

not very helpful to a researcher focused on a global issue. The "Library" tab is essentially the

Advanced Search page where a researcher can enter a search term and limit results by resource

type or topic. When a user attempts to type in the quick search box, the words "quick search"

must be deleted or they become a part of the search. It is not possible to just click in the box and

start typing a fresh search which is frustrating. This is a bug that needs to be fixed because

students tend to use a search box when operating a database independently rather than browsing.

Search results from either the "Library" tab advanced search or the quick search box are

displayed in a tabbed format. The first tab is from the "library" which has individual entries that

contain the keyword, usually reference articles, biographies, or photos & illustrations. The

second tab of the search results shows the topics that relate to the keyword. The tabs are hard to

see and students may not notice the topics tab at all. If there is a topic related to the student's

search, a topic page would give them more information than the individual reference articles

from the "library." Related Idea Exchange articles also appear as a tab when a topic is searched,

but the tabs are hard to see and it would be easy for a student to miss them in their search.

　　　The most powerful way for a researcher to find information in this database is to use the

Topics tab. The topics are organized alphabetically in a scrollable list; researchers can click on a

letter and be taken straight to that section of the list. The topics are a mixture of global and

domestic issues, so students in both global and non-global courses would find use for the

database. Each topic page contains the same sections: an overview; current view & outlook;

discussion; timeline; general resources including reference articles, biographies, and facts & figures; media including photos & illustrations, audio, and video; and documents including primary source documents like speeches and government documents. Except for the primary source documents and media, all of the content about the topic is produced by ABC-CLIO, so there are no outside sources like journals, magazines, or newspapers. If looking for a global perspective on an issue, this is a concern. If there are primary documents from non-U.S. sources, these would be the only source of a global perspective on an issue. Students would definitely have to supplement information from this database with journal, magazine, and news articles from another database. This database contains excellent information for the community college researcher in a globalized course, and it could serve the needs of other researchers as well. There is no reason for the database to not be recommended for purchase, but there are competitor products that serve the same purpose and are probably better buys for the library. Check table 3 for a comparison of the competitors in this group prior to making a purchase decision.

Modern World History Online (Infobase/Facts On File)

Modern World History Online covers world history from the mid-15th century to the present including reference articles and biographies from Facts on File publications, primary source documents, timelines, images, videos, and maps. The main landing page has a search box which most students would likely gravitate towards and an option to browse by topic centers. The topic centers include: Africa, Asia and Oceania, Europe, Middle East, The Americas, Global Expansion and Encounter, An Age of Revolutions, A Half-Century of Crisis and Achievement, and Promises and Paradoxes. The search box makes helpful keyword suggestions when the user begins typing. The results are displayed in tabs by source type, all of the article results are

displayed first on the search results page, and users can click links across the top of the screen to toggle among the primary source, image, video, and news article results. The news articles are all provided by Reuter's news service.

This database is like having an encyclopedia on modern world history that also links to Reuter's news articles. There is no content from journals or magazines, so students using this database get just the perspective of this publisher. While the information is reliable, current, and accessible to readers, this would not stand alone as the only history database in the library. First, students would need access to ancient history information, and students would need access to information beyond the reference articles provided here. While high quality, this database would not meet every history students' needs.

PAIS Index (ProQuest)

PAIS contains journal articles, books, government documents, statistical directories, grey literature, research reports, conference papers, and web content focused on public policy. The About page states "PAIS defines the "realm of public policy" as all subjects that bear on contemporary issues and the making and evaluating of public policy, irrespective of source or traditional disciplinary boundaries." The About page also notes that, for controversial subjects, an effort is made to provide all points of view, and PAIS works to include sources from and about every country. In considering the database, this reviewer attempted searches on common global research project topics like human trafficking, drug trafficking, AIDS, Haiti, women's rights, child marriage, and deforestation, to name a few. Each set of search results retrieved during testing would be highly useful for a community college student researcher. Notably, because newspapers and newsletters are not indexed in PAIS, the majority of the results were

scholarly journals and books providing the researcher with high quality sources with a minimum of narrowing or refining of results after the initial search. It is ideal for students to be able to find quality information within the first set of search results because this is a common expectation from the millennial generation. One oddity of this database is the fact that there is no way to limit to full text prior to searching or narrow by full text after searching, but there are results which do not have full text included. Availability of full-text might change depending on how the library combines PAIS with other ProQuest full-text databases. Another positive aspect of PAIS is that it has historical information, dating to the start of the 20th century, as well as contemporary information, so it becomes a useful source of information for students in a variety of courses. Overall, the information contained in PAIS would be very useful for the community college student researching for a globalized course. For North Carolina schools in particular, a positive of PAIS is that, as a ProQuest product, the interface and features are already familiar to the users.

Political Handbook of the World (Sage/CQ Press)

Political Handbook of the World is an online version of the print book of the same name. The product seeks to provide information on each country's government and political system. Each country profile includes sections titled: The Country, Government and Politics, Political Parties and Groups, Legislature, Cabinet, and Intergovernmental Representation. Because content of the online version is taken directly from the print publication, the information is not as current as possible. The "About" section of the database states that "Major political events that have occurred since the publication of the print volume have been included as notes at the beginning of affected entries." However, the most recent information is not up-to-date at the time

of this review. For example, Guatemala's new president took office in 2015, and this information has not yet been updated. So, a major problem with this database is the lag in updates. Further, this database is very niche with only the political and government information. While the information contained in the database is valuable from a historical perspective, other sources contain the same information, with the more current updates, along with additional information and features beyond just political and government coverage. Due to the limited nature of the database and the lack of current updates, this database is not recommended for purchase.

Polling the Nations

According to the "About Polling the Nations" page of the website "It has more surveys (18,000+) from more sources (1,700+) in more countries (100+) than any other resource anywhere." The way a user searches for information is by searching for poll questions. Users can either search by entering search criteria into open response boxes or by selecting from dropdown lists. The drop-down lists are extensively long and unwieldy to use. For example, in the drop-down list used to select the area of the world covered by the survey, it isn't just a list of countries; it is a list of every combination of countries ever used in a survey. So, there is a listing for France; France, Germany, and Great Britain; France, Hungary, and Italy, etc. The confusing nature of the drop-down menus would likely lead a researcher to switch to entering search criteria rather than using the drop-down menus. This reviewer was unsuccessful with every attempt at locating a poll on any topic a community college student might be interested in researching. The interface is too confusing and frustrating for a novice researcher as this experienced researcher quickly became frustrated trying to use it. Probably only a select group of people, comfortable working with polling data would find Polling the Nations useful. There is

likely a plethora of good information in the database, but it is not easy to access and community college students would not find it an informative resource.

SAGE Video: Politics and International Relations (Sage/CQ Press)

The videos contained in this collection fall into the following subject categories: general politics & international relations, American government & politics, comparative politics, European politics, international relations, political science, political theory, public administration, research methods for politics & international relations, international security, political behavior, public policy, regional & world politics, and strategic & defense studies. The videos are a variety of types such as interviews, lectures, panel discussions, documentaries and conference presentations. The videos seem geared more towards an audience of upper level college and graduate level students who are studying in the field of politics and international relations. Most of the videos would not meet the needs of a community college instructor or student in a globalized entry level course. This source is not recommended as a resource which will help globalize the library collections for community college students.

Statista

Statista is a statistics portal with statistics, studies and reports from over 18,000 sources. Statista provides users with a tool for researching quantitative data, statistics and related information. Statista provides statistics on industries, topics, and countries with demographic data as well as survey and poll data. Statistics are easily searched using the keyword search function. Most statistics on Statista are displayed as graphs. Student researchers can download each graph as a PNG, Excel file, PowerPoint file, or PDF. Statista provides what they call "Reading Support" for each statistic, which carefully explains exactly what is shown in the

graph. Each graph also comes with source data and the ability to create a citation for the statistics

in APA, MLA, and Chicago (among other) styles. In this reviewer's experience, community

college students can find and use statistics easily in Statista. Since the company is based in

Germany, there is a global perspective to the statistics and data that are included. For students

doing research on a specific country, Statista has dossiers for many countries which can be

downloaded and contain numerous graphs and statistics on the country. As a source for

international data which is easy for students to use and incorporate into assignments, Statista is a

recommended resource.

World Almanac Online (Infobase/Facts On File)

This is simply an online version of the classic almanac. The online version is nice for a

variety of reasons: the library does not have to update the physical copy each year, it is

accessible to both online and in-person students, and it has multi-user access. A negative of this

database is that the publisher provides MLA and Chicago style citations for documents but not

APA style, and many students need APA style citations. Another negative of the database, in the

context of globalizing collections, is the priority given to U.S. data. Most of the data in the

almanac is U.S. data. There is a short profile of each international country and many territories,

but this information is similar to or duplicated in other databases and even in CIA World Fact

book. The World Almanac Online is not a purchase which will significantly support the needs of

students in globalized courses.

World at War: Understanding Conflict and Society (ABC-CLIO)

As the name implies, World at War: Understanding Conflict and Society is a reference

work covering all of the wars in world history. Students can navigate to information by using one

of three main tabs across the top of the database: Topics, Idea Exchange, and Library. The "Idea

Exchange" section lists a variety of what the publisher calls "Enduring Questions" with an

overview of the question and three varied responses to the question. Each response has an author

listed, references, and suggested further reading. The "Library" tab is essentially the Advanced

Search page where a researcher can enter a search term and limit results by resource type, topic,

or region. When a user attempts to type in the quick search box, the words "quick search" must

be deleted or they become a part of the search. It is not possible to just click in the box and start

typing a fresh search which is frustrating. This is a bug that needs to be fixed because students

tend to use a search box when operating a database independently rather than browsing.

The most powerful way to access information in the database is by using the Topics tab.

On the main topics page there are 13 time period headings, beneath each time period are the

topics. Each topic is a war that occurred during that time period. Each topic article covers one

war, and each has the same sections: overview, causes, opponents, consequences, timeline,

general resources, media, and documents. The last three sections include: reference articles,

biographies, facts and figures, photos, illustrations, maps, and primary documents. Each of the

article sections has an author listed and preformatted citations in MLA, APA, and Chicago

styles. While the database has high quality information that is well organized and easy to

retrieve, it serves such a niche area of history that it would be hard for a community college

library to justify its purchase. If there was a specific course on warfare, it might fill that need, but

otherwise the pertinent information about the wars could be found in an encyclopedia or other

history source.

World Geography and Culture Online (Infobase/Facts On File)

World Geography and Culture Online provides a page on each country of the world focused on geography and culture and also includes a gazetteer and international news feed. Researchers can browse by drop down menu for countries or U.S. states, and the database also has a quick search box. Each country report is navigated via a left side menu containing the following sections: At-A-Glance, Maps and Flags, Facts and Figures, Images, Geography, People and Culture, Weather and Climate, History, Government, Society, and Country News. Articles are written by the editorial team and much of the source information comes from Facts On File publications. The facts and figures data is sourced from the CIA world fact book. Each country report contains a color flag, outline flag, political map, elevation map, outline map, regional locator map, and a land use and agriculture map. Researchers can download maps as a pdf or print them. The database emails maps as downloadable gif file which can be put into a presentation. All the provided images have an MLA or a Chicago citation provided for researchers as well as image source information and an image description. The database can email an image as a jpeg which can be easily put into a presentation. For the narrative articles written by the editorial staff, the database does provide an author name at the end of the article. Each individual topic is rather short, and there are no in-text citations within the individual articles (this is a similar problem across all competitors). There is no depth of coverage on each topic, but there is a breadth of the topics which community college students are asked to research. Also, the information in many of the topic articles tends to be dated; many of the articles last cite information from between 2008-2011. The current government officials are listed correctly, and the information from CIA World Fact book is up-to-date. The Country

News section links to a feed of recent UPI news stories for each country. A negative of this database is that the publisher provides MLA and Chicago style citations for documents but not APA style, and many students need APA style citations. More detailed comparisons to similar competitor products can be found in table 2, but ultimately this database is not recommended because of the brevity of the topic articles, the age of the information, and the lack of APA citations for students.

World Geography: Understanding a Changing World (ABC-CLIO)

World Geography: Understanding a Changing World provides a page on each country of the world focused on geography and culture and also incorporates additional reference and primary documents. Students can navigate to information by using one of three main tabs across the top of the database: Countries, Idea Exchange, and Library. There is also a quick search box in the main navigation bar. When researchers click the Countries tab, they can either select a country from a drop-down list of all countries, or select a country from drop-down lists for ten world regions: North America; South America; Europe; Sub-Saharan Africa; Central America and the Caribbean; Southwest Asia and North Africa; Russia, the Caucasus, and Central Asia; South Asia; Oceania and Antarctica; or East and Southeast Asia. Each country page contains an Overview section which summarizes Government and Politics and the Economy in about a paragraph each. There is a left side navigation menu which contains the same sections for each country: Geography, including Landforms & Climate, Natural Resources & Agriculture, and Environment; History & Issues, including History and Contemporary Issues; Society & Culture, including People, Traditions & Etiquette, Arts & Landmarks, Food & Holidays, and National Dress; Government & Economy, including Government and Politics; Facts & Figures; General

Resources, including Reference Articles and Biographies; Media, including Photos & Illustrations, Video, Flags, and Maps; and Documents including Political, Gov't & Court Documents usually including the country's constitution.

Each of the subsection articles may have a few headings within it, and each article is usually a few paragraphs. The history section of the country pages tends to be the longest article. The articles are well written overviews of information but contain little depth, especially for the culture sections. The country report has about the same coverage as any encyclopedia article. Within each article there are hyperlinked words, which allow the user to click and view additional information about small topics all within the same country report. There is nothing noteworthy or unique about the country reports. The database also offers the "Idea Exchange" section which lists a variety of what the publisher calls "Enduring Questions" with an overview of the question and three varied responses to the question. Each response has an author listed, references, and suggested further reading. One downside of the Idea Exchange articles is that they are not connected to the country reports. It would be more valuable if there was a link to any relevant Idea Exchange articles within the country reports as a way for a student to discover more about a country's current issues and opinions on the issues. Further, the Idea Exchange articles are limited in number and do not cover a majority of popular paper topics chosen by community college students. The last tab students can use to navigate for information is the Library tab; this is essentially the Advanced Search feature of the database. It allows a student to enter a search term and then narrow by resource category, country, or region. If a student searches by keyword, they will retrieve reference articles pertinent to their topic. So, the database can be used for topic-focused research as well as country-focused research. Except for the

primary source documents such as constitutions and other government documents, there are no

outside sources within the database like news, magazine, or journal articles. The database does

not seem to offer substantial information above and beyond a typical encyclopedia, so a library

might be better served to subscribe to a more general encyclopedia instead of this database. More

detailed comparisons to similar competitor products can be found in table 2.

World History: Ancient and Medieval Eras (ABC-CLIO)

World History: Ancient and Medieval Eras covers from prehistory until AD 1500 through

online courses made of a collection of videos. Students can navigate to information by using one

of three main tabs across the top of the database: Topics, Idea Exchange, and Library. The "Idea

Exchange" section lists a variety of what the publisher calls "Enduring Questions" with an

overview of the question and three varied responses to the question. Each response has an author

listed, references, and suggested further reading. The "Library" tab is essentially the Advanced

Search page where a researcher can enter a search term and limit results by resource type, topic,

country, or region. When a user attempts to type in the quick search box, the words "quick

search" must be deleted or they become a part of the search. It is not possible to just click in the

box and start typing a fresh search which is frustrating. This is a bug that needs to be fixed

because students tend to use a search box when operating a database independently rather than

browsing.

The most powerful way to access information in this database is by using the Topics tab.

There are 11 topic headings separated by time span as well as world region. Each major heading

has subheadings, and then the Topics are choices listed under the subheadings. Here is an

example: Heading: Africa, 3000 B.C.-A.D. 1500; Subheading: Early Africa; Topics: The

Kingdom of Nubia, Aksum: Thriving Center of Trade; Subheading: Western Kingdom; Topics: Ghana and Mali: Trading Empires; Subheading: Trading Cultures and City-States; Topics: Great Zimbabwe and Kilwa: African Trading Empire. Each topic page is essentially a "course," and the course content is made up of videos. So, when a user clicks on a topic, they land on a text overview of the topic. Then in the left side navigation menu, the next selection is "Course Essentials." Under course essentials is the video content for the topic. Each topic has an introduction video for the course, and then a number of videos covering the important subjects within the course, and then a closing video. The videos are either a video of a lecturer speaking or a recorded narrated PowerPoint with images. Each Topic page also has support materials including an outline and a transcript for each video. There are also discussion questions, a list of related reference articles, selected related media, and selected related primary documents.

This database is extremely robust and could be a great resource for a history instructor, specifically an online instructor. It could probably serve as a replacement or supplement to a text book. With that said, this database may not be the best resource for a student trying to research a topic from multiple perspectives. The information in the database is all produced by ABC-CLIO, and while it is quality information, the database does not include journal, book, or magazine articles from other scholars. While this database really is a spectacular resource, it would have to be vetted by the history department and the library might also need to supplement it with a database which has other history journals and texts for student research. Further, this database could not stand alone; the library would need to purchase World History: The Modern Era to cover the full scope of world history.

World History in Context (Gale)

World History in Context contains reference articles, biographies, academic journal articles, periodical articles, audio, video, and images from prehistory until present day. Many topics have a "Topic Page" overview article either written by Gale editors or selected from a reference work. Students can browse by topic within a number of topic categories, such as biographies, civilizations, human rights events, political movements, or religions to name a few. Students tend to prefer the simple search box, and there is also a link to an advanced search page. If a student searches by the exact topic term (or selects the topic from the list), the "Topic Page" overview will appear at the top of the search results along with "Featured Content" for the topic. The overview articles are appealing to the community college student audience because they provide a starting point for complicated topics. As with all the "in context" databases, the results are displayed split into source type groups with only the top five results from each group. Students can click on a source type to then view all of the results in that source category. The "Featured Content" grouping contains articles, presumably selected by editorial staff, which is integral to understanding the topic. The "Featured Content" section only appears with those topics from the list. All search results will usually fall into the following categories: Global Viewpoints, Reference, Academic Journals, Primary Sources, Audio, Magazines, Biographies, News, Websites, Videos, and Images.

World History in Context is ideal for the community college audience because of the scaffolding provided for inexperienced researchers. The organization of the information returned in the search results and the overview articles allow community college students to become comfortable with searching a library database without feeling overwhelmed or confused as they

might in a database geared more towards upper-level college and graduate level researchers. A possible criticism of the "Topic Pages" and "Featured Content" boxes might be that they do not require students to practice advanced critical thinking and information literacy skills in selecting resources. As mentioned above, this reviewer feels these supports are scaffolding for inexperienced researchers and act as a stepping stone for students as they move towards more complicated search engines later in college. A consideration with World History In Context is that the information does not overlap with the information provided by U.S. History In Context, so a community college library will likely need to buy both databases to support the needs of all history students. A final note, Gale's databases have added Google and Microsoft integration, so students can download results to their file storage and sharing applications. If only considering the needs of students in world history courses, and students seeking information on global history topics, World History in Context is a highly recommended resource for its scope of coverage, the variety of sources available, the research supports, and the added features.

World History: The Modern Era (ABC-CLIO)

World History: The Modern Era covers from AD 1500 until present through online courses made of a collection of videos. Students can navigate to information by using one of three main tabs across the top of the database: Topics, Idea Exchange, and Library. The "Idea Exchange" section lists a variety of what the publisher calls "Enduring Questions" with an overview of the question and three varied responses to the question. Each response has an author listed, references, and suggested further reading. The "Library" tab is essentially the Advanced Search page where a researcher can enter a search term and limit results by resource type, topic, country, or region. When a user attempts to type in the quick search box, the words "quick

search" must be deleted or they become a part of the search. It is not possible to just click in the box and start typing a fresh search which is frustrating. This is a bug that needs to be fixed because students tend to use a search box when operating a database independently rather than browsing.

The most powerful way to access information in this database is by using the Topics tab. There are 10 topic headings separated by time span. Each major heading has subheadings, and then the Topics are choices listed under the subheadings. Here is an example: Heading: Spheres of Influence, 1776-1914; Subheading: The Scramble for Africa; Topics: European Imperialism in Africa; Subheading: The Americas and the Caribbean; Topics: The Spanish-American War and Nation Building in Canada; Subheading: East Asia and the Pacific; Topics: The Opium War and The Emergence of Modern Japan; Subheading: South Asia and the Middle East; Topics: British India and The Crimean War. Each topic page is essentially a "course," and the course content is made up of videos. So, when a user clicks on a topic, they land on a text overview of the topic. Then in the left side navigation menu, the next selection is "Course Essentials." Under course essentials is the video content for the topic. Each topic has an introduction video for the course, and then a number of videos covering the important subjects within the course, and then a closing video. The videos are either a video of a lecturer speaking or a recorded narrated PowerPoint with images. Each Topic page also has support materials including an outline and a transcript for each video. There are also discussion questions, a list of related reference articles, selected related media, and selected related primary documents.

This database is extremely robust and could be a great resource for a history instructor, specifically an online instructor. It could probably serve as a replacement or supplement to a text

book. With that said, this database may not be the best resource for a student trying to research a

topic from multiple perspectives. The information in the database is all produced by ABC-CLIO,

and while it is quality information, the database does not include journal, book, or magazine

articles from other scholars. While this database really is a spectacular resource, it would have to

be vetted by the history department and the library might also needs to supplement it with a

database which has other history journals and texts for student research. In addition, to cover all

of world history, the library would also need to purchase World History: Ancient and Medieval

Eras from the vendor.

World News Digest (Infobase/Facts On File)

World News Digest contains news articles, country profiles, historic event overviews,

historical documents, key biographies, research features, special reports, newspaper editorials,

and encyclopedia articles. The focus of the database, as the name implies, is the World News

Digest articles. News articles retrieved in a basic search of the database are either World News

Digest articles written by World News Digest editorial staff or Reuter's news service articles.

The Sources page describes the editorial process this way: "The editors of Facts On File World

News Digest research and distill key news information every week from more than 100 major

newspapers, news magazines, other periodicals, and government and online sources from the

U.S. and around the world." The other items in the database are available to add context to the

World News Digest articles, so when a researcher does a search for a topic they will retrieve

World News Digest articles on the topic as well as related almanac data, encyclopedia articles,

biographies, event overviews, and historical overviews. There is a menu on the right side of the

results list allowing users to filter results by type and by date. Many of the World News Digest

articles and Research Features include pertinent videos embedded into the article, and many articles include relevant images and graphics. While the sources reviewed by the editors do include international publications, the database does not offer a distinctly international perspective which many students seek. While World News Digest has many useful features, it seems to meet the needs of middle and high school audience rather than a high school to college audience. Also, it is important to note in this review that this database, like all the Facts On File products, only supplies MLA and Chicago citations for students to use. From the standpoint of a library seeking to globalize the collection, this database is not a necessary purchase.

World Politics Review

World Politics Review publishes analyses of critical global trends as a resource for researchers seeking information on international affairs. The articles of World Politics Review are written by a network of area experts, journalists, and other contributors. WPR's in-depth, full-length reports provide comprehensive analysis of individual topics. These include features, special reports, and country reports. They also publish briefings, columns, and trend lines which they call "five-minute reads." Students can gain access to World Politics Review's content either via the WPR website or through a database offered by EBSCO. The website is better for browsing; students can discover information by browsing by author, region, or issue. The WPR website is useful for students who are selecting topics or for students who need to find an article for a reading assignment. The database version is more helpful for students who are researching a specific topic for an assignment. As WPR is a single publication, there are limits to the amount of information available, so every student will not find what they need in WPR. When searching the database, broad searches work best because if a search is too specific the database does not

retrieve results. World Politics Review is a quality resource for globalizing the online collections of a community college library.

World Religions: Belief, Culture, and Controversy (ABC-CLIO)

World Religions: Belief, Culture, and Controversy is a reference work focused on religion. Students can navigate to information by using one of three main tabs across the top of the database: Topics, Idea Exchange, and Library. The "Idea Exchange" section lists a variety of what the publisher calls "Enduring Questions" with an overview of the question and three varied responses to the question. Each response has an author listed, references, and suggested further reading. The "Library" tab is essentially the Advanced Search page where a researcher can enter a search term and limit results by resource type, religion, country, or time period. There is also a quick search box in the main navigation bar. When a user attempts to type in the quick search box, the words "quick search" must be deleted or they become a part of the search. It is not possible to just click in the box and start typing a fresh search which is frustrating. This is a bug that needs to be fixed because students tend to use a search box when operating a database independently rather than browsing. Search results from either the "Library" tab advanced search or the quick search box are displayed in a tabbed format. The first tab is from the "library" which has individual entries that contain the keyword, usually reference articles, biographies, or photos & illustrations. The second tab of the search results shows the topics that relate to the keyword. The tabs are hard to see and students may not notice the topics tab at all. If there is a topic related to the student's search, a topic page would give them more information than the individual reference articles from the "library." Related Idea Exchange articles also appear as a tab when a

keyword is searched, but the tabs are hard to see and it would be easy for a student to miss them in their review.

The most powerful way for a researcher to find information in this database is to use the Topics tab. The topics tab lists all the religions covered in the database. There are main religion sections including: Buddhism, Christianity, Chinese Religions, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, New Religions, Shinto, Traditional Religions, Western Esotericism, Unbelief, and Other Faiths and Beliefs. Then beneath each of these major categories is a link to an "Introduction to …" article about the overall religion. Then, below that, are separate topics for different types of the main religion. For example under the "Islam" heading, researchers can choose Introduction to Islam, Ismaili Islam, Shia, Sufism, or Sunni.

Each topic page contains the same sections: an overview; discussion; timeline; general resources including reference articles, biographies, and glossary terms; media including photos & illustrations, audio, and video; and documents which are primary sources including "political, gov't & court documents" and "cultural documents." The variety of religions covered, including unbelief, new religions, and other faiths and beliefs is a great strength of the database. This database can really provide a broad base of information on worldwide religions. Further, the database is both historical and current, allowing students in history classes as well as students in current events courses to use the information. While all African traditional religions are lumped together in one article which may unintentionally reinforce the stereotype of a single pan-African culture, the general resources and the documents provided in the article come from individual religions, so it is made clear to the researcher that there are a variety of traditional religions within African traditional religions. The documents section includes creation myths from 13

different African traditional religions. This is a recommended database for a library needing a source on world religions due to its scope of coverage, especially, and the quality and quantity of the supporting reference articles and documents.

World Religions Online (Infobase/Facts On File)

World Religions Online is a reference work focused on religion. The sources for the database are all Facts On File publications, and the Sources page notes that "many entries have been updated since book publication" as the most recent encyclopedia was published in 2009. The information is in depth for each religion covered. For each "Topic Center" there is an "In-Depth Study" section which includes extensive discussion on topics including an introduction to the religion, origins and early history, and the religion today. The In-Depth Study section is different for each religion as the chapters are dependent upon the unique elements of that religion. The Topic Centers include: African Traditional Religion, Buddhism, Catholicism & Orthodox Christianity, Confucianism, Daoism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Native American Religions, Protestantism, and Shinto. Notably, types of non-belief, new religions, and historical religions are not covered. Further, grouping together all African Traditional Religions and all North American Religions may cause uninformed researchers to assume that these varied religions have more similarities than differences. This organizational choice also has the possibility of confirming the common stereotype of there being a pan-African or American Indian common culture. The coverage of indigenous religions could be improved by perhaps grouping similar religions within a continent. For example, create a category for North American Religions and then have smaller categories within North American Religions which would help a researcher new to the field to understand the variety. The database also contains almost 200 short

videos on a variety of topics and even more images across all of the covered religions which are a great asset for community college researchers. There is no feature for embedding the videos into presentations which will probably frustrate instructors and students, but the images can be emailed and are sent as jpeg files which can be easily incorporated into presentations. Overall, the database would be helpful to student researchers and would meet the goal of globalizing online collection. However, in comparison to the competition in world religions databases, this database lacks a sufficient scope of coverage of modern and historical religions. Also, it is important to note in this review that this database, like all the Facts on File products, only supplies MLA and Chicago citations for students to use.

Conclusion

The major limitation of this project is that it is based on the personal knowledge and perspective of a single individual who has only had experience working at one community college in North Carolina. Due to the timing of the fellowship and research for the paper, the author was not able to get input from instructors or other librarians. All authors have personal biases and tastes when reviewing resources, so the author recognized this and attempted to review the resources from the perspective of the typical community college user. In the future, other librarians can respond to this paper with different analyses of the products. Further, prior to subscribing to a recommended database, it is best practice for a library to secure a free trial and allow their own institution's instructors to review the databases as well.

A second limitation of the project is the review of the world history materials. These resources were not compared at the title list level; rather, the content was compared based generally on coverage of time periods and world regions. Further research could compare the

title lists of the world history databases to make a more informed recommendation on the best product for purchase.

The only possible conflict of interest is that a relative of the author is the publisher of one of the reviewed resources. The author did not consult this relative in the preparation of the paper, and their relationship has no bearing on the recommendations made in the paper.

A future consideration for libraries in North Carolina supporting the needs of the Scholars of Global Distinction program is: how can librarians among these community colleges share ideas and share efforts so that similar work is not duplicated many times over? Many libraries are creating Libguides in support of SGD and for globalized courses; how can these Libguides be shared? Many libraries will be subscribing to the same products; how can the libraries work with their consortia partners to make the purchase of global resources more affordable? The librarians of the SGD colleges in North Carolina need to work with World View at UNC, with the Carolina Consortium, and with NC LIVE to develop solutions. One possible solution is that the libraries of SGD colleges could form a consortium and seek to collectively purchase subscriptions to the core collection recommended in this paper. If each library director committed to paying into the deal based on FTE, perhaps NC LIVE could negotiate and service the shared subscriptions. The cost of the subscriptions would be paid in full by the SGD consortia members rather than coming from NC LIVE's budget.

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Graff Hysell, Shannon. 2015. *Recommended reference books for small and medium-sized*

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RCL/Resources for College Libraries (subscribed to by The University of Illinois Urbana-

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Reference and User Services Association. *Outstanding Reference Sources*.

   http://www.ala.org/rusa/awards/outstandingreferencesources

Appendix A: Free Online Resources

- American Society of International Law

    o EISIL Electronic Information System for International Law http://eisil.org/

    o Electronic Resource Guide (e-RG) https://www.asil.org/resources/electronic-resource-guide-erg

- BLS Statistical Sites on the WWW http://www.bls.gov/bls/other.htm

- Constitute https://www.constituteproject.org/

- Encyclopedia Iranica http://www.iranicaonline.org/

- Ethnologue languages of the world http://www.ethnologue.com/

- European Union

    o European Commission Public Opinion

      http://ec.europa.eu/COMMFrontOffice/PublicOpinion/

    o Eurostat http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat

    o http://europa.eu/index_en.htm

- Forced Migration Online http://www.forcedmigration.org/

- Global Corruption Report http://www.transparency.org/research/gcr

- Global Edge http://globaledge.msu.edu/

- Global terrorism database (GTD) http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/

- Human Rights Library http://www.un.org/en/documents/index.html

- International Children's Digital Library http://en.childrenslibrary.org/

- International Organization for Migration http://www.iom.int/

- LangMedia Resources for World Languages http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu/index.html

- NIRA Think Tank Information World Directory of Think Tanks

  http://www.nira.or.jp/english/nwdtt/nwdtt.html

- POPline.org http://www.popline.org/

- REESWeb www virtual library for Russian and Eastern European Studies

  http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/reesweb/

- ReliefWeb http://reliefweb.int/

- Torture Archive http://nsarchive.gwu.edu/torture_archive/index.htm

- UN

  - Data http://data.un.org/

  - Documents http://www.un.org/en/documents/index.html

  - Human Development Reports http://hdr.undp.org/en

  - United Nations Millennium Development Goals

    http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/

- US Dept of State Country Human Rights Reports http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/

- WHO publications http://www.who.int/publications/en/

- Women in World History http://chnm.gmu.edu/wwh/index.html

- World Bank Open Data http://data.worldbank.org/

- World Bank World Development Report

  https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/2124

- World Flag Database http://www.flags.net/beta/

- World Health Statistics http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/en/

- World Heritage http://whc.unesco.org/

- World History Connected http://worldhistoryconnected.press.illinois.edu/

- World History Matters http://worldhistorymatters.org/

- World History Sources http://chnm.gmu.edu/worldhistorysources/index.html

- World Public Opinion http://worldpublicopinion.org/index.php

- World Wildlife Fund Wildfinder http://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/wildfinder

- YaleGlobal Online: http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/

Appendix B: Pertinent Book Titles

Business

- *Global Entrepreneurship* by Nir Kshetri

  ISBN: 9780415887991

  Publication Date: 2014-04-16

Early Childhood Education

- *Bambini* by Lella Gandini; Carolyn Edwards

  ISBN: 9780807740095

  Publication Date: 2000-11-01

- *Preschool in Three Cultures* Revisited by Joseph Tobin; Yeh Hsueh; Mayumi Karasawa

  ISBN: 9780226805030

  Publication Date: 2009-08-15

General

- *Global happiness: a guide to the most contented (and discontented) places around the globe* by Cybriwsky, Roman Adrian

  ISBN: 9781440835568, 9781440835575

  Publication Date: 2015

- *Images That Injure* by Susan Dente Ross; Paul Martin Lester (Editor)

  ISBN: 9780313378928

  Publication Date: 2011-05-01

- *International encyclopedia of political communication* ed. by Gianpietro Mazzoleni with

    Kevin G. Barnhurst et al

    ISBN: 9781118290750, 9781118541555

    Publication Date: 2015

- *World Food* by Mary Ellen Snodgrass

    ISBN: 9780765682789

    Publication Date: 2012-08-03

Nursing

- *Caring for Patients from Different Cultures* by Geri-Ann Galanti

    ISBN: 9780812223118

    Publication Date: 2014-11-21

Regions/Countries

- *Africa: an encyclopedia of culture and society* ed. by Toyin Falola and Daniel Jean-

    Jacques

    ISBN: 9781598846652, 9781598846669

    Publication date: 2016

- *The Ghana reader: history, culture, politics* ed. by Kwasi Konadu and Clifford C.

    Campbell

    ISBM: 9780822359845, 9780822359920, 9780822374961

    Publication date: 2016

- *Routledge handbook of contemporary India* ed. by Knut A. Jacobsen

    ISBN: 9780415738651,9781315682570

Publication date: 2016

- *Understanding Chinese society: changes and transformations*, Series on contemporary

  China, by Tsang, Eileen Yuk-Ha.

  ISBN: 9789814644853, 9789814644877

  Publication date: 2016