**EBSCO-Gale Database Evaluation**
**Task Force**

April 6, 2007

**Background:**

Currently, UC libraries license Gale's Expanded Academic ASAP database to function as a general multidisciplinary database, aimed at an undergraduate population.  Expanded Academic ASAP is funded centrally by SCAP, and campuses pay no co-invest share.    In the years since this license was formalized, offerings by database vendors have changed.  Gale has introduced Academic OneFile, which offers significantly more content at a significantly higher price.  EBSCO is currently offering two similar products: Academic Search Premier (which has been offered as a trial for UC libraries until December, 2007) and Academic Search Complete.  Among these four products, CDC wishes to identify the general database that
- best meets the needs of undergraduate students
- best meets the needs of any user group interested in multidisciplinary coverage of subjects; and
- best meets the criteria of ease of use.

In considering the added-content pair (Academic OneFile and Academic Search Complete), there are cost implications.  While both basic products would be cost neutral for the campuses, both added-content databases would require campus co-investments on top of the CDL share.

It is recognized that exchanging one existing UC licensed resource for a comparable other vended resource is a labor intensive process that should not be undertaken lightly.  Should such a decision be made, CDL will make every attempt to arrange a transition period of at least 6 months during which both the new resource and old resource will be available.

**Charge:**

A task force is charged by JSC to conduct an evaluation comparing the following products from 2 major general multidisciplinary database vendors (Gale and EBSCO):

| Basic Products – Cost Neutral | Added-Content Products – Requires additional campus co-shares |
|---|---|
| Gale's Expanded Academic ASAP | Gale's Academic OneFile |
| EBSCO's Academic Search Premier | EBSCO's Academic Search Complete |

The evaluation should include the strengths and limitations of each database and a recommendation which names the most appropriate general, multidisciplinary database which meets the current and near-term future needs of students.  A recommendation to upgrade to either Gale Academic OneFile or EBSCO Academic Search Complete will require campus co-investment.

Any recommendation to change the current vended resource, Expanded Academic ASAP, to another resource will have an effective date of July, 2008.

**Specific Evaluation Components**:

1) Identify unique (i.e. title/subject exclusives) content and coverage (i.e. dates, selective or cover to cover) for each database evaluated. In assessing the value of the full-text contained within each database, the task force should also consider any overlap with existing systemwide licensed resources (e.g. with journals licensed directly from the publisher).
2) Assess completeness of content (i.e. abstracts only, full-text)
3) Assess reliability/stability of content
4) Identify any functionality that affects the usability of or access to content (i.e. search, retrieval, display, manipulation)
5) Highlight any barriers to use (i.e. licensing features, such as perpetual access, ILL, or instructional/reserve use)
6) Analyze cost benefits for each database product, including the campus co-investment implications if a recommendation is made to discontinue Expanded Academic ASAP.

**Timeframe:**

Progress report due to UC CDC: August 1, 2007
Final report due: October 1, 2007

**Evaluation Task Force Members:**

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Vicki Bloom (UCR, chair of General Reference Bibliographers Group)
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**CDL Contact:**

Wendy Parfrey – business and licensing comparative information

**JSC Contact**:

Gail Yokote – questions about charge, progress, etc.