



E-VIEWS AND REVIEWS

Queer Content Comes Out

By Cheryl LaGuardia

GLBT Life with Full Text

EBSCO Publishing

GLBT Life with Full Text (GLBT FT) has all the content of **GLBT Life** (indexing and abstracts for articles in 230-plus journals and newspapers) plus full text for 38 journals, including such well-known titles as *The Advocate*, *ONE*, and *Out*, with some full-text coverage back as far as 1953. Lesser-known titles, such as *Hermaphrodites with Attitude*, *HX*, and *Whosoever*, are covered, too, and EBSCO's **GLBT Life** thesaurus of more than 6300 terms is at work here as well.

I compared **GLBT FT**'s contents with ProQuest's Alt-Press Watch (another full-text database covering the "alternative and independent press"), figuring there might be overlap. There is: both index *The Advocate* (**GLBT FT** to 1967 [full text from 1996], Alt-Press Watch to 1992). That's the only title they have in common—in case there was any doubt that **GLBT FT** is a unique, much-needed database.

HOW DOES IT WORK? The search screen is the same as for other EBSCO databases: the default is a clean, single Basic Search box with Search Tips beneath it and the ability to limit results to full text, peer-reviewed titles, articles with references available, a particular

journal title, and by date. You can expand searches looking for related words, within full text, and by "and-ing" terms automatically. The Advanced Search adds limit options (number of pages, references available, publication type, and document type). I can't say it often enough: I like this interface very much, and the researchers I work with do as well.

CAN YOU AND YOUR PATRONS USE IT?

A Basic Search for "same sex marriage" got 10,396 hits. I limited results to Academic Journals (one-click), which gave me a thoroughly browsable list of 94. Looking at a full record showed me that "same-sex marriage" is the Subject Term used, and clicking it produced 7,248 results. I went back to the result of 94, further refined the search by clicking the Subject Term "social inequality," and received a set of 12 "right-on-the-money" references.

I tried Advanced Searches. One for "family support" limited to peer-reviewed journals (eight results, highly relevant). A search for "transgendered" and "sports" located the effective Subject Term ("Transgender athletes") and found 14 hits in magazines, newspapers, legal journals, and an encyclopedia. The search for "civil unions" and "insurance" led to the specific

Thesaurus term "Domestic partner benefits," for which there were 728 results. A search for "stonewall riot" yielded a cornucopia of pertinent results ranging from the history of gay liberation to erotic photography, from book and film reviews (a major plus for this file!) to definitions of gender. Results often exceeded expectations, and few e-resources do that these days.

HOW GOOD IS IT?

This is a solid 10. The interface, scope, thesaurus, and full text combine to make a hugely powerful research tool in a rapidly growing field of study. May the e-industry soon produce similar files.

WHAT'S THE COST? Please contact EBSCO Publishing for specific pricing for your institution.

THE BOTTOM LINE **GLBT Life** is on my "Best Reference Databases of 2004" list, and by adding the full text of nearly 40 journals, EBSCO has another winner. Highly recommended for public, academic, and special libraries.

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