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Database Reviews
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Database Review(s)

Food Science Source

general subject category: publications on food industry-related issues, with industry and market reports

publisher name: FSS is a product of EBSCO Industries

review:

Food Science Source's product page on EBSCO's marketing/commercial website was bright and simple, with a blurb on how the database was 'designed to support the research needs of the food industry' with 'journals, monographs, magazines and trade publications, plus... industry and market reports'. Then, to the right was a boast that it represented '750... publications', hosting (presumably over) 3.4 million records. The Full Text Subject Title- and Database Coverage Lists were offered for download in both Excel and HTML formats. EBSCO also promised that FSS 'provides... critical information... text with images, tables, charts, and other graphical content from many key titles'. And 'also... benchmarks and best practices and developments from a world-wide range of industry players'.

I scrolled through the Lists. Here are a few titles and countries of publication I hadn't readily expected to see:

In the Full Text Subject Title List:

- *Helicobacter- Gastroenterology*

- *Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research*
- *Pakistan Journal of Weed Science Research- Weeds*
- *Food and Drug Packaging*
- *Special Events- Event planning*

In the Database Coverage List:

- *Allergen Labeling & Use of Advisory Labelling 'May Contain Traces of [Allergen]' - Denmark*
- *Cultivos Tropicales- Cuba*
- *Innovative Romanian Food Biotechnology- Romania*
- *PIN Pacific Islands NCDs- New Caledonia*
- *Women's Nutrition Connection- United States*

Scanning down the Coverage list, it seemed the majority of Source Types are Academic Journals, with Pamphlets and Conference Papers Collections being the odd unicorns. However, this database's content could be useful to food science researchers of many flavors, considering the breadth of topics, languages, and applicable situations, regions, and populations covered.

Myself, I'm tickled at how Event Planning is germane to food science.

Search was facilitated through the EBSCOhost interface where Boolean (advanced) was the mode most prominent. Basic (single box keyword) search was also available. Users can also access a Search History log, and expand their search through options like 'find all' or 'find any' of search terms, Smart Text (just load as much text into the search box as one'd like), apply related words, search within full text articles, or apply equivalent subjects. One can limit searches to or by any combination of publications, document type, company, NAICS code,

whether or not a scholarly (peer-reviewed) journal, language, publication type, or PDF full-text availability.

The intended audience are most likely food science students –university to final high school/A-levels/International Baccalaureate project-hopefuls-, researchers for academic, industry, commercial and government enterprises, like zookeepers, botanical garden keepers, agricultural gardeners, park rangers, livestock caretakers, processors, and transporters, animal shelter technicians, and anything that has to do with making sure flora and fauna will flourish in a way that can cause no harm to humankind. It looks to be a whole other assignment to give an exhaustive list of anyone who could find FSS useful.

Since I am of the ‘general public’, neither a food science student nor engaged in that work (a half-lie; I sell pastries and bread, often by explaining how fermentation and all types of ingredients work together), this database would interest many others not of the FS life. Foodies, especially, eaters and home chefs alike, might enjoy a calm evening reading about cultivating cannabis from seed or clone, or how the older muscles of a capon make for a tastier coq au vin. All it takes is access.

HeinOnline

general subject category: journals on politics, law, and government, Congressional reports, U.S.

Reports from 1754, constitutions from every country, classic books from the 18th and 19th centuries, all U.S. treaties, and others

publisher name: William S. Hein and Co.

review:

Hein and Co. actually offer products in more than half a dozen territories around the world, and for the United States alone has eight packages: University/College, Law School, High School, Public Library, Law Firm, Government, Corporation, and Individuals.

A bit more background information on this massive information broker: the product marketed for higher education institutions, HeinOnline Academic, claimed to have been 'designed for any U.S. university or college', with access to 36 databases covering 1,500 academic topics. Currently, it has over 1,000 subscribers. I'm relieved that the King Library had decided not to rely on only one source for our academic research needs, regardless of how it would be 'a fraction of the cost' –an actual boast on the product page.

San Jose State University subscribes to the 'research package designed for law schools', U.S. Academic Core+, since topics listed on the product page nearly matched the one linked from King Library's A-Z Databases. Core+'s databases can be browsed by Category or Name. The former number seven, and they are Case Law, International Resources, International Treaties and Agreements, Journals and Periodicals, Special Collections, U.S. Federal Content, and U.S. State Content. There are 35 databases, with six of them stamped with a green 'plus' symbol: Civil Rights and Social Justice, COVID-19: Pandemics Past and Present, Executive Privilege, Military and Government, NOMOS: American Society for Political and Legal

Philosophy, and Open Society Justice Initiative. There was no ready link or pop-up, or explanation anywhere on the site –not even in the 12-page User’s Guide- as to what this symbol means. Though, considering the topics’ significances in recent years, I expect they marked the most popular searched databases.

Under Journals and Periodicals were listed the Law Journal Library and NOMOS. The former is a portal to 2,992 titles, among them *Fordham Law Review*, *American Bar Association Journal*, and *Yale Journal of Law and Humanities* –these were the most recognizable names to me towards the top of the scholarly articles listed for the John F. Kennedy Assassination Collection. The latter is an annual yearbook for the ASPLP, a gathering of legal and political philosophy such scholars founded in 1955 by Carl Friedrich.

Document types are academic/scholarly journals, official reports, books, periodicals, serials, contemporary and historical documents, codes, congressional documents, committee prints –like congressional session minutes published about legislation, research and other concerns or actions-, and other primary source materials. I would get red in the face if tasked to identify *every* type, but could spend weeks doing the literature review for a research paper through this resource.

At the top of each HeinOnline webpage is a Basic (keyword) search, with options to search by database name in a drop down menu to the right of the search bar, Advanced (Boolean) options to search ‘full text and metadata of all subscribed HeinOnline databases’ or ‘across all available HeinOnline content, including MARC 21 records’, or by citation.

Core+’s intended audience is clearly for graduate-level researchers. This is not because of the materials or seriousness of their sources –though given determination, a mention on the cafeteria’s lunch dessert options could be unearthed through a committee print-, but how thickly

everything seems to be organized. Every drop-down or unfolding menu was such a ‘feast’ for the eyes, enough to make the casual information seeker see stars and, possibly, run back to Google Search. Keyword and Boolean search could give results lists that are less intimidating to sift through, but so much dry academic/government language in the organic text part might still scare those not brave enough from giving each result a sporting chance.

Anyone of the ‘general public’ who’d find their way to this database in an academic or public library could be counted on to click through to a few articles for, at least, a brief scanning. However, Hein and Co. offer a U.S. Core+ for Individuals, thus the ‘amateur’ researcher who wants this quality of database would most likely opt for subscribing themselves than using U.S. Academic Core+.

Sites referenced

<https://www.ebsco.com/products/research-databases/food-science-source>

<https://home-heinonline-org.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/subscriptions/united-states/academic-core-us/>