AccessScience

Rob Tench
Old Dominion University, ftench@odu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.odu.edu/libraries_fac_pubs

Part of the Library and Information Science Commons

Original Publication Citation

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Libraries at ODU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Libraries Faculty & Staff Publications by an authorized administrator of ODU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@odu.edu.
“Biographies” include fascinating accounts of notable scientists searchable either by alphabet or topic. Under “media,” researchers will discover about 30 videos and animations, such as “All About Gluten” and “Coffee Chemistry,” as well as images galleries related to the human brain, venomous fishes, supernova remnants, and other topics. “Projects” include DIY activities, in six areas (biology and biomedicine, computing and information technology, earth science, engineering and materials, food science and technology, and physics). Located at the bottom of the page are links to information about the resource, “help” and “frequently asked questions,” and “troubleshooting.”

The “for faculty” page contains links to Next Generation Science Standards, a search widget for embedding the database into learning management systems or faculty web pages, tips for using the database, an astronomy lesson plan, answers to “test your understanding” questions, and 21 valuable curriculum maps that incorporate charts, graphs, and photos. Under “for admin,” educators can find links to usage statistics, user guides, tips, training webinars, and a help page.

Below the major entry level buttons are a “basic search” box, a link for “advance searching,” “topic browse,” and “article browse by alphabet.” Underneath the “basic search” box are 20 subject areas for browsing, from agriculture, forestry, and soils to zoology.

Retrieved entries can be saved, emailed, printed, shared, or linked. Articles and media can be cited in APA, MLA, Chicago, and Council of Science Editors formats and downloaded into citation software including Zotero, Mendeley, and Endnote. Users can create a personal account and set up remote access by downloading a Roaming Passport to a mobile device, tablet, or laptop.

Currency is a strength as monthly updates are accessible via the “new and noteworthy” link at the bottom of the homepage. Current articles address relevant topics such as the use of social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and the virus’s impact on young adults.

Gale clearly shares librarians’ commitment to safeguarding patron privacy, including end-to-end encryption on patron data and ensuring that only data required for analysis is ingested through the browser. Gale is not involved in collecting or maintaining patron data and cannot access the plain text from their end. In addition, patron IDs and email addresses are hashed out, requiring a password to decrypt email addresses and allowing administrators to limit staff access as needed.

Gale Engage
Gale; gale.com/databases/gale-engage

Gale Engage is a package of Web databases that includes the McGraw-Hill Yearbook of Science & Technology, the McGraw-Hill Yearbook of Education, and several other reference works and sources. The database boasts 8,700 encyclopedia articles that cover all science disciplines, 115,000 definitions from the McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Scientific and Technical Terms, 19,000 illustrations of key scientific concepts, 3,000 biographies of scientific figures from the Hutchinson Dictionary of Scientific Biography, video biographies of Franklin Institute Award winners, and hundreds of briefings on science and technology concepts.

Besides its comprehensive content, the archive offers links to citable literature, an interactive citation generator, curriculum maps, and off-campus access. Other features that enhance both the material and educational support are editor picks, popular articles of the week, and the “news” tag at the top. Recent dates are accessible via the “new and noteworthy” link at the bottom of the homepage. AccessScience works with all open URL link resolvers, incorporates easily into LibGuides, is accessible from any browser, and provides usage statistics through a subscriber portal.

The usability, resources for educators, and strong material of AccessScience make it a top choice for high school, college and university, and public libraries.