

Newspaper Comparison October 2010

Databases reviewed in this comparison were *EBSCO Newspaper Source Plus*, *ProQuest Newsstand* and NewsBank's customized database offering.

The review team recommends either *ProQuest Newsstand* or Newsbank's customized offering. We do not recommend *EBSCO Newspaper Source Plus*. Overall, ProQuest offers the broadest range of titles, while NewsBank has more extensive coverage of local California newspapers.

ProQuest Newsstand

ProQuest's offering provides the strongest coverage of major national and international titles, most notably the *Los Angeles Times*, for which ProQuest has the exclusive rights. ProQuest also offers the most full text titles overall and the deepest back files. Overall, currency is similar to NewsBank's offering. A major weakness of the ProQuest offer is the lack of breadth of California titles relevant to California's community college students. Search functionality is another area of concern. Publication searching and browsing features in the new interface are not intuitive. The review team recommends that ProQuest increase the number of current full text California titles and improve its new search interface to strengthen their offer.

NewsBank [Customized Database]

Newsbank's offering provides the broadest coverage of California titles (111) and vendor claims regarding coverage and currency appear to be accurate. Additionally, the NewsBank interface is intuitive and has strong browse functionality. Currency is similar to the ProQuest offering. On the downside, the NewsBank offering does not include any international titles. Furthermore, some major titles are not available in full-text, e.g. *The Wall Street Journal (abstracts only)*, *La Opinion* (not included in customized offer) and the *Los Angeles Times*. The review team recommends that NewsBank add some international titles (such as *The Times*, *The Jerusalem Post*, etc.) and additional national titles to strengthen their offer.

EBSCO Newspaper Source Plus

After careful examination by the review team, EBSCO News Source Plus could not be reasonably compared to the other databases because its holdings are spotty and incomplete. Overall coverage is inadequate for community college students in California because their holdings are largely select coverage (i.e. not cover-to-cover) or closed (i.e. not current). Specifically, the database contains only three full text California titles that are current and cover-to-cover. It should also be noted that the search interface provides limited retrieval options.

The following table is a comparison of selected local, national and international titles for number of full text articles. Date used was most recent date with common holdings by all three databases. Searches were all conducted on Friday, Oct. 1st, 2010 between 10am and noon.

Arizona Daily Star, Sept. 20, 2010
Newsbank: 45 (newer available)
PQ Newsstand: 20
EBSCO: 20 (newer available)

La Prensa (San Diego), Sept. 17, 2010
Newsbank: N/A
PQ Newsstand: 24
EBSCO: N/A

Bakersfield Californian, Sept. 30, 2010
Newsbank: 37 (newer available)
PQ Newsstand: N/A
EBSCO: 14

Los Angeles Times, Oct. 1, 2010
Newsbank: N/A (wire archive through 2009)
PQ Newsstand: 126
EBSCO: N/A

Chico Enterprise Record, Sept. 29, 2010
Newsbank: 7
PQ Newsstand: N/A
EBSCO: N/A

Modesto Bee, Sept. 30, 2010
Newsbank: 50
PQ Newsstand: 49
EBSCO: 6

Christian Science Monitor, Sept. 29, 2010
Newsbank: 36 (newer available)
PQ Newsstand: 35
EBSCO: 36

Monterey County Herald, Sept. 29, 2010
Newsbank: 29 (newer available)
PQ Newsstand: N/A
EBSCO: 1

Contra Costa Times (Bay Area), Sept. 29, 2010
Newsbank: 13
PQ Newsstand: 55 (newer available)
EBSCO: 4

New York Times, Sept. 30, 2010
Newsbank: 212 (newer available)
PQ Newsstand: 202 (newer available)
EBSCO: 212

Fresno Bee, Sept. 30, 2010
Newsbank: 34
PQ Newsstand: 34
EBSCO: 18

Orange County Register, Sept. 29, 2010
Newsbank: N/A
PQ Newsstand: 25 (newer available)
EBSCO: 7

Imperial Valley Press
Newsbank: N/A
PQ Newsstand: N/A
EBSCO: N/A

Press Enterprise (Riverside), Sept. 29, 2010
Newsbank: 27 (newer available)
PQ Newsstand: N/A (nothing since 6/30/10)
EBSCO: 4

La Opinion (Los Angeles), Oct. 1, 2010
Newsbank: N/A
PQ Newsstand: N/A
EBSCO NewspaperSource: N/A

Redding Record Searchlight, Aug. 12, 2010
Newsbank: 27
PQ Newsstand: N/A
EBSCO: N/A

Sacramento Bee, Sept. 30, 2010

Newsbank: 59

PQ Newsstand: 58

EBSCO: 29

San Diego Union-Tribune, Sept. 29, 2010

Newsbank: 57 (newer available)

PQ Newsstand: 51 (newer available)

EBSCO: 2

San Francisco Chronicle, Sept. 30, 2010

Newsbank: 62 (newer available)

PQ Newsstand: 62 (newer available)

EBSCO: 59

San Jose Mercury, Sept. 29, 2010

Newsbank: 117 (newer available)

PQ Newsstand: 17 (FT begin April 2010)

EBSCO: 4 (newer available)

Santa Barbara News-Press

Newsbank: N/A

PQ Newsstand: N/A

EBSCO: N/A

The Times (London, UK), Sept. 30, 2010

Newsbank: N/A

PQ Newsstand: 600 (newer available)

EBSCO: 730

The Tribune (San Luis Obispo), Aug. 3, 2010

Newsbank: 20 (newer available)

PQ Newsstand: N/A

EBSCO: 1

Washington Post, Sept. 30, 2010

Newsbank: 216 (newer available)

PQ Newsstand: 203 (newer available)

EBSCO: 79

Toronto Star, Sept. 30, 2010

Newsbank: N/A

PQ Newsstand: 149 (newer available)

EBSCO: 176

Wall Street Journal, Sept. 30, 2010

Newsbank: N/A

ProQuest: 213 (Eastern Edition)

EBSCO: N/A