

**The California Community Colleges  
CCL-EAR Committee  
First Look (Look-See)  
World Book Online  
December 04, 2006**

**DATABASE OVERVIEW & CONTENTS**

The first thing to note is the title – the *World Book Online Reference Center (WBORC)* is so-called because it contains 17 databases in addition to the full-text (some 260,000 articles) of the *World Book Encyclopedia* (2002 ed.) Several of the databases (World Book Kids, Atlas, Dictionary, Educators Tools, Media Showcase, etc.) are included as navigation links on the Home Page, shown below in Figure 1.

The home page offers four modules: Behind the Headlines news content is revised daily; Educators' Tools provides state curriculum standards and lesson plans; Today in History features notable events on the current day; and Media Showcase allows users to access a variety of media – photos, sounds, illustrations, maps, and more.

In addition to this content, users have access to special features such as Explore the U.S.A. (along with Explore Canada and Explore Mexico), Feature of the Month, Student Activities, What's New, and Surf the Ages, a set of web sites representing different time periods. Other databases such as *World Book Research Libraries* (containing more than 250,000 documents and literary works) and World Book's Spanish-Language Encyclopedia require a separate subscription.

**Figure 1: World Book Online Reference Center Home Page**

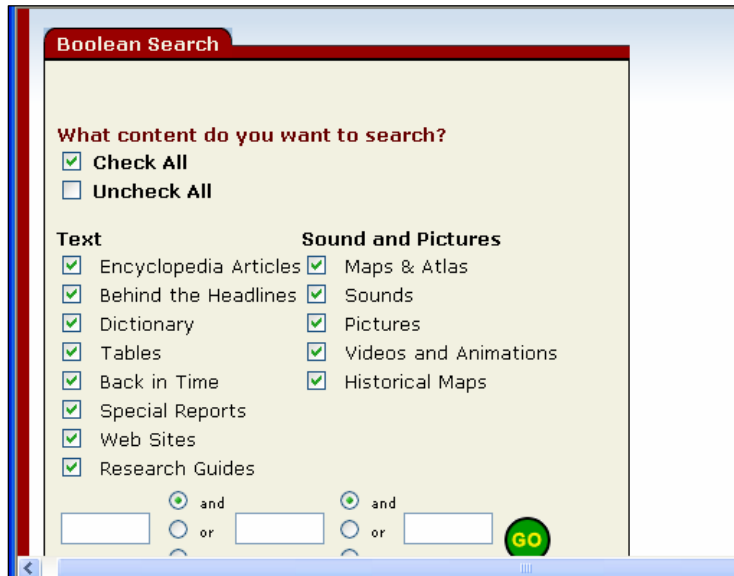


Supplementary content in *WBORC* includes over 750 interactive maps and links to articles, the World Book Dictionary, and selected articles from EBSCO. Also included are more than 12,000 pictures, web links, audio files for pronunciations, videos and animations, and more

than 100 interactive panoramic views. *World Book* encyclopedia articles, according to the product guide, are edited to suit the educational level of the users most likely to use them, from grades 4 through 12 and adults.

There are three different search options to access *WBORC* content. The first is to access the encyclopedia by typing the terms in a search box at the top of the home page. The second search option is browsing by broad subject area or media type. A third search feature is to use the advanced keyword search shown below in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Boolean Search Screen



For a full list of *WBORC*'s main features, including screen shots, see the link at <http://www.worldbook.com/training/sheets.html>.

#### **FINAL RECOMMENDATION:**

Beneath its facile exterior, *WBORC* offers a content-rich database that appears to have powerful search capabilities. Based on this first look, these reviewers recommend that the CCL-EAR Committee proceed with a mini or full review of the *WBORC*.