

Frequently Asked Questions About ERAC's Online Resource Database Bundle

What is included in this ERAC bundle?

This bundle includes databases from EBSCO Publishing, World Book and Encyclopedia of BC. Specifically:

- EBSCO Publishing
 - Academic Search Premier
 - Business Source Premier
 - Canadian Reference Centre
 - Consumer Health Complete
 - Library, Information Science and Technology Abstracts (LISTA)
 - MasterFILE Premier
 - NoveList,
 - NoveList K-8
 - Professional Development Collection
 - Primary Search and Middle Search Plus

- World Book's Complete Reference Suite
 - World Book Online Reference Centre
 - World Book Kids
 - World Book Advanced
 - L'Encyclopédie Découverte
 - Enciclopedia Estudiantil Hallazgos
 - World Book Dictionary
 - World Book Atlas

- Encyclopedia of BC
 - The Encyclopedia of BC component includes full access to the online version of this resource.

Who is eligible to subscribe to this bundle?

School districts and independent schools that are members of ERAC may subscribe.

- School districts must participate under a district FTE model.
- Independent schools participate on a per-site model.

Can a district or independent school subscribe to just one of the three services?

The intent is that everyone would subscribe to the entire bundle. School districts, however, will have the option to subscribe just to World Book for \$.65 per FTE. World Book subscriptions are not available at the individual school level for public or

independents schools. Individual school or district subscriptions to EBSCO or the Encyclopedia of BC are not available through ERAC.

What is the cost of subscription?

The annual cost for school districts is \$1 per FTE. The FTE number used to calculate each district's fee will include school-age and adult students, as reported to the BC Ministry of Education.

For independent schools there is an annual flat subscription fee based on the school's FTE:

Up to 500 FTE: \$1000. Up to 1000 FTE: \$2000. Over 1000 FTE: \$3000.

What would the World Book database cost if we were able to purchase it on our own?

For the last two years ERAC has subsidized the purchase price of World Book subscriptions for schools and districts. ERAC has acquired the rights to distribute the World Book licensing in BC as part of the ERAC bundle. If this agreement was not in place the current pricing would be in the range of (per FTE):

- World Book K-12 \$.58 - \$.66
- World Book Kids K-7 \$.08 - \$.10
- World Book Advanced 8-12 \$.08 - \$.10
- L'Encyclopédie Découverte \$.10 - \$.15

What is the value of the EBSCO databases?

The cost would vary considerably, based on the number of schools participating in any particular agreement. The EBSCO databases in the ERAC bundle present significant savings, as the estimated single-site cost for these databases would be:

- \$6,500 per site when the school includes up to Grade 12
- \$1,695 per site when the school includes up to Grade 8
- \$995 per site when the school includes up to Grade 5

Will ERAC still provide free access to Thomson Gale (Cengage) resources (Biography Resource Centre, CPIQ and e-books) as a part of ERAC membership fees?

Yes, for the 2007/08 and 2008/09 school years, ERAC has funded and provided access to the Thomson Gale databases to give districts an opportunity to try out and use the resource. As previously indicated, the intent was/is to make a user-pay model available to school districts after the current subscription term expires. Right now, ERAC cannot confirm whether or not, in the future, we will be able to add any or all of these databases to the ERAC bundle.

Last year ERAC funded a couple of EBSCO databases for secondary schools: are these still available?

Yes. The databases have been folded into the ERAC bundle. If a district decides not to subscribe to the ERAC bundle, then ERAC will explore the best way to make these two databases available to secondary schools for the 2008-09 school year only.

Does the ERAC fee for this bundle include GST and PST?

Yes. When ERAC acquired the licensing from these companies, it did so on behalf of the schools and districts in the province. It paid the GST and applied for the rebate. ERAC is not reselling the databases to schools and districts: it is collecting a participation fee from schools and districts and the revenue is being used to offset the costs that ERAC incurred.

Districts and schools will not be entitled to obtain GST rebates on the participation fee paid to ERAC.

How did ERAC decide which databases to include in the ERAC bundle?

ERAC worked with the public library and post-secondary sectors to identify databases that were being purchased within each sector. It then assembled a bundle that would leverage the amount participating groups are currently spending on subscriptions, to make the resources available provincially at a discounted price.

Will other resources be added to the ERAC bundle in the future?

Other vendors also have excellent resources. Right now, the databases included in the bundle represent the most commonly used products across the three sectors. In the future ERAC will work with the other sectors, and our members, to determine which resources should be added to --or removed from-- the ERAC bundle.

What support is ERAC providing to districts and schools wanting to purchase other databases?

ERAC intends to work with other vendors, based on demand and needs identified for K-12 in the Province. Where possible, ERAC will establish preferred pricing for our members for other products and services.

What if my school or district is already subscribing to one or two of the components of this bundle?

If your district or school is already subscribing to a component of this bundle, you will now have access to the additional resources as well. If you have a pre-paid contract with one or more of the services included in the ERAC bundle, we will work with you and the vendor to arrange a transition over to the ERAC bundle: this could mean you would receive a rebate or access to the additional services for your district.

Will staff and students be able to access these online resources at home?

Yes. Staff and students will have logins and passwords (which the district may choose) enabling them to access the services from home.

If my district subscribes this year, for how long will our subscription last?

Subscriptions must be renewed annually. Districts or independent schools signing up before October 31, 2008 are guaranteed the 2008/09 school year price for two years.

Can I be sure that ERAC will continue offering this bundle subscription into the foreseeable future?

This agreement and model of provincial licensing provides the best value and savings to the BC education sector. ERAC has built this model to be sustainable with a full level of participation from ERAC members.

What is the deadline for subscribing to the service this year?

The databases covered under the ERAC bundle are available for immediate deployment. As districts and independent schools subscribe in September they will migrate over to the new model. The deadline for districts and independent schools making a decision regarding participation is October 31, 2008.

Once we've subscribed to the bundle, how quickly can we deploy it in our district?

Depending on your district's previous subscriptions you may have access to one or more of these services already. For districts that were not subscribing in the past, implementation will depend on how quickly you provide the required documentation and data to ERAC. Typically, upon receipt it takes one to two weeks to enable accounts.

What is the future vision for the ERAC bundle?

The concept and vision is to see if we could consolidate/piggyback on existing licensing in BC and come up with a core suite for the K-12 sector. The Ministry of Education and Ministry of Advanced Education provided the initial support necessary to assemble this bundle. ERAC needs to identify a business model that will enable us to sustain the bundle. Districts' and independent schools' participation fees will generate sufficient funds to enable the K-12 sector to align its licensing with the public library and post-secondary sectors and continue to access a broad range of resources at very reasonable prices.

As a school or district, why should I subscribe to the ERAC bundle since students can access these resources through their public libraries?

The licensing and fees public libraries pay for these resources do not allow for teachers to use them in school for educational purposes. Some schools have been inappropriately using the licensing held by public libraries. There are compliance issues associated with this practice and the ERAC bundle was put in place to address these concerns. This agreement brings the pricing down to an affordable level for schools and districts.

Has ERAC evaluated all the materials in the databases?

No. The extensive range and number of resources makes evaluation impractical. World Book, EBSCO and Encyclopedia of BC have products that are specifically tailored to schools but the databases should be treated as supplementary resources. The EBSCO bundle contains a range of databases that are typically used from primary through to the college and university levels; the latter databases may only be suitable for advanced secondary students.

Could you give me more information about implementation, deployment and authentication?

Once ERAC receives information from a district or an independent school indicating that they want to participate in this agreement, ERAC will forward deployment information to them. Many schools and districts are currently subscribing to one or more of these databases. ERAC will work with schools and districts to confirm their deployment/authentication model. Districts and independent schools will be required to submit information to ERAC about their web-based system, such as IP addresses, referring URLs, passwords and IDs for each site.

How can I review these databases in greater detail, before I decide to participate?

Specific information about the databases can be obtained from the following websites or by contacting each company's sales representative. ERAC also has temporary access to some of these products for members at www.bcerac.ca under "Active Software Initiatives".

World Book Education Products of Canada
Kevin Ford: 604-990-1684
kevinleeford@shaw.ca

EBSCO Publishing
Ben Zani: 1-800-653-2726 Ext 2681
bzani@ebSCOhost.com

Encyclopedia of BC
Pamela Barclay: 1-800-667-2988
Pamela@harbourpublishing.com

Where can I get more information about this bundle?

For details or more information on this ERAC agreement contact ERAC at info@bcerac.ca
or 604-713-5920.