GALE

Digging Deeper into Gale Research Complete: Standout Features and Benefits

A seasoned academic librarian explains why he chose the package of digital resources for his library

BRIAN GREENE

ABOUT:

Brian Greene is an academic librarian at Columbia College in Sonora, California. He has worked as a community college librarian at several colleges since 2006. His library subscribed to the *Gale Research Complete* package in 2022 and currently has access to all its components.

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PRODUCT HIGHLIGHT:

Gale Research Complete empowers users at all academic levels. The comprehensive resource covers more than 3,200 eBook editions, including award-winning encyclopedias and directories; more than 48,000 periodicals; an excess of 2.5 million items of literary criticism and full-text literary works; and over 13 million pages of historical primary sources from the thirteenth to the twenty-first centuries. The extensive collection provides a rich store of relevant information to enhance the instruction and research of all its users.

INTRODUCTION:

Academic libraries are often limited by budget constraints or accessibility when choosing digital resource subscriptions. *Gale Research Complete* is an affordable option for academic libraries. It's the world's largest package of primary and secondary sources—a comprehensive resource that covers nearly all disciplines.

We spoke with academic librarian Brian Greene about his reasons for subscribing to *Gale Research Complete* for his institution.

WHAT CAUGHT GREENE'S EYE:

Brian Greene's library already had a subscription to several Gale products, including *Academic OneFile*. His interest piqued again with *Gale Research Complete*. "The initial two things that stood out to me were *Opposing Viewpoints* and *Biography* in the *In Context* packages," Greene says. He considered just adding subscriptions for those two products. "In looking to add those two, it just seemed to make sense to just add the whole thing," he continues. "Essentially, I got quite a few additional products for minimal extra cost."

Getting all the available content for about the price of two products made sense. It's affordable and increases the value of a library's resources. The additional content, he thought, "would be a nice complement to our existing resources that are well used by students." It's also what distinguishes the Gale package from other subscription offerings currently on the market. "I'd say students seem to prefer the Gale interface over some of your competitors." Greene says in addition to having extensive content, he wants students to feel comfortable using the platforms. "I do get positive feedback on that front from students about Gale."

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COURSES AND DISCIPLINES OF INTEREST:

Greene plans to work with a number of different faculty members who would benefit the most from their new package and its content. "Those are our communications or speech classes utilizing *Gale In Context: Opposing Viewpoints*," he says, and those in "English classes or general composition classes, where they have to do research essays." Greene points out that the package could also help in literature classes where students need to look at literary criticisms. He's also pleased with the biographical resources that help many students "with all different assignments—in guidance classes or wherever they need to look up information about famous people in a specific field."

Columbia College's library is small; however, the disciplines studied are wide ranging. "We have a big automotive program, so the *ChiltonLibrary* was something I was interested in," Greene adds. His hope is that the automotive faculty and staff will be interested in using it with students.

OUTSTANDING PLATFORM FEATURES AND BENEFITS:

Several features of *Gale Research Complete* stand out when working with students. The interface is one, Greene says. "I find that students find it easy to use, and that's one of the reasons why they like it more—it's less complicated than some of your competitors' [products]." Features like citation generators and the connection to Google Drive and Microsoft OneDrive are also important to Greene. "We are a OneDrive campus, but a lot of students have Google Drive accounts, so being able to, as they find research, save it directly . . . that's something that students like to work with.

OVERCOMING SOURCING ISSUES:

Students and researchers often have trouble sourcing credible, reliable information, but *Gale Research Complete* can make it easier to access and solve resolution issues. Greene points out that off-campus students sometimes have resolution issues with proxy access to the library's catalog, *Ex Libris Primo*. "One big benefit of the Gale package is there are so many materials in it that they can potentially just search there directly, and that removes or at least severely reduces that problem," he says. "Once you're in that kind of Gale ecosystem, you're unlikely to run into an issue switching between the cross platforms there."

ALIGNING WITH THE LIBRARY'S ACQUISITION STRATEGIES:

Columbia College is fortunate to have sufficient resources to support the library in its acquisition of necessary titles. However, as Greene previously mentioned, he was looking for additional pro-con resources, such as *Gale In Context: Opposing Viewpoints*, and biographical resources. The library already had a lot of biographical resources, but they weren't "the easy one-stop-shop format that they will be in the *Gale In Context: Biography*." Since Greene had been shopping for specific resources, he was familiar with these Gale products, but individually they were out of his price point. "As part of this [*Gale Research Complete*] package, it made it something that I could justify to my supervisors as a good idea for us."

GALE SUPPORT:

Greene notes that his library has content from Gale competitors, but a lot of the content is through Gale. "I've been very satisfied with the support from Gale. That's certainly a consideration for us." He also wants any troubleshooting to be as painless as possible. "It's a much more pleasant and easier to manage process if the people on the other end—the folks that you're working with on the vendor side—are good to work with. That's certainly something I take into consideration. I do like working with the folks at Gale."

To learn more about *Gale Research Complete*, visit **gale.com/gale-research-complete**.

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