

Report of the 2025-2026 Electronic Resources Task Force

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Executive Summary

The evaluation process grouped the databases by topic and usage. Recommendations will be made in terms of priorities and funding available. We recommend the following:

- 1) Eliminate less-used e-resources to reallocate funds to existing e-resources.
 - Do not renew contracts with some vendors as discussed below.
 - Replace existing e-resource with a less costly alternative.
- 2) ERTF determined there is a great need for each of these types of e-resources and recommended to continue purchasing the following:
 - Gale Presents: Peterson's Test Prep (replacing Learning Express Library at lower cost)
 - WorldBook Online Suite (cut Timelines, Dramatic, and Early Learning from package)
 - Ancestry Library Edition
 - HeritageQuest Online
 - ProQuest Research Library
 - SIRS Issues Researcher
 - US Newsstream (ProQuest)
 - EBSCO Suite/WorldCat (BOR contract)
- 3) Recommendations to not Renew After the decisions were made concerning items 1-2, and prices tentatively known for these resources, there was a remaining consideration that the ERTF discussed. This was that the BookFlix price was close to needing a RFP. The vendor agreed to freeze the price for FY26.
- 4) Recommended to renew, contingent on funding
 - BookFlix
 - Fold3 by Ancestry
 - SIRS Discoverer
 - CultureGrams
 - Miss Humblebee's Academy
 - Gale eBooks
- 5) Recommendations to not Renew
 - Swank K-12 Video Streaming: Although this database is extremely popular, our subscription is only accessible to k-12 public schools and quite costly. It was originally funded through the combined support of ARPA funding and the DOE.
 - Books and Authors: Information can be found elsewhere. Cut Timelines, Dramatic, and Early Learning from the World Book Online package.

Acknowledgements

Electronic resources were reviewed and evaluated through the efforts of the following people. Many hours were devoted to thoughtful consideration of both current and prospective resources. The South Dakota State Library and SD Department of Education would like to express appreciation to the following individuals and the organizations they represent, who contributed expertise and time.

<u>Member</u>	<u>Represents</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Institution</u>
Kim Bonen	Co-Chairman	Electronic Resources Coordinator	SD State Library
Nina Mentzel	Co-Chairman	Systems Librarian	SD State Library
Kimberly Smith	State Government	Librarian	SD Division of State History
Michael Biondo	Regental Academic	Electronic Resources and Scholarly Communications Librarian	South Dakota State University
Krista Ohrtman	Private Academic	Access Services Librarian	Augustana University
Doris Ann Mertz	Schools K-12	District Librarian	Custer County School District
Emily Harris	Large Public	Digital Services Librarian	Siouxland Libraries
Cheyenne Chontos	Small Public	Director	Harrisburg Community Library
Valerie Janis	Tribal	Outreach Services Librarian	Oglala Lakota College

Notes, Methodology

General Notes for this Report

The mission of the 2025/26 Electronic Resource Task Force (ERTF) was to review, evaluate, and formulate recommendations for which electronic resources should be provided by the South Dakota State Library (SDSL). The goal was to provide the best, most cost-effective resources that will be utilized by SD citizens.

The terms databases, electronic resources, e-resources, and resources will be used interchangeably in this report. Any database costs are given as either current costs or stand-alone prices. No package discounts were factored in, as these may depend upon the selected package and contract negotiations.

Methodology/Process

November 4th, 2024, the Electronic Resource Task Force (ERTF) was assembled. A large part of the task force's evaluation was determining which e-resources were the best choices based on funding.

In September 2024, South Dakota libraries and patrons were sent a survey to get feedback of the SDSL's current offering of e-resources. Survey results were distributed to the Task Force prior to the meeting.

1. Goal: Eliminate less-used e-resources to reallocate funds

- a) Do not renew contracts with some vendors as discussed below.
- b) Replace existing e-resource with a less costly alternative.

2. Resources of greatest need

The ERTF determined there is a great need for a product in these areas. In the future, it is recommended to continue purchasing these types of e-resources, even if it is from another vendor.

Test Prep/ GED/ Careers: Gale Presents Peterson's Test prep

Gale Presents: Peterson's Test Prep, provided by Gale. It contains "Practice tests and self-paced courses for all learners. ASVAB, GED, GRE, SAT, resume/cover letter writing courses and more."

WorldBook Suite

The recommendation is to keep the World Book Suite while maintaining the total contract near the same level, and under \$50,000. The World Book Suite includes World Book Early Learning, World Book Discover, World Book Kids, World Book Students, World Book Advanced, and World Book Dramatic Learning.

ProQuest's AncestryLibrary

Ancestry search and genealogical information from census records, historical maps, and more. Aimed at public libraries. This is an in library use only license. The ERTF agreed that this is a unique and valuable resource that should continue to be provided.

HeritageQuest Online by Ancestry

Genealogy search and historical records. This collection is available to users from home.

PQ Research Library (PQRL)

PQRL is "a truly multidisciplinary resource featuring a diversified mix of scholarly journals, trade publications, magazines, and other sources across the top 150 subject areas." The ERTF considered PQRL one of the most important resources.

ProQuest's SIRS Issues Researcher

Provides information to research and create argumentative essays for grades 6-12; it has background information and analysis of over 300 current and leading issues. It gets very heavy use. The ERTF also rated it highly. A compare and contrast/argumentative research resource is important to provide.

ProQuest's U.S. Newsstream

Full-text articles from over 1000 newspapers, newswires, news journals, television and radio transcripts, blogs, podcasts, and digital-only websites. The ERTF said that a newspaper-type resource was very important to have.

EBSCO

Contract through with the SD Board of Regents Schools/ Minitex. SDSL gets thirty-five e-resources from EBSCO. Most are aimed at late high school and adult-level research.

OCLC

FirstSearch provides resources primarily for collegiate research. WorldCat is necessary for ILL; these two are sold as one package. If in the future it is possible to purchase FirstSearch separately from WorldCat, the SDSL should investigate whether to continue purchasing FirstSearch.

3) Recommended to renew (contingent on funding)

Scholastic's BookFlix

Talking fiction and nonfiction eBooks for kindergarten to 3rd grade students

Fold3 by Ancestry

Genealogy search and military records.

ProQuest's SIRS Discoverer

This multidisciplinary database is aimed at students through 8th grade; it covers current events, history, health, language arts, math, science, social studies, and more.

ProQuest's CultureGrams Online

Statistical and cultural information about the United States and global countries for grades k-12.

Gale's Miss Humblebee's Academy

Interactive learning program for ages 2-6.

Gale eBooks

Reference eBooks with topics in health, history, government, science, education & business.

4) Recommendations to not Renew

Swank K-12 Video Streaming

Although this database is extremely popular, our subscription is only accessible to k-12 public schools and quite costly. It was originally funded through the combined support of ARPA funding and the DOE.

Books and Authors

Information can be found elsewhere, and usage is trending downward.

World Book Package Adjustment

Cut **Timelines**, **Dramatic**, and **Early Learning** from the World Book Online package as usage is lower than the other center.