

Western Kentucky University

From the Selected Works of Connie Foster

Fall 2006

New Journey for *Western Scholar*

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Available at: https://works.bepress.com/connie_foster/8/

A New Journey for *The Western Scholar*

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What can reach thousands and travel worldwide without crimping a budget? *The Western Scholar* has achieved a new level of prominence. Cover-to-cover, *The Western Scholar* will be included in Academic Search Complete, a new full-text academic database by EBSCO Publishing, one of the world's largest database producers. Currently *The Western Scholar* can be read online,¹ retrieved through TOPCAT (WKU Libraries online catalog), as an electronic journal through TDNet (the Libraries e-journal finder) and, yes, through a Google Search.

With database access, just imagine the possibilities for discovering *The Western Scholar* as a publication that highlights outstanding university scholarship. Academic Search Complete will contain 5,500 full-text journals, including 4,500 that are peer-reviewed. Selected articles from *The Western Scholar* will also appear in other subject-appropriate EBSCO databases. For example, in the Fall 2005 issue, Bob Skipper's article, "A Wireless War on Terrorism"² will appear in EBSCO's International Security & Counter Terrorism Reference Center.

What are the criteria for selecting journals for a database? According to Scott Bernier, Director of Communications for EBSCO Publishing, *The Western Scholar* is ideal because it is multi-disciplinary and contains high quality articles. Selection criteria usually include: ranking studies, citation statistics, impact factor,

usage reports from subject indexes (such as PsycINFO, MEDLINE, ERIC, EconLit, Inspec, CINAHL, SPORTDiscus), subscription data from EBSCO Subscription Services, feedback from all-librarian advisory boards, and research conducted by a product management team which includes librarians employed by EBSCO and subject experts.

As of this writing, EBSCO plans to release Academic Search Complete when significant content enhancement from key publishers is attained and offers libraries a substantial upgrade over Academic Search Premier. EBSCO typically announces new library products in conjunction with a major American Library Association conference. Bernier targets the new database release for ALA Midwinter, January 2007.

In the fall 2000, *The Western Scholar* emerged as a quality, multi-disciplinary magazine under the editorial leadership of Phillip Myers and Gay Perkins. In a 2005 article for *Serials Review*, Myers explained the launch of *The Western Scholar* and its place among other university research magazines.³ A free and simple part of the publication process involves applying for an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) and, if offered in electronic form also, an e-ISSN. Consistent placement of the ISSN, title, volume number, issue and year, as well as adherence to a regular publishing schedule, achieves a level of dependability in the publishing world that benefits everyone from the consumer to the postal services to the alumni in Alaska or an undergraduate in Kuala Lumpur. Adherence

to standards means consistent citation access, rapid check-in for libraries, successful database retrieval, and more.⁴

The Western Scholar 's dramatic increase in exposure through database access boosts WKU's quest for international prominence. Currently Academic Search Premier is available in more than 29,000 academic libraries worldwide; EBSCO expects more than half of those libraries to eventually upgrade to the Complete version.

The world of scholarly communication and research is exciting, complex and comprehensive. Getting published results and reports around the world accelerates with major database access and e-journal retrieval. WKU's accomplishments can roam the globe and extend to a user with a wireless computer at the beach or someone holding a glossy magazine in an overstuffed chair. The choice is yours; the possibilities are unlimited!

¹ www.wku.edu/Dept/Support/AcadAffairs/Magazine

² <http://www.wku.edu/Dept/Support/AcadAffairs/Magazine/Fall%2005/WS.FA.05%2019-21%20wireless.pdf>

³ "University Research Magazines and *The Western Scholar*," *Serials Review* 31, iss. 2 (June 2005): 116-118.

⁴ To apply for an ISSN or to learn more about this standard, see www.loc.gov/issn.