

The Charleston ADVISOR

Composite Score:

★★★★ 1/4

Reviewed by: Karen J. Wanamaker

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Pricing Options

Annual pricing is based on full-time enrollment (FTE) at colleges and universities. For those with a FTE of 3,000 or less, the pricing starts at \$549.99. For those with a FTE higher than 3,000, the starting price is \$749.99. The subscription includes unlimited use/users. In addition, the product is available to school districts, consortia, and public library systems at discounted rates. Interested agencies should contact CLCD for more information on these pricing agreements. Payment can be made by credit card or a purchase order. CLCD also offers individual subscriptions to the database with unlimited usage by a single user for a monthly fee of \$29.99.

Product Description

CLCD is an ever-growing online database of reviews, MARC records, and various other information related to children's literature. The database can be searched using a browse or full-text search. Searches can be qualified by a wide variety of details, such as title, author, genre, age/grade level, review, award, best books, language, or even lexile range. Users also can limit the number of results shown. Book reviews are licensed to The CDCD Company from Children's Literature, its sister company that compiles the reviews and provides other information about children's literature. The included book reviews currently come from Children's Literature reviewers as well as from over 30 review sources from the United States and other countries (examples include Booklist, Resource Links, Inis, The Horn Book Magazine, KIRKUS Reviews, and VOYA). More information about these companies, the database, and other information related to children's literature is available through <<http://www.childrenslit.com>>. In the database itself, entries include information such as bibliographic details, any reviews written about the book from the participating review sources, information about awards or prizes that the book received, notations about any books list (such as a best books list or state reading list) that the book appears on, reading measurement program parameters (such as levels or scores), and internet links to teacher/librarian activities and author/illustrator Web sites. The entries also include links to other works by that author or illustrator in the database, other reviews by a certain reviewer or source, or other

works that have the same subject heading. Clicking on these links creates a new search in the database and produces a new list of results from which to choose. Because of a partnership with Barnes & Noble, users who wish to buy a particular book can directly link to the item on the Barnes & Noble Web site and receive a 5 percent discount on their purchase as well as free shipping when two or more items are purchased.

Critical Evaluation

CLCD currently provides a great collection of over 1.4 million MARC records, over 280,000 reviews, and other relevant information for children's literature. The database has grown steadily in the years I used it to include not only an increased number of records but also more features, such as teacher resources, book jacket images, a monthly newsletter, and links to author/illustrator Web pages. The information in each record is easy to navigate; and the hot links that create other searches by author, subject heading, or book list are very helpful whether a user is using them professionally or personally. Perhaps one of the greatest benefits of the database is the compilation of various major reviews for children's literature in one database. This saves an incredible amount of time versus tracking down these reviews individually and is probably the biggest reason for subscribing to the database. Having the reading lists, awards, and reading measurement scores for the items readily available in each record also saves time and is of great worth to anyone looking to either buy or use a particular book. The scores would be especially helpful to the teachers or school librarians who use the database.

Other features that make this database valuable include the ability to sort results and create reports from a results list. I found the download feature for records to be a bit confusing at first. Users can select all or some items from their results list and download those results in brief, full, or MARC format. To download a select number of records, though, a user must select the desired records and "save checked items." Then, by opening the saved items folder, just those records appear, and the user can download those records in any of the three formats. In the future, I would like to see the CLCD add the ability to save records through several searches so that a single



Children's Literature Comprehensive Database Review Scores Composite: ★★★★★ 1/4

The maximum number of stars in each category is 5.

Content: ★★★★★

For librarians, teachers, and other professionals dealing with children's literature, this database contains a wealth of records, reviews, and information. The growth rate of the available information (around 1,500 new reviews each month) is a big plus.

Searchability: ★★★★★

The fact that users have so many ways in which to qualify their full-text searches (many of which are not available elsewhere) makes this database outstanding. The main search page is very easy to navigate, as are the results and the records.

Pricing Options: ★★★★★

For colleges or universities or even public library systems where the database would be available for unlimited usage by the patrons (including off-site access), I feel that the pricing is very reasonable given the content and features of the database. For schools, smaller libraries, or personal users, the benefits (such as the time-saving nature) of the database would have to be weighed against the cost. CLCD also works with consortiums and library organizations for discounted pricing.

Contract Options: ★★★

The contract options seem fairly basic.

report could be produced for acquisition purposes.

Although other good products offer children's literature reviews and information (such as Novelist K-8 or Book Index with Reviews), CLCD's searching capabilities surpass them in ease and available qualifiers, making this my first choice for locating reviews or books on a certain topic. For example, when our elementary education majors take their teaching science course, they must find a fiction book to go with their lesson. I encourage them to use CLCD's qualifiers to limit their keyword search by "category" (fiction) and by the age range or grade level of their lesson. If they want to add a qualifier of publication date range, they can do that, too. This gives them a nice list of books to consider for their lesson. Plus, they get to look at reviews for the books and see if the books made any best-book lists right away without doing any other searches in the library or online. It is just as helpful to me when I am working on building the collection on any given topic or age level. The searches are very versatile and the reports/downloaded records are helpful to print and use later. International Appeal: Just recently, CLCD became available in the United Kingdom through Athens/Eduserv. Included in the database itself are reviews from the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, and many other English-speaking countries. International book awards and honors are included in the records, and the database incorporates catalog records

in over 50 languages and all the cataloging records from the Canadian National Library and the British Library for their children's and young adult's books. The database even has subscribers from countries such as Japan, Belgium, and Switzerland, which shows that CLCD has a wide appeal both in the United States and abroad.

Contract Provisions

The terms and conditions information for CLCD is available online at <http://www.childrenslit.com/clcd_terms.htm>. This includes information on license, payment, proprietary rights, warranties, etc. For more information, contact the company.

Authentication

At first, we tried connecting to CLCD with a referring URL but had to use two links (one for on campus and one for off). We now use a proxy server that uses EZProxy and have no problems accessing the product. There is no limit on our number of users. Customers could also use IP recognition if offering it only on site.



**Children's Literature
CLCD Comprehensive Database**

www.childrenslit.com