ccAdvisor

Primary Category

Medicine, Nursing & Health

Secondary Categories

Business & Economics
Multidisciplinary (or interdisciplinary)
Sociology, Education, Anthropology, Psychology

Abstract:

EBSCO's platform, EBSCO*host*, delivers their proprietary *SPORTDiscus with Full Text* database that includes full text for sports, sports medicine and sports management journals, and sports literature. EBSCO acquired the database from the Sport Information Resource Centre in Ottawa, Canada in 2005. Oldest citations start as early as the 17th century. There is some full text coverage starting as early as 1900's. EBSCO provides a database-specific thesaurus and a variety of EBSCO*host* indexes. EBSCO*host* default "Fields" search automatically pulls citations from the various indexes, effectively offering a simplified search retrieval for its intended audience of higher education undergraduate students and graduate researchers.

Overview:

SPORTDiscus originated in 1973 (Howard and Henry, 2007). In 1995 *SPORTDiscus* as an abstract and index database was available on CD through SilverPlatter from the Sport Information Resources Center (SIRC), Canada (New from SilverPlatter, 1995). SIRC sold *SPORTDiscus* to EBSCO in April 2005. At that time the database covered sport, fitness, exercise and related disciplines (SIRC - the legacy of SPORT*Discus* continues, 2005). Information today, announced a year later that EBSCO had released the *SPORTDiscus with Full Text* edition of the database with over 650,000 records (EBSCO Publishing Releases *SPORTDiscus with Full Text*, *Literary Reference Center*, 2006).

The 2007 comparative review by Howard and Henry (2007) noted the similarities between the *Physical Education Index* and *SPORTDiscus* in several topical searches. In 2007, there were 306 journals with cover-to-cover indexing in *SPORTDiscus with Full Text*, and an additional 172

journals with selective indexing. Ten years later, the database grew to 831 full text titles and an additional 486 abstracted and indexed titles, of which 65% are peer reviewed (K. Donnelly, personal communication, January 17, 2017). There are more than 670 full text journals, of which 560 are academic journals. Full text magazines and books or book chapters make up the remainder of the full text articles.

User Interface:

Search Interface

SPORTDiscus is a proprietary database accessed through EBSCO*host*. The user graphical interface is uniform with the many other databases presented in EBSCO*host*. EBSCO*host* search interfaces for *SPORTDiscus* can be set for different defaults based on institutional preferences. Basic search functions will be familiar to many users. The basic search interface is simple and focused on searching fields such as keywords.

The advanced search interface allows the user to be more explicit in the way *SPORTDiscus* searches the knowledge base, based on the user's selection criteria. The advanced search screen expands the choices open to the user with multiple dropdown menus that access the various indexes within *SPORTDiscus* and EBSCO*host*'s knowledgebase.

The advanced search page default is three search boxes each with a dropdown menu that lists 21 searchable fields within each record. Within the advanced search page, search options allow the user to select various limiters and "Search modes and Expanders." Some limiters on the advanced search page in the "limit your results" section target very specific types of publications (e. g., Jurisprudence finds contracts and legal cases), and document types (calendar targets information that deals with dates for specific events or sports). These types of document filters seem to apply to the era prior to ownership by EBSCO.

Results of a search are displayed in a two-column display. The leftmost column is the limiter menu, with the remainder of the page devoted to the abstracting and indexing information for each record. The search results can be limited by a small set of data points. Either the basic or the advanced set of search results can be placed into a temporary folder for printing, emailing or saving. Users can create a free user account to create search alerts and to save searches. The free user account and saved folders are available to the user from any of the EBSCO*host* proprietary databases.

IMAGE: Figure1: *SPORTDiscus* Limits

Of additional use is the ability to combine and manipulate the current search history. Manipulating search history results allows users to group and refine results based on simple

searches. The tabular search history display is easy to read and has the ability to print and save your searches.

Special Document Collections

SPORTDiscus contains several unique historical collections within the "Database subsets" of the "Limit your results" section on the advanced search page. Two older databases contained in *SPORTDiscus* are SIRLS from Canada that covers sociological, anthropological, historical, philosophical and political aspects of sports between 1980 and 1990 from digitized work from the University of Waterloo; and the University of Oregon Health, Physical Education and Recreation microform publication collection. This microform collection started in 1949 with six publications transferred to microfiche; the collection efforts of the University of Oregon terminated in 2007. Many of the specialized databases were in the original purchase of *SPORTDiscus* from SIRC and have not been updated since that purchase.

Specialized databases within SPORT*Discus* are: AAFLA; Atlantes Database; Coaching Association of Canada documents; Grosse Adapted Aquatics database; Handicapped/Disabled Sport and Rehabilitation documents; Heracles database; Indexing Partner Contribution; National Coaching Certification Program of Canada; Olympic Museum Library database; Passor bibliography; Recreation Research report; SIRLS database; Sport Canada Applied Research Grant Program/Fitness Canada; Sport History Project (Gretchen Ghent).

Critical Evaluation:

Past Reviews

Jasco (2004) in his review of SPORTDiscus took issue with in its "lack of authority control." To explore this issue, we examined the title list and several specific topics in SPORTDiscus. EBSCO supplies a journal title list by subject, that allows you to sort by category, e.g., business, titles that cover business aspects of sports. This initial sort on business resulted in 97 titles, but once one deletes the duplicates, triplicates and in one case quadruplicate titles, the result is 63 titles. The duplicates occur when the disciplines listed for a particular title cover more than one area, such as Management vs Industries & Trades; hence *European Sport Management Quarterly* occurs twice in the 97 titles of the initial sort for business.

The issues that Jasco (2004) had with the descriptors, such as geography and narrower terms have been addressed. The geographic terms are not routinely a part of the *SPORTDiscus* thesaurus, while they are part of the larger EBSCO descriptor knowledge base, hence geographic designations, e.g., Nepal cannot be accessed in the SPORTDiscus specific thesaurus, but are accessible in the advanced search as a geographic subject descriptor. The narrower terms problem noted by Jasco is moot with the thorough development of the database specific thesaurus.

The 2010 Birdsong review of *SPORTDiscus with Full Text* notes that the strengths of the database were in sports medicine (Birdsong, 2010). Her analysis of the ability of *SPORTDiscus* to provide results for sports business searches has been modified over the years through the addition of titles and subject terms relevant to the sports management and sports business areas. Rerunning several of Birdsong's published searches: NBA, WBA, Women's National Basketball Association, National Basketball Association, Los Angeles Lakers and the Los Angeles Sparks, show significant improvements in retrieval results. Searching for the National Basketball Association as a subject resulted in more than 8500 results, while the Women's National Basketball Association results only numbered 420 using the subject index. The results for the Women's National Basketball Association went back to 1996, while searching for NBA or WBA retrieved just under 10,000 results with the oldest a monograph from 1951 in the AAFLA collection. Specific, national or collegiate basketball teams do not show up in the person/team index search, as noted by Birdsong.

IMAGE: Figure2: *SPORTDiscus* WBNA, NBA

The Birdsong review notes that the coverage in the database is relatively limited for extreme or not well-known sports. Librarians across the country that teach database searching know that a personal interest in a subject does not necessarily make for a productive database search. For example, Birdsong uses Race Across America (RAAM) because she competed in it. This database is heavy in academic journals, and that focus would require that the articles written about Race Across America be academic.

Current Database

Following the search protocol used in Howard and Henry (2007) one can see how research has favored some topics and not others. Ten years of intervening published research saw an increase of over 27,000 articles retrieved with "body mass index" anywhere in the article versus over 17,500 in 2006. Another search for peer reviewed journal articles assigned thesaurus subject headings used for different dance types retrieved 3,560 records, while only 169 records were retrieved in 2006. These figures depend highly on the indexing of the articles, and whatever additional new journal titles were acquired. When the search is restricted to only peer reviewed articles one sees a similar pattern.

The subject headings of *SPORTDiscus* are male centric, but follow the Library of Congress in many instances in this regard. The title of the sport uses male as the default, e.g., any reference to basketball that is not specifically "basketball for women" is the male sport. This is the norm for sports such as swimming, tennis and volleyball, while skateboarding refers to women as "skateboarding, women athletes". NCAA Basketball tournament covers both the male and female teams.

Interestingly, *SPORTDiscus* maps the word Olympics to Olympic, and makes retrieval for any of either of those terms in the descriptors appear in search results. This type of mapping is not often done in databases. This type of mapping makes usability of the database easier for the uninitiated, undergraduate students. Another search example, in the case of a search for peer reviewed articles about Title IX, using the Advanced Search, it is useful to look for a subject heading or an author assigned keyword.

IMAGE: Figure3: *SPORTDiscus* Title IX

A survey of high impact journals from Elsevier's Journal Metrics webpages in exercise and sports medicine serves as a good place to explore coverage within *SPORTDiscus* (Hopkins, 2015). Within *SPORTDiscus*, each of the top four journals identified by Hopkins: *Exercise And Sport Sciences Reviews; Sports Medicine; International Review Of Sport and Exercise Psychology; and American Journal of Sports Medicine*, are all at least selectively covered back to each journal's first published volume.

Competitive Products:

Competitive products that most closely align to the scope and content of *SPORTDiscus with Full Text* (EBSCO) are *Physical Education Index* (ProQuest), *CINAHL Plus with Full Text* (EBSCO), *CINAHL Complete* (EBSCO) and *PubMed* (NIH; OA). All these databases cover a plethora of topics relevant to health, exercise science, sports medicine, physical therapy and rehabilitation.

Physical Education Index (PEI) online (coverage since 2001) covers peer-reviewed journals, popular and trade magazines, conference proceedings, theses and dissertations, report literature and patents pertinent to the disciplines of Exercise Science and Health Education (Erbs, 2017). Much of the content of PEI overlaps with *SPORTDiscus*. However, there is a variance of indexed titles (e.g., articles within journals) between the two databases, due to the more specific scope of audience (i.e., primary, secondary, post-secondary educators) of PEI.

The *Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature with Full Text* (*CINAHL*) (coverage since 1932) is primarily a bibliographic database that indexes the primary literature related to the disciplines of Nursing and Allied Health. *CINAHL* has grown to include a plethora of full text works that cover peer-reviewed journals, states of practice, critical paths, government publications, patient education materials, nursing dissertations, conference proceedings, health-care books, educational software and research instruments. Apart from being more specialized in its content, the greatest advantage of *CINAHL* in comparison to *SPORTDiscus* is that *CINAHL* headings are based, in part, on the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) Medical Subject Headings (MeSH).

PubMed is an Open Access (OA) database available through the National Institutes of Health (NIH). As one of NIH's databases, *PubMed* uses MeSH searches (alongside natural language searches) and provides a broad spectrum of reviews and full text clinical trials in the areas of health, sports exercise and exercise science. Alongside its status as an OA (affordable solution) database and its use of MeSH searches, another advantage of PubMed is that it directly links to the MEDLINE*Plus* database (a NLM product).

Purchase Contract:

The license for *SPORTDiscus* is the standard EBSCO license agreement that is used for all of EBSCO's databases. Permitted uses are extensive, based on "the doctrine of "fair use"" as outlined in the Copyright Act of 1976. Commercial uses are prohibited. The license agreement specifically states that substantial portions of materials within the database cannot be downloaded, copied or printed. Access to full-text articles may change over time due to EBSCO's contractual relations with publishers. Institutional users can access *SPORTDiscus* if physically located at the institution and remotely through institutional authentication.

EBSCO supplies various counter reports in the EBSCO*admin* website. For *SPORTDiscus with Full Text* the Title Report 1 and 2 will be most useful to measure full text access to articles and book chapters and "access denied," each report is by title, month and category.

The addition of PlumMetrics citing, when available, helps patrons and librarians be aware of interest in the article.

Pricing:

A part of EBSCO's suite of products and falls within the subscription pricing levels and practices of the majority of the databases. Market segment based on FTE and Carnegie Mellon rating affect the annual subscription pricing in higher education. Consortial and other negotiated group buying agreements are available. Pricing is based on a variety of factors including but not limited to FTE, existing EBSCO databases, consortium agreements and/or *SPORTDiscus* is buying groups. Pricing applies to a single institution and ranges for consortia and online institutions may vary. It is best to contact EBSCO for a customized quotation for your specific library. Pricing is subject to change based on royalty requirements, etc.

Authentication:

As with other EBSCO products, there are several options for authentication: IP address, referring URL, patterned ID's, and patron ID files. Institutions may utilize proxy servers to aid patron's access to *SPORTDiscus*. *SPORTDiscus*, as an EBSCO product, also supports Shibboleth.

References:

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Composite Score 3.38

Content Score	User Interface/Searchability Score	Pricing Score	Purchase/Contract Options Score
4.0	4.0	3.0	2.5
Content Notes	User Interface/Searchability Notes	Pricing Notes	Purchase/Contract Options Notes
The contents of SPORTDiscus with Full Text have grown considerably since the TCA 2007 review and remains highly useful for education programs with a focus on kinesiology, sports medicine and body movement. Many of the important journals in sports science and sports medicine are not archived in PubMed Central, HighWire, or JSTOR, hence SPORTDiscus with Full Text offers institutions access to those important	The EBSCOhost interface is a well-known interface for users and offers basic and advanced searches, a thesaurus, and several specialty indexes. The contribution of facets for refining results. Indexing terms, and author assigned keywords enhance the variety of records available.	Pricing is dependent on many variables (consortial agreements, number of EBSCO database subscriptions,) and with only two similar databases in the fields represented by SPORTDiscus institutions need to make careful and considered acquisition decisions.	The license for SPORTDiscus is the standard EBSCO license agreement that is used for all of EBSCO's databases but the license agreement specifically states that substantial portions of materials within the database cannot be downloaded, copied or printed.

discipline specific journals.			

About the Author:

Pamela Howard has been a health sciences librarian at San Francisco State University since 2005. Her current subject responsibilities Physical Therapy, Nursing, Kinesiology, Dietetics, Biology and Engineering. She received her MLIS in Library and Information Science from San Jose State University in 2003. Her recent research interests are in undergraduate reading and reading proficiency.

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