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# English Language Bibliography 1945 to the present

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# DATABASE & DISC REVIEWS

EDITOR: CHERYL LaGUARDIA

**ELECTRONICALLY SPEAKING...** Another company is responding quickly to user and reviewer feedback—be sure to read the updated review of the new and improved **ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Wall Street Journal**. K.G. Saur offers a gargantuan, global bibliographic file of use to researchers everywhere, while Topics Entertainment has

produced a timely, well-conceived four-disc set of CD-ROMs for Japanese-language immersion. Elsevier does social science researchers a great favor by making **International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences** web-accessible, while a major worldwide economics resource comes to us from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

## WEB ENGLISH LANGUAGE BIBLIOGRAPHY 1945 TO THE PRESENT

K.G. Saur via Gale  
(248-699-4253; galeord@gale.com).  
www.saur.de

Dates reviewed: 2/27/03, 3/3/03  
Price: Negotiated by site.

**English Language Bibliography 1945 to the Present (ELB)** provides one-stop shopping for your bibliographic needs on post-World War II publishing in the English language. **ELB** provides quick access to a listing of approximately 7.5 million English-language titles dating from when Gutenberg revved up his press to last week's best seller. Specifically, it claims to include comprehensively all titles in English published in any country since 1945. It is updated weekly.

The database has been compiled from a variety of catalogs, most significantly *British National Bibliography (BNB)*, *Library of Congress English Books Since 1968 (LC)*, *English Serials Since 1978*, *British Library Catalogue* database with titles published since c.1450, the British Library's *Science Reference and Information Service Current Catalogue*, *Humanities and Social Sciences Current Catalogue (H&SS)*, the British Library's Document Supply Centre (DSC), and DSC Monographs database (covering titles not only from English-speaking countries but also from Western Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Africa, the Middle East, the Indian subcontinent, Japan, and Southeast Asia).

The user-friendly interface provides a vast number of combinable search criteria

Cheryl LaGuardia is the Head of Instructional Services for the Harvard College Library, author of *Becoming a Library Teacher* (Neal-Schuman, 2000), and winner of the 1996 Louis Shores-Oryx Press Award for Excellence in Reviewing



to facilitate access. A few include Keyword, Keyword in Author, Keyword in Title, Keyword in Subject, Keyword in Publisher, Keyword in Notes, Personal Author, Corporate Author, Author All, Title, Series Title, Title All, Place of Publication, Publisher, Publication Year, Form of Material, and Country of Publication. In addition, the user can limit searches by criteria such as listings from a specific database, a defined time period, or a particular subject area. Results can be displayed, printed, and saved in several formats, including MARC 21, Catalogue Card, Detailed, and Bibliographic.

However, the Quick Search box, prominently located on the persistent menu in the left frame, is unfortunately limited to only 25 characters. A quick search for the title *How To Be a Domestic Goddess* gets cut off at "Godd." It did not automatically search "Godd" as a truncated word, and my search resulted in no hits. This should be changed in future versions, either allowing for longer title searches or making truncation automatic. A subsequent search by full title in the form search, and also by "au=Lawsen, Nigella" in expert search, took me directly to the *LC*, *BNB*, and *H&SS* listings for this popular cookbook.

A word of warning for Netscape users: the publisher reports that there have been some display problems with older versions of Netscape; the system looked and acted just fine on Internet Explorer and Netscape 7. While Saur is working on this issue, any library without access to Internet Explorer or to the most current versions of Netscape may have significant problems with **ELB**'s display.

**The Bottom Line:** The ability to do one search in a simple interface that will scour the Library of Congress as well as

the *British National Bibliography* at the same time is a great timesaver for scholars working with English-language publications on any subject. **English Language Bibliography 1945 to the Present** is highly recommended for public and academic libraries.—Elizabeth McKeigue, *Research Svcs., Widener Lib., Harvard Coll.*

## CD-ROM INSTANT IMMERSION JAPANESE

Topics Entertainment  
(415-656-3621; info@topics-ent.com)  
www.topics-ent.com  
Windows 95/98, 2003.  
ISBN 1-886089-94-9.  
Price: \$19.99.

Despite years of language classes, I am basically a monolingual American. So I was intrigued by Topics Entertainment's **Instant Immersion Japanese**, which uses what it calls the "EuroMethod" of teaching a language by creating an immersion environment with interactive lessons and native speakers. This four-disc set contains *Talk Now! Japanese*, *World Talk! Japanese*, *Voyage in Japan!*, and *JquickTrans*. The most interesting parts of this package, *Talk Now! Japanese* and *World Talk! Japanese*, were developed by EuroTalk, the leading publisher of language learning software in Europe. Getting started was easy; the discs all began as soon as they were inserted into the drive.

*Talk Now! Japanese* starts with vocabulary. I began with a selection of first words, food, colors, phrases, body, numbers, time, shopping, and countries. Clicking on "body" placed me across a card table from a card dealer. I opted for an "easy game." The dealer placed a card on the table with an image of hair, nose, ear, finger, and foot and said the word for each image in Japanese. I listened and then clicked on the image he would name. We started out with two cards, then three, then four, progressively working our way up to ten cards. This is immersion; there is no translation or English subtitles here, but it is fairly easy and intuitive to determine whether you've selected the correct answer. At first, I was confused by the markings for correct (a red check mark) and incorrect (a blue cross), but the dealer cleared that up by being unambiguously emphatic.

*World Talk! Japanese* is more advanced, with spoken instructions in Japanese. (Perhaps I should have completed all of the sections in *Talk Now!* first.) With this disc, more than one person can sign in

### LEGEND

Web-based Database CD-ROM