

Humanities and Social Science Package

A Collection of SAGE Journals

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SAGE's *Humanities and Social Science Package* includes current full-text access to more than 660 well-regarded journals in a variety of humanities and social science disciplines. Well-funded libraries looking to provide more comprehensive coverage of relevant subject areas may find this package to be a good way to add a lot of high-quality content.

What is it?

SAGE Publishing's *Humanities and Social Science (HSS) Package* provides full-text access to 660 journal titles across a variety of disciplines. *HSS* includes complete access to SAGE's peer-reviewed journal content in the humanities and social sciences. In terms of sheer number of titles, sociology is the most well represented discipline with more than 100 titles, followed by education (97), business management (94), arts & humanities (74), psychology (66), politics & international relations (59) and communication & mass media (52). Criminology & criminal justice, health sciences, and science, technology & media titles are also included.

There are a handful of other products that provide a similarly broad coverage of social science and humanities disciplines as *HSS*, most notably Taylor & Francis' *Social Science & Humanities Library* and Johns Hopkins' *Project MUSE*. Both of these products are larger, include more diverse content and, for most colleges, cost more than *HSS*. EBSCO has several different social science and humanities products, including *Social Science Full Text*, and larger, more focused alternatives such as *Sociology Source Ultimate* and *Humanities Source Ultimate*. These products are generally more expensive than *HSS*. Another somewhat comparable EBSCO product, *Psychology and Behavioral Science Collection*, is currently part of California's statewide database buy. Other similar products tend to focus on psychology, such as APA's *PsycARTICLES* and Gale's *Psychology Collection*. JSTOR also provides access to content in humanities and social science disciplines, but that content is spread across a variety of collections and focuses on backfiles.

Quick Evaluation

Most of the titles in the *HSS* are available with current, unembargoed content and an archive that in many cases extends back to at least 1999. However, note that for some titles the most recent volume was released prior to 2016, such *South Asian Survey* (last issue 2012), and *Diogenes* (2014). In addition, according to the January 2017 *HSS* title

list, a total of sixteen titles are “open access” while a number of others, such as Phi Delta Kappa’s *Kappan Magazine*, offer substantial open access content via other avenues. Overall, open-access content seems to constitute only a small portion of the collection and therefore does not substantially undermine its value. With that said, since the Community College League Consortium offer for *HSS* is a flat rate regardless of institution size, it is a better value for larger colleges and potentially cost-prohibitive for smaller ones.

Marketing materials point out that more than half of the titles in the collection are ranked by Thomson’s *Journal Citation Reports*. In fact, some of those titles, such as *Psychological Science in the Public Interest* and *Journal of Management*, are highly ranked by Thomson and other journal rankings. While this is indicative of the quality of titles in the collection, this reviewer wonders if there are enough core titles that are relevant to the community college market to make it a worthwhile purchase. SAGE marketing materials geared toward community colleges highlight the inclusion of *Community College Review*, which is obviously relevant, but no other titles. With that said, if the content *is* of interest then *HSS* may be the best access option for many institutions because SAGE titles aren’t typically available through aggregators like EBSCO and Gale without embargoes and individual subscriptions can be extremely expensive.

HSS received an interface refresh in late 2016 and a cursory review found it to be relatively intuitive and easy to navigate. One potential area of concern is the citation functionality, as dynamically created citations include extra formatting and unnecessary carriage returns that interrupt straight copy and pasting.

Conclusion

HSS is reasonably priced given the number and quality of the titles included and may be a good value for libraries seeking to substantially increase their peer-reviewed journal holdings in social science and humanities disciplines. The challenge for community college libraries is that *HSS* doesn’t include many core disciplinary titles nor a lot of titles that are especially applicable to two-year institutions. That being the case, *HSS* would most likely appeal to libraries looking to greatly expand their social science and humanities journal coverage beyond the more focused collections available through APA, EBSCO and Gale. Libraries that place a strong emphasis on unembargoed access to this type of content should also take a closer look at *HSS*.

Relevant Links

Vendor description: <https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/hss-collection>