



**Credo Online Reference Service.** Credo Reference, 2017. Annual academic subscription starts at \$5,600.00, based on FTE.

[corp.credoreference.com](http://corp.credoreference.com)

[Revisited Oct'17] Last reviewed almost a decade ago ([CH, Feb'09, 46-2980](#)), *Credo Reference* has grown into an essential, online, full-text collection of reference books covering a great variety of subjects and formats—dictionaries, encyclopedias, handbooks, guides, and other quick, ready-reference resources. Publishers include familiar names: ABC-CLIO, Blackwell, Edward Elgar, Routledge, Wiley, Springer, SAGE, and many more. The resource also offers thousands of Topic Pages designed as starting points for research, from “Aachen (Germany)” through “Zworykin, Vladimir Kosma” (a Russian engineer who developed the cathode ray tube and electron microscope). Each Topic Page offers an introduction, links to related topics, images, and a visual tool called Mind Map, whose clickable graph nodes can be used to explore interrelated people, organizations, concepts, and fields of study.

A simple search box stays put at the top of each screen; having it remain visible as users scroll through the site would be a design improvement. Advanced searching allows further flexibility, limiting search terms to retrieve only images, topics, books, or Mind Map results. The excellent Help section is both brief and context-sensitive and can be used for more-detailed self-instruction. Users can set one of eight different languages for using the site, and a handy permalink icon generates a stable URL for citing a result. Each screen also presents a Browse option to find reference books or Topic Pages by title or by nearly two dozen subjects, most of which expand to detailed subheadings. Short videos and still images, along with suggestions for further reading, are available for many articles. At the level of an individual article, there is tool that translates the text into 60 supported languages, and a ReadSpeaker tool can read the English version aloud. Users may also save, e-mail, or print results, and a recommended citation format is available in APA, MLA, Chicago, and Harvard styles, along with an option to export to several different reference-management software platforms.

The publisher offers four different collections of materials for purchase: the Academic, Public, and Student (intended for grades 7–12) Cores are subsets of the all-inclusive Complete Core, which currently contains more than 1,100 books by more than 100 publishers, including materials that are not in any of the other collections. Libraries can customize the mix too. Librarians, instructors, and academic-success staff who work with undergraduates—and students who have discovered *Credo Online Reference Service*—will find it a first-rate place to visit first when they are looking for validated sources of information. General readers and advanced researchers will also appreciate this convenient way of getting a preliminary grasp on an unfamiliar area of inquiry.

**Summing Up:** Essential. All libraries. All levels. —D. G. Ernsthausen, *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*



Reviewer: D.G. Ernstausen, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Recommendation: Essential

Readership level: All Readership Level

Interdisciplinary Subjects

Subject: Reference

Choice Issue: jan 2018 vol. 55 no. 5

Choice Review #: 55-1581