Book Review Digest Plus (H. W. Wilson) - FAQs

Q. What is Book Review Digest Plus?

A. Book Review Digest Plus is an essential library tool that brings together book reviews of a wide range of topics for more than 5,000 indexed journals. A comprehensive readers’ advisory, collection development, and literary research tool for public, academic, corporate, and K-12 libraries, this database features full-text reviews from over 1,400 periodicals, over 2 million review citations, and “Master” records for each book. The database has retrospective coverage back to 1983 and coverage for both adult, young adult, and children’s literature.

The print edition of Book Review Digest is offered by Salem Press. For more information, visit their website at: http://salempress.com/store/samples/indexes/book_review.htm

Q. How often is Book Review Digest Plus updated?

A. Content for Book Review Digest Plus is updated weekly online with more than 118,000 reviews added each year.

Q. How should Book Review Digest Plus be used?

A. Book Review Digest Plus is designed to serve educators, students, researchers, corporate customers, librarians, and library patrons by providing access to concise, critical evaluations for books with subject coverage in areas such as art, biography, business, education, history, the humanities, literature, religion, science & technology, the social sciences, and much, much more. Unlike reviews available through vendor sites and the open Web, Book Review Digest Plus includes reviews that are serious, academic works. Given the database’s broad subject coverage and diverse range of review sources, Book Review Digest Plus easily provides the following services:

- A literary research aid. “Master” book records with complete bibliographic data and retrospective coverage back to 1983 for over 5,000 indexed journals assist with any contemporary literature research.

- A readers’ advisory aid. Finding the next book to read or recommend is made simple with thorough subject indexing for all titles, summaries, annotations, and full-text reviews from over 1,400 journals.

- A collection development aid. With more than 118,000 reviews added each year, librarians have the power and resources necessary to make an informed decision when purchasing a book.

- As an aid in curriculum support. Subject indexing, annotations, and grade level designations are helpful in identifying materials appropriate for classroom use.
As a general reference tool, Book Review Digest Plus provides excerpts from, and citations to, reviews of adult, young adult, and children’s fiction and nonfiction as well as descriptive summaries of the books.

Q. What is the print edition of Book Review Digest?
A. The yearly print subscription for Book Review Digest includes quarterly, quality paperbound issues in March, June, and September, plus a permanent, library-bound cumulative annual published in December. The print edition pulls from more than 95 selected periodicals in a variety of subject areas to bring at least one substantial review excerpt for each book included in the print.

Q. How does the print edition differ from the online database?
A. The print edition of Book Review Digest comes out quarterly, with a cumulative annual published in December. The print edition also pulls only from 95 review sources, and provides abstracts only for those reviews that are longer than ¼ of a page.

The online version of Book Review Digest is updated weekly and includes not only all the titles and reviews cited in the print editions, but tens of thousands of additional books and reviews culled from over 5,000 indexed journals.

Q. What is the best way to get a review for a book?
A. There are many ways to get a review for a book; two stand out as the most efficient paths:

1. Search for a title or author from either the basic search screen or advanced search screen. On the results page, select Reviews within the Source Type facet on the left side of the screen.

2. In Advanced Search, search for the book’s title and select Review from the Document Type list.