What is the Research Starters feature in EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS)?

Research Starters is a feature in EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS) that provides links to citable, authoritative summary articles for thousands of popular topics. Designed to assist users with their research, this feature was developed based on extensive studies with undergraduate and graduate students.

When a user conducts a search in EDS, a Research Starter (outlined below in red) may appear at the top of the Result List. For those topics identified as most popular, Research Starters will retrieve relevant articles that link the user to related information and detailed bibliographies.

Research Starters content is curated from a variety of high quality sources, both proprietary and encyclopedic, including:

- Salem Press
- Encyclopædia Britannica
- American National Biography

Salem Press Titles

The Salem Press articles in Research Starters are cited with a Source of:

- Salem Press Encyclopedia
- Salem Press Encyclopedia of Science
- Salem Press Biographical Encyclopedia
- Salem Press Encyclopedia of Health


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Currently these titles only exist as part of Research Starters (they will be included in additional databases in the future); however, most of the articles with these sources are updated or revised versions of articles from almost 100 Salem Press reference books. These updates have been made specifically to ensure that Research Starters maintains accuracy and currency. In many cases, changes have been made in the text and the bibliography.

In order to cover important topics that did not have existing articles in the Salem Press catalog, the Salem Press content team has written additional articles specifically for Research Starters and continue to write new articles. As with the updates and revisions, these are created with the same high editorial standards as the Salem Press print titles. These new articles are written by professional writers, under the direction of the same editorial team as Salem Press print titles and with standards set for acceptable research sources and with checks against plagiarism.

Using Research Starters

If a Research Starter appears on the Result List, as in the example above, simply click the article title or the More button to read about the topic or find related articles and images.

From the overview article page, you can read the HTML Full Text article, listen to the article using the Text-to-Speech feature, or add it to your personal folder. You can also click the icons under Tools to print the article, email it, save it to your computer, etc.

Note: If you do not wish to display the Research Starters placard on your EDS results list, you may disable the feature in EBSCOadmin.

Configuring Research Starters

1. Log in to EBSCOadmin. The Customize Services tab is the default.
2. Select your EDS profile from the Choose Profile drop-down menu.
3. Select the Databases sub-tab. You will now see all databases associated with your selected EDS profile.
4. Use the drop-down on the left-hand side to Show: Disabled databases.
5. Scroll down to Research Starters (ers) and select the Enable: On
6. Click Submit.
7. Proceed to the Viewing Results sub-tab.
8. Under General Settings, set the "Display Research Starters Feature Area" radio button to On.
9. Click the Submit button.

To disable the Research Starters feature:

1. Log in to EBSCOadmin. The Customize Services tab is the default.
2. Select your EDS profile from the Choose Profile drop-down menu.
3. Click the Viewing Results sub-tab.
4. Under General Settings, set the "Display Research Starters Feature Area" radio button to Off.
5. Click the Submit button.