

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### How many records are in the database?

RCL includes over 90,000 titles in 61 curriculum-specific subjects. RCL Career Resources includes over 4,500 titles across 11 career clusters. Combined, RCL Plus offers over 95,000 titles across 125 disciplinary and workforce-oriented subjects.

### How often is content added?

The database is updated with new content throughout the year, with an average of 4,000 titles added annually.

### How is the RCL content selected?

RCL resources are carefully selected by subject editors, who are almost exclusively academic librarians and faculty members with bibliographic expertise and advanced degrees. Editors consider the college curriculum, utilize review resources, and elicit faculty feedback while selecting resources. The RCL core collection balances standard works, landmarks of scholarship, and long-established classics with contemporary works reflecting current research and publications.

### How does the peer review process work?

Currently, each RCL and RCL Career Resources subject undergoes comprehensive peer review every three years to ensure that selections remain relevant, credible, and current for the undergraduate collection. Reviewers evaluate all aspects of the digital product: a scope note that describes the work and methodology; the taxonomy for logical order and relevance to the discipline; and all titles selected as essential for research and study. Following peer review, the subject editor is responsible for incorporating reviewers' recommendations into future iterations of the bibliography and taxonomy.

### How is RCL different from Choice Reviews?

The goal of RCL is to identify the most important core titles for given academic subjects, retrospectively (that is, not just the best recent titles, but also those published years or even decades ago which have maintained critical for the undergraduate curriculum). Choice Reviews is a searchable database which contains all Choice book reviews along with the Outstanding Academic Titles (OATs) selected by Choice editors as the most important recently published academic works. Though roughly one-third of RCL content has been reviewed in Choice, Choice does not attempt what Resources for College Libraries does—a comprehensive, continually updated bibliography aligned with the undergraduate curriculum.

### Does RCL contain titles from BCL3?

Yes, RCL does contain some of the titles which were recommended in *Books for College Libraries*, third edition (BCL3, 1988). The BCL3 title retention varies greatly amongst RCL disciplines and reflects the scholarly and publication trends in a subject. For example, RCL's U.S. History section retains roughly 20% of BCL3 selections, while the Computer Science and Business Administration disciplines have changed dramatically and experienced an almost total turnover, retaining less than .5% of BCL3 titles.

## **Does RCL Career Resources contain titles from *Vocational and Technical Resources for Community College Libraries*?**

RCL Career Resources editors began updating this core list by evaluating titles from its predecessor, the 1994 edition of *Vocational and Technical Resources for Community College Libraries*. Given the substantial changes to the curriculum, practices, and publications in all of the subjects, relatively few titles were retained and RCL Career Resources content has been completely updated with the newest works for students in community college and workforce education programs.

## **Does RCL contain e-books?**

Yes. The RCL database contains a modified FRBR functionality, which allows users to view alternate formats, including e-books. However, RCL editors focus on selecting materials at the work or edition level, allowing users to make purchase decisions based on local users and selection policies for format.

## **Is RCL available in print?**

A print version of RCL was published in 2006, but is no longer available. Current selections are available via the RCL database, which is continuously updated.

## **Is there a free trial available?**

Yes. Contact a representative today to sign up for RCL.

## **How does RCL benefit students?**

Students will benefit from the fact that academic librarians and faculty have already evaluated and curated the RCL content for undergraduates. Because RCL subjects are aligned with the college curriculum, it's easy for students to quickly find the essential works to support their research and study.

## **How does RCL benefit faculty and researchers?**

Faculty who are developing new courses can use RCL to select the most appropriate materials. Additionally, faculty, librarians, and administrators working to establish a new undergraduate program, minor, or major will benefit from consulting RCL to ensure the library collection contains the appropriate works to support the curriculum.

## **How does RCL benefit librarians?**

RCL is a time-saving collection development and discovery database. Librarians benefit from the credible, peer-reviewed content, as well as the powerful bibliographic tools in the RCL database. From qualitative collection assessment to instruction support, RCL improves library workflows.

**[For more information, visit the RCL homepage](#)**