What is EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS)?

Let’s define it . . .

EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS) is an online research tool that “pulls together” almost all of our Daniel Library resources so that they can be explored using a single search box. In other words, rather than searching the Daniel Library Catalog for books and a database such as Academic Search Complete for journal articles, you can do an EDS search and get results which include books, e-books, journal articles, and government documents in one list. In fact, you could think of EDS as the Daniel Library’s version of Google.

It works like this . . .

Technically-speaking, EDS provides an integrated index for most of our Daniel Library resources. Although it is an EBSCO product, your search results will also include non-EBSCO resources. You can search resources such as:

- Daniel Library Catalog
- Academic Search Complete
- Business Source Complete
- eBook Collection
- ERIC
- JSTOR
- MasterFILE Premiere
- MEDLINE
- MLA International Bibliography
- Opposing Viewpoints in Context
- Political Science Complete
- Points of View Reference Center
- Teacher Reference Center

Not only does it search most of our resources with one search box, EDS returns your results quickly and ranks them according to relevancy. It’s powerful and should be of help finding resources for your research. Just keep in mind that, like Google, it may return a large number of results and you will need to use judgment when assessing their value.
I still want to use other individual databases . . .

You can continue to search individual databases like MEDLINE, ERIC, or JSTOR as you have done in the past. Please be aware that many databases tend to be subject specific. For example, MEDLINE generally covers materials related to nursing and medicine while ERIC covers subjects pertaining to education literature.

EDS provides a type of “super database” approach by searching almost ALL of these subject databases. So, if you are not sure of what specific databases you need or you just want to “cast a wide net,” try EDS. Individual databases can still be accessed using the Database link on the Daniel Library homepage and you can be assured that we are not planning to cancel any of our current subject-specific databases. These are the resources that EDS uses in the search process, so we will be keeping these subscriptions as long as our budget allows us to do so. You can think of EDS as an additional resource tool in our collection, not as a replacement for anything.

I’m having trouble using EDS . . .

Well, it’s a big resource tool for you and for us! So, it may not be obvious how to do some of the things you have grown accustomed doing with the other databases. Therefore, you are encouraged to explore this resource along with us and give us feedback on your success and frustration with it.

Expect to see product enhancements over the coming months. If you identify a functionality that is currently missing or could be improved, contact us at reference@citadel.edu and we'll send your concerns to the folks at EBSCO.