

orientation to a subject, to compete with a *Wikipedia* entry and its list of references for the student investigating a particular topic in depth. A library with a need for a basic reference work on American folklore for high school or undergraduate students would find this suits it well, but at the risk of being called a Luddite, the many drawbacks of the electronic interface lead me to say I would prefer to use the print version myself.

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The SAGE Encyclopedia of Online Education

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The SAGE Encyclopedia of Online Education contains over 350 entries covering a wide array of topics related to learning online. The *Encyclopedia* is edited by Steven L. Danver, the Executive Director of the Center for General Education at Walden University, who has been teaching in traditional and online classrooms since the 1990s. Individual entries in the encyclopedia are authored by an international group of academics and scholars.

While there are entries dedicated to K-12 and professional online education, as well as a few on online education in international contexts, the majority are focused on online higher education in the USA. Readers can navigate the encyclopedia alphabetically, but a helpful Reader's Guide sorts the entries according to topic areas, which convey the encyclopedia's broad scope: Concepts and Theories; Culture, Race and Ethnicity; Curriculum; Economic Issues; Educational Institutions; Educational Resources, Technology, and Online Platforms;

Evaluations and Testing; Institutional Practices and Policies; Institutional Practices and Pedagogy; Interaction in the Educational Process; Legal, Regulatory, and Accreditation Issues; Online Courses and Degree Programs; Organizations; Research; Social Media; Student Characteristics or Types; and Student Experience.

As a whole, the entries are thorough and accessible, providing readers who are new to the subject with adequate background information and context so they fully understand any implications a topic or concept might have on online education. A few entries miss the mark on this final aspect, seeming to tack online education on to the end of an entry that is mainly focused on the traditional education context. These entries may leave readers wondering how the topics apply to online education, or why they were included in this volume. Although the entries are, generally, at least a few pages long and provide relatively deep analysis, some entries, especially those focusing on specific types of learning management systems, are rather thin and could have been folded into the main LMS entry. The entries are largely text-based, though a few do include charts and tables. The entries are also relatively free from error, although the tables from the entries on online education in Central and South America seem to have been transposed. Every entry includes a list of sources for further reading, and some contain additional websites related to the entry's content.

A series of appendices follow the main text of the encyclopedia. These appendices include tables illustrating trends related to enrollment and student demographics of distance or online learners in higher education; a series of tables containing opinions from academic leaders on distance education; a resource guide of books, articles and journals for specific sub-topics of online education; and a comparison of distance education policy standards.

The online edition of the book, as here reviewed, offers several benefits over the print. First, entries are cross-referenced and hyperlinked. Each entry contains a see also section that directs readers to related entries. In the e-book, these entries are linked so readers can navigate to related entries with a single click. Second, each entry also has its own stable link, which makes these entries easily available for use as course readings. Third, there is a search function in the electronic version, allowing readers to quickly

locate all entries mentioning a term of interest. The search results are displayed alphabetically, but indicate the number of times the search terms appear within them, so readers can quickly navigate to the most relevant entries.

As the encyclopedia's primary focus is on online learning in higher education, this title

would be most suitable for academic libraries, especially those who support education programmes or distance and online learners.

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