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FULL TEXT REVIEW

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Reference \ General

Books24x7. SkillSoft. Annual academic subscription price begins at $2,500.00, based on FTE and population served. Internet Resource. Reviewed in 2010mar CHOICE.

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[Revisited Dec'09] *Books24x7* (previously reviewed, CH, Feb'06, 43-3107) offers a wide selection of electronic books covering professional literature in fields including business, engineering, information technology and health care. Although its content differs in nature, *Books24x7* is similar to *Oxford Reference Online* (CH, Sep'02, 40-0005) and *Credo Reference* (CH, Feb'09, 46-2980) in its functionality. Finding material can be accomplished by searching keywords or accessing broad collection categories and drilling down to display specific books. The ten collections are BusinessPro, FinancePro, OfficeEssentials, EngineeringPro, GovEssentials, Well-BeingEssentials, ExecBlueprints, ITPro, Exec Summaries, and Leadership Channel (which includes a number of streaming videos). Under the heading Browse Topics, users will find a similar menu consisting of Business Topics, Engineering Topics, ExecSummaries Topics, Finance Topics, Government Topics, IT and Technical Topics, Leadership Channel Topics, Office Topics, Well-Being Topics, ExecBlueprints Topics, and Publisher. Each topic has a different menu of further selections.

After locating and clicking on a book title of interest, users will find a table of contents to peruse. Options include creating bookmarks, adding notes, creating and saving material in personal folders. A virtual tour gives an overview and instructions on using the various features, such as downloading tables using the LiveTables feature or the personal folders feature. The search box remains at the top of every page, even while a user is accessing content. Librarians considering purchase will appreciate the Publisher topic, which provides a list of available titles that will facilitate comparisons. The collection's 20,000 titles cover professional literature rather than encyclopedias and dictionaries used for ready reference. Statistics, which are available for each collection, and for the entire collection, cover the number of titles available, new titles in the last seven days, titles added to the collection by month, and title distribution by copyright date. Each collection features a core group of classic materials published before 2005, along with new titles added every year. The copyright distribution also shows the newest titles for each collection. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. Corporate and academic libraries supporting professionals and upper-level undergraduates/graduate students in the business, finance, engineering, and IT fields. -- *L. Hickey, Austin College*