



## ***Doody's Collection Development Monthly*** **Electronic Resource Review**

### **Description**

Each month, the Doody's Collection Development Monthly newsletter and website features an original review of an electronic resource written by a librarian for the purposes of introducing and evaluating the value of the resource for health sciences libraries. To see published review examples, visit <https://dcdm.doody.com/category/guest-article/>.

### **Specifications**

Reviews generally comply with the following specifications:

- Paragraph text written in full sentences that may include bulleted lists and hyperlinks and follows the guided template below.
- Written in an informational, rather than promotional, tone.
- Graphics, such as charts or screenshots, are welcome. (For screenshots of licensed resources, the Doody's team will collaborate on seeking permissions.)
- Reviews average 1,200 words but may range from 1,000 to 1,500 words.
- References or citations may be included in the format preferred by the reviewer.

Reviewers must not have a conflict of interest at all in reviewing the resource they've identified for review. It is vital that all reviews objectively report on the resource while clearly providing the reviewer's opinion when called for. As these resources are dynamic, the review should speak specifically to content, features, and functionalities that stand out or could be improved.

### **Submission Process**

Final drafts of reviews are due no later than three weeks prior to the anticipated publication date. Iterative drafts are welcome, but not required. Doody's staff will work directly with reviewers to complete developmental edits at the time of submission. Doody's staff will be responsible for copyediting and final publication formatting. At the time of submission, reviewers are asked to submit a headshot along with their preferred attribution (name, credentials, and institutional affiliation) as they'd like it to appear with the review.

### **Publication Process**

Reviews are published on the fourth Tuesday of each month (except in December, when they are published on the third Tuesday) as the lead editorial component of the Doody's Collection Development Monthly newsletter. The review will also be the lead editorial piece on the homepage of the DCDM website, which is syndicated with the Doody's Review Service and Doody's Core Titles websites.

## **Guided Template**

Below is a structured template for each section of the review. While the guiding questions are there to ensure the basics are covered, they are not meant to limit or restrict the overall content of the review. Going beyond these questions is encouraged to reflect the uniqueness of each resource.

### *Section 1: Introduction*

This section will comprise 3-4 sentences that answer the following questions:

- What electronic resource is being reviewed?
- In brief, summarize or define the resource.
- Who is the publisher?
- How long has the resource been on the market? Was the resource previously published as something else?

### *Section 2: Content*

This section will comprise 2-3 paragraphs that answer the following questions:

- In detail, what does subject matter does this resource cover?
- What purpose does this resource serve? What gap does it intend to fill?
- What types of content are available? For example, books, datasets, journal articles, practice tests, sample papers, quick guides, lab methods, etc. If there are known titles made available, name a few.
- In what formats or methods is the content delivered or accessed?
- Who is the primary intended audience? What other audiences might be attracted to this resource?
- Who are the authors/editors of this resource? Assess their authority and credibility for the resource's subject matter.
- It's highly encouraged to consider including screenshots of salient content.

### *Section 3: Features/Functionality*

This section will comprise 2-3 paragraphs that answer the following questions:

- Describe the basic layout of the resource.
- Describe and assess the resource's salient features.
- Describe and assess the resource's search functionality.
- Does the resource interact with other resources? If so, which ones? Can users perform federated searches across the linked resources?
- Describe the resource's help features and/or navigation tools.
- Which features are outstanding? What features, if any, could be improved or added to enhance the value of the resource?
- What are this resource's major strengths? Major drawbacks?
- Comment on the overall user experience.
- It's highly encouraged to consider including screenshots of salient features or functionality.

### *Section 4: Business Model*

This section will comprise 1-2 paragraphs that answer the following questions:

- What is the licensing model for this resource?
- What options do end users have for gaining access to the resource?
- What types of subscription models are available? (e.g. institutional, individual)
- How long do subscriptions typically run?

- What is the pricing model? In other words, how is cost determined? It's okay to speak generally to this point rather than being specific toward a specific institution's license.
- What sort of usage data are available? How are they accessed?
- If the resource is Open Access, can users create unique accounts? Do they need to in order to gain access? Briefly describe how the resource is funded.

*Section 5: Breakthrough*

This section will comprise 3-4 sentences that answer the following questions:

- In brief, describe the value of the resource to the health information community.
- Recap what type of end users will benefit most from the resource.
- What types of libraries would benefit most from the resource?
- Why should a library consider (or not consider) subscribing to this resource?