

Random comparisons of various encyclopedia articles

Deserts

EB much more thorough, going into such things as the mathematical equations developed for measuring aridity quotients; detailed discussion of different geomorphic processes that affect landscape- weathering, gravitational, fluvial, and eolian- all described in words, could be much better described in animation the few pictures that there were, were quite poor; less would be a lot more as far as this article goes- EB article 18 pages plus 17 additional references

RH (Life in the Desert, 2 pgs; Australian Desert - 2 pgs; Desert Birds and Mammals - 2 pgs; Winds & Deserts - 2 pgs)

very little on geological/physical aspects of desert, not much more on life - very superficial all around

T-L - very descriptive, words bring to life, pictures are beautiful

the desert is something in motion - this aspect is missing (probably closest in T-L) sometimes the idea is there in words, but never in pictures. This is an example of how visuals would make a treatment better, not just easier to access

Mammals

mammals article in RH comprises approximately 1/100th of entire encyclopedia. If you had a 25 volume encyclopedia this would be allotted approximately 1/2 hour (assuming 1 hour per side). With compressed audio this would be more than enough for a good meaty overview.

Dolphins and Whales

treated together in EB, RH, and T-L

EB- very thorough, very dry, no pictures to speak of; no sense of the grandeur that you get in the T-L presentation

sense of wonder associated with the pictures and excerpts (eg from Cousteau and Moby Dick) in T-L; this seems impt as a way to generate and motivate further and deeper interest

Britannica's organization of the subject matter does show how to organize an examination of something - breaks it down into reasonable sub-categories

OVER

(references to evidence that this is so or that is so - it would be good to have an overall section that goes into the study of animal behavior- I either meant animal behavior in general, or the how to of studying animal behavior)

eg of Britannica's subheadings (six page article)

(the micro lists six other articles that touch on one aspect or another)

WHALE

general features
importance to man

Natural History

Behaviour

Social Behavior

Play

Epimelitic Behaviour (one animal assisting another
Fright in trouble)

Feeding

Life History

Reproduction (and care of newborn)

Migration

Locomotion

Swimming and Diving

Speed

Leaving and Wave-Riding

Sound Production and Communication

Form and Function

General Features

Feeding Adaptations

Senses

Smell

Sight

Hearing

Taste

Proprioception

Paleontology and Evolution

Classification (ie taxonomy)

Bibliography (if this were constantly updated as a referral mechanism, it would be a very valuable)