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briefers. The company's new DVD-based OneDisc Premium offers greater content all housed on a single disc with a redesigned web-based interface, search functions and productivity tools. It costs \$359 for a monthly updated subscription. Through Tax Analysts' Web Services, users can subscribe to all of the vendor's primary and analytical research materials, as well as web-only products such as Tax Notes Today and State Tax Today updates. An annual subscription to the company's Complete Federal Research Library plus one state costs \$435; additional subscription fees apply to add-on libraries such as the Worldwide Tax Treaties. This review looks at the Web Services offerings.

EASE OF USE – 4.5 Stars

The primary screen for Web Services provides a listing of subscribed research services on the left, organized into sections for Federal, State and International topics. The Federal section includes the Federal Research Library, as well as access to Tax Notes, Tax Notes Today, Highlights & Documents, Tax Analysts' news analysis and advance document services, and additional materials. The Federal Research Library houses the system's essential federal research material, including primary source publications from the IRS and Treasury such as the Internal Revenue Code and IRS Penalties Handbook, recent legislation, court opinions,

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select the component of that library
(Basic Federal Research, Chief Counsel
Advice, Court Opinions or Tax Practice).

After this selection, the left menu
provides a list of subcategories
within that component, along with
a search link at the top of the
menu. A quick search function or
link from the main page would certainly
be welcome, but the master screens
along the way instruct the user
on how to access the search functions.

The program's search utility
(when located) provides multiple
methods of searching, including
by word or number, and allows searching
across all databases within that
library or selecting specific sections
to search. A Help Guide at the top
of the screen provides advice on
search techniques.

Search results are presented in
a linked list that provides the
publication title, section number,
regulation or case. A selected document
opens into the primary window of
the program, offering the entire
returned document without highlighting

or otherwise noting where in the

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system and we can help you copy and paste it but does not include a custom print function other than that offered by the browser.

Overall, the program offers traditional web-based forward and back navigation, which should be intuitive for most users. You can use the “My Subscriptions” button at the top of the left navigator to get back to the Start page. The search utility in the research libraries does not provide a history list or other method of saving and re-performing searches. However, the CD and DVD-based research products do provide search customization and history functions. The companion daily news and analysis files, Tax Notes Today and State Tax Today, do provide a customized e-mail service that allows you to save searches that run against daily updates and then send the results list to you by e-mail. This option is discussed further below.

CONTENT

– 5 Stars

Tax Analysts has made almost all

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over Court of Federal Claims, Tax Court, federal appellate courts, and federal district courts, as well as the Chief Counsel Advice Library, which offers IRS-originated letter rulings, technical advice and assistance, field service advice, and legal memorandums. Tax Notes Today is one of the most respected financial news compilation services, providing tax coverage, analysis and commentary in an organized format that highlights critical tax law and policy changes. The file is updated continuously throughout the day with *.PDFs of important government documents such as newly released IRS regulations and Congressional committee reports.

INTEGRATION – 2.5 Stars

Tax Analysts' web-based research products do not integrate with tax compliance software and offer limited copy and paste functions. It also offers no built-in print functions, although documents print well using Internet Explorer's print function.

CUSTOMIZATION – 5 Stars

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and international versions of this product. Using Tax Analysts' new Customized E-Mail Alerts, subscribers to these daily news updates can elect to receive weekly, daily or as-it-breaks news regarding federal, state and international tax law changes, rulings, legislation and other events. Users can elect to have the messages provide linked headlines only, full contents, highlighted summaries or abstracts, and can have the news filtered by code, document type, subject or keyword so that the alerts focus on their specific practice area. This is truly an excellent tool.

UPDATES – 5 Stars

The web-based system is updated continually by Tax Analysts as needed. CD and DVD-based products are available in subscriptions that are updated quarterly or monthly.

RELATIVE VALUE – 4 Stars

Tax Analysts' base research libraries are moderately priced

and provide a good depth of primary

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open menu subscription-based system
allows users to pick and choose
the products and research libraries
they need without buying unneeded
materials.

2005 OVERALL RATING: 4.5 Stars

The products were reviewed based
on the following criteria:

- **Ease of Use.** This section explores navigation features, including accessibility of primary search tools and functions. As well, the ability to save common searches or specific results, or copy and paste contents of documents, adds to ease of use. Higher scores in this area reflect a comfortable, easy-to-use interface that provides intuitive access to key functions.
- **Content.** This section points out the research libraries available, including federal and state sources. It also identifies what type of content is available: primary sources such as code and rulings, as well as expert analysis and insight. A higher score here is earned by products with a comprehensive array of federal resources, including the availability of state research products. Research analysis is also considered, although not all professionals will seek such guidance.
- **Integration.** This section observes the ability of the software to work with tax preparation or write-up programs to automatically find areas of potential

relevancy within the research, as well as

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areas or subscribe to only specific areas, which allows practitioners to narrow down research content to only those areas relevant to their practice. A mountain of research is available; products scoring well in this section provide good sorting and personalization methods that enable users to tailor the program to meet their needs.

- **Updates.** With constantly changing tax law, the currency of information can be crucial. This section looks at how often research libraries are updated and by what method: CD, online automatic. Few practitioners enjoy performing software updates. As such, this section identifies the frequency and ease with which product updates are performed, with automatic, schedulable and online update capabilities receiving better marks.
- **Relative Value.** This section offers the reviewer's subjective opinion of the "bang for the buck."

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