

Internet Resource Tips

Finding Information on the Internet can be a daunting experience, however, there are a few simple tricks that can make finding useful information easy and rewarding:

1. **Finding what you want.** If you don't know the exact address you're looking for, use a search engine. Here are a few that are easy to use:
 - Google: www.google.com - great for finding general to specific information
 - Yahoo: www.yahoo.com - good maps for all those field trips
 - Hotbot: www.hotbot.com - great for finding very specific information
 - Ask Jeeves: www.askjeeves.com - user-friendly

2. **Using the Search Engine.** Once you're at the search engine, type in the word or phrase you're looking for. Try to "think like the database". If you give it too much to look for, you'll get very few returns; on the other hand, if you're too broad, you'll end up with a lot. So, looking for Benjamin Franklin's First Printer will pull a few websites; looking for Benjamin will pull as many web sites related to any kind of Benjamin out there, including stuff you're probably not interested in reading.

3. **Saving the Results.** If you like the results of your search, consider adding it to your "favorites" or "bookmark" list. In this way, you can use your "favorite" or "bookmark" to return to this exact result as many times as you like.

4. **Searching through a list of resources.** A search engine "results" page is a long, long list of links related to your search criteria and here's an easy way to dig through them.
 - A. Skim through the results looking for web addresses. Look for addresses that end in: edu, gov, and org. Many of these are hosted by organizations that own the content. Be a little wary of the "edu" sites. They'll have lesson plans from professors and primary research experts. They'll also be hosting sites for individual students who may or may not be experts. When reading the address, look for names of businesses, museums, and other reliable sources. *
 - B. To open a link that looks promising, use your mouse and open the address in a new browser window. In this way you can browse through a web site as much as you'd like without losing your search results. You can do this one of two ways: right-clicking and selecting the menu item "Open in a New Window", or with a single button mouse click and hold on the link until a menu appears, then select "Open a New Window".

5. **Saving addresses.** There are a number of ways to do this. Using the "favorites" or "bookmarks" is a good way to start, but in a short time it can become cumbersome and hard to use. I recommend using a text editor like Microsoft Word. Open the program and type information that will help you remember the content of the site and copy the address from the browser and paste it into the text file.

* A word about content. Unlike a book publisher or a newspaper, there is no "editor" of the Internet. Since the Internet is a relatively cheap and easy way to share information (compared to printing and distributing books and pamphlets), there's a lot of it out there, and it lacks a certain level of guaranteed reliability. Unlike a book publisher who wants to protect their reputation, anyone can publish anything they want on the Internet and claim it's accurate. So, use your common sense. Consider the company or person publishing the information, and consider whether or not there is an expert that supports that same point of view.

Internet Resources

Reading Lists

Caldecott Winners
<http://www.ala.org/alsc/caldecott.cfm>
Newberry Winners
<http://www.ala.org/alsc/newbery.cfm>

Textbook Support – most sites include lesson plans, teaching, suggestions, and assessment ideas

Houghton-Mifflin Social Studies <http://www.eduplace.com/ss/hmss/index.html>
Houghton-Mifflin Reading <http://www.eduplace.com>
Language of Literature (Reading Text for 6,7, &8th)
<http://www.classzone.com/start/lof/index.html> - you'll need to create a logon to access grammar and spelling lessons
McMillan McGraw-Hill Math <http://www.mhschool.com>
Harcourt Science <http://www.harcourtschool.com>

Current Events

International News: www.iht.com
MSNBC: www.msnbc.com
Time: www.time.com
U.S. News: www.usnews.com
Fox News: www.foxnews.com

Cross-Curricular Hot Picks – lesson plans, worksheets, teaching ideas, study skills...

www.unitedstreaming.com -user passcode: 99A9 3DE1; enter required fields
www.californiastreaming.org – username (first and last name of resource teacher) and password (valleyoaks)
www.loc.gov/teachers - access to Library of Congress (documents, audios, videos, maps, photos)
www.schoolexpress.com - free math worksheets, free thematic units
www.brainpop.com - great content, subscription
www.DiscoverySchool.com - published by Discovery channel
www.pbs.org - lesson plans, many that go along with televised programming; choose ‘Teacher Sources’, ‘TV Schedule’, or ‘Programs A-Z’.
www.nationalgeographic.com- lesson plans
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/atlas/> - great maps for making projects
www.mapquest.com – a terrific source for directions to anywhere in the U.S.
www.enchantedlearning.com
www.edhelper.com
www.kidzone.com
www.dictionary.com
www.thesaurus.com
www.worldbookonline.com
www.portaportal.com

*If you used United Streaming, California Streaming, Kern Learn, etc. last year, there is no need to reenroll.