

Product Name: SIRS Discoverer™ digital library general reference teaching and learning resource

Curriculum Level: Upper elementary grades, middle schools, and junior high schools

Solution Description: Discoverer **full-text articles** are **carefully selected and updated** by SIRS editors from thousands of K-8 appropriate learning resources. SIRS motto is “less is more.” Learning resources are organized for easy access using K-8 curriculum-appropriate icons linked to **Subject Tree** paths. Learning resources include hundreds of children’s magazines, selected newspapers, government documents, and reference resources: a K-8 almanac, encyclopedia, dictionary, and thesaurus. Each article is accompanied by a **summary** to help students and teachers to judge relevance quickly. **Reading level** indicators, including Lexile scores, for each resource help teachers and students to select the best resources for learning. Information is organized according to **Library of Congress** subject headings that **correlate** with the traditional print collections in each school library.

All searches include WebFind websites in the Results List. These are carefully selected for their research value, credibility, **age-appropriateness**, reliability, and **absence of distractions**. Each site is accompanied by a summary to help students and teachers decide on how they might use it. Summaries **save time for learning** for both students and teachers.

School Leader Priorities: *Appropriate Learning Resources for All Students*— All resources are **selected by experienced editors** including former teachers and indexed to curriculum topics and standards appropriate for students in grades 3-9.

Variety of Reading Levels— Each article and website is coded to show reading levels, including SIRS and **Lexile** reading scores. Lexiles are recognized as a **scientific-based method** of assessing the reading level of articles and have been adopted by many states for use in testing and library reading resource selection.

Proven Learning Resource— Discoverer continues to win awards for its unique K-8 content, features, and supporting learning resources for **teachers** and students.

CIPA and Filtering for Websites— Each website is **editorially selected** for K-8 appropriate content. No advertising or inappropriate links ensure learning and decency with little need for **supervision or follow-up discipline problems**.

Standards Correlation Tool— Teachers can search for articles and websites that are correlated to their state **content standards**. State standards for **essential skills** are correlated to the ProQuest **mini-research process** strategies and models through the Discoverer Mini-Research Guide for teachers.

NCLB Funding Eligible — Discover/WebFind focuses on the priorities of NCLB and state assessments: (a) reading across the curriculum; (B) integrated writing activities; (c) critical thinking inquiry-based activities; (d) standards correlation for content and essential skills

Teacher Power:

Spell Check — The first obstacle to student success is poor or no relevant results because of misspelled search terms. Spell checker helps students (and teachers) to be successful in this **most important** first step, **saving** classroom and library time.

Standards Correlation — Teachers can search for state content standards correlated articles with the new **content standards search** tool. State standards for **essential skills** are correlated to the ProQuest mini-research process strategies and models through the **Discoverer Mini-Research Guide**. **Discoverer Mini-Research Guide** http://www.proquestk12.com/lsm/sirs/pdfs/DiscoWebFind_MiniResearch.pdf

Printing of Resources — Teachers can print and then photocopy a variety of maps, photos, graphs, and fiction genres for use in classroom activities with copyright “Fair Use” advantages.

Home Access — Teacher planning time is limited in school. Home access to Discoverer is just what teachers need to prepare lesson activities.

Summary for Each Article and Website — Makes it easy and saves teacher time to decide on the best resource to use for student projects.

Suggested Research Topics — This feature provides a research challenge (Challenge Quest) and highlights frequently assigned K-8 curriculum topics for research with Subject Paths to the best resources for these topics. This ensures relevancy and saves valuable classroom/ library time for more reading and writing instead of searching.

Current Events — Updated daily by SIRS editors, these selected articles highlight important national and world events that are curriculum relevant and that can be copied for classroom reading and discussion **including maps**.

Spotlight of the Month — Encourages awareness and research of relevant monthly topics such as Women’s History Month and Black History Month

Fiction — Contains novels, stories, drama, folklore, plays, poetry, as well as sites that feature literary analysis and author profiles. Teachers can select and print Lexile- appropriate articles to supplement their classroom and library reading materials.

Activities — This feature provides a shortcut to all articles that include an activity; such as a science experiment, craft project, writing activity, etc.

Online Tutorial and Student Workbooks — Workbooks provide a way for students and teachers to learn how to use Discoverer more effectively.

Unique Variety of Learning Resources — Includes many e-books, quizzes, interactive/educational games, quizzes, and other content **not found in other library learning resources**. Also provides resources for biographies and countries to support ever-popular research activities for grades 3-8.

Student Power:

Reading with Understanding – Access to an interactive dictionary, thesaurus, almanac, and encyclopedia increases vocabulary and understanding of articles.

Spell Check – Helps students to get the information that they want even when they are not sure of the spelling. This encourages students to use Discoverer.

Beats Surfing and Googling – WebFind provides editorially-selected articles and websites appropriate for grades 3-8. Students get articles as well as websites, save time in searching, get reading level support, get summaries to help them select resources, and all resources are K-8 curriculum and standards relevant for their school projects.

Home and Community Center Access – Student time on school computers is often limited. Home and Community Center Access increases learning opportunities.

Citation Support – Examples of the most popular citation styles for a variety of print and digital resources is just a click away.

Context Sensitive Help – Helps students to reduce frustration in how to use the content and features effectively.

NCLB Connection:

Reading Level Selection – All articles are rated for reading difficulty by **Lexiles** and by SIRS benchmarks to help teachers help students to select appropriately.

State Standards Correlation – Teachers can search for resources directly correlated to state and national **academic content standards**. State **standards for essential skills** are supported by mini-research strategies in the *Discoverer/WebFind Mini-Research Guide*.

Graphics Rich Features and Content – Disadvantaged students with English Language deficiencies (LEPs) will be able to search more easily with subject icons and understand information better with robust graphics content..

Reference Tools to Aid Vocabulary and Understanding – Easy access to a dictionary, thesaurus, encyclopedia, and almanac help students to build reading vocabulary and understanding.

Technology Integration – Every ProQuest mini-research activity integrates teacher and student technology, information literacy, and **language arts** skills.

Mini-Research Activities – These activities as described in the guide, help to build essential skills in reading, writing, and critical thinking that increase state test scores that are the accountability measure of school success.

**Exploring School
learning.
Leader Priorities:**

1. Integrating technology and 21st Century literacy skills into instruction and learning.
2. Raising state test scores in essential language arts skills and critical thinking.
3. Using the power of inquiry-based activities for engaged learning.
4. Correlating lesson plans and resources to state standards.
5. Access to appropriate reading level resources for all students.
6. Home/school access to world-class K-8 learning and teaching resources for all.
7. Supervision time and filtering for distractions and decency of websites.
8. Conserving classroom and library time for learning academic content and skills.
9. Keeping textbooks and student knowledge current, across the curriculum.