



Don't Get Googley-eyed!

Help Your Students Find Sources of Information for Research Beyond the Internet.

Dear Dorothy,

As students become increasingly more competent at using a computer, they are less likely to become familiar with using more traditional sources for research. It is important that students have opportunities to use a variety of sources that can assist them in gathering information.

Use the following list of sources to introduce your students to the various types of resources available, and provide opportunities for them to employ each one.

Almanac	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> regular publication (annually) specific information/many subjects statistics charts/list index
Atlas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> book of maps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> political (boundaries) topographical (surface features) economic (products/industries)
Books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> printed pages bound together cover
Dictionaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> book-words of a language alphabetical order definitions pronunciation parts of speech
Encyclopedias	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> book/series of books/online basic information on many topics volumes in alphabetical order index
Internet Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> worldwide computer network (www) world wide web arranged like pages in a book (web pages) billions of web pages
Magazines (periodicals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> paperback published in regular intervals articles by multiple authors illustrated includes advertisements professional journals/general interest by topics

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Level 1

Bring an example of each type of source into your classroom. In some cases, you might want to have the versions that are available for young students. Take time on different days to discuss one type of source, and how it might be useful. Make a sign for each type of source. Play a game where students match the sign to the type of source and state how each source could be helpful to them. Allow students to look at different types of sources during independent reading time.

Level 2

Have students copy the notes on the various types of source material. Take them into your school media center and help them locate where each type of source is located. When doing research projects, encourage students to use a minimum of three different types of sources.

Level 3

Have students copy the notes on the various types of source material. Have them write situations that would explain the use of a particular type of source. Here is an example:

You are trying to identify the principal crops grown in the state of Kansas. Which source would help you do that quickly? (Atlas)

Your music teacher has asked you to collect some basic information on the composer, Amadeus Mozart. You go into the media center, and all the computers are in use. What other source could you use? (Encyclopedia)

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Sincerely,
The Write Tools, LLC