



News in the IMC

Students as Knowledge Builders

Research is an important part of a student's academic life. The goal of student research is the creation of knowledge as a result of an assignment based on a curriculum topic or a real world problem. Thus, the assignments are meaningful and challenging. In fact, this type of research is something that students can't do through a quick search on the

Internet. The research is open ended and driven by curiosity - there are no quick and easy answers.

Students transform and communicate this knowledge in numerous ways from traditional research papers to blogs to PowerPoint presentations to podcasts, wikis, the list is endless.

The library can help you and your students during the

research process. Here's how:

- Collaboratively planning assignments that emphasize critical thinking and problem solving.
- Team teaching the research process
- Preparing pathfinders for research
- Instructing students on using online databases, ebooks, and the Internet

- Compiling rubrics and creating StoryBoards for multimedia products
- Teaching students to use podcasts, blogs, wikis and other types of multimedia.

Stop in the IMC and plan an assignment with us.



Thank You

The Student Book Club would like to thank all of the WTHS staff that supported their service project by buying a birthday card for The Cat in the Hat. Because of your generosity, they were able to mail the cat 135 cards and make a cash donation of \$100 to First Book. For each birthday card received, Random House will donate 135 children's books to First Book, a nonprofit organization that provides low-income families the opportunity to read and to own their first new books. For more information visit www.firstbook.org



DO YOU REMEMBER THE MAGIC OF YOUR FIRST BOOK?

New Online Database *World Folklore and Folklife*

This new database can be used to study culture, literature, social and religious practices, history, art, music and languages from around the world.

Subjects include:

- Celebrations and Rituals
- Food and Drink
- Holidays and Festivals
- Music and Dance
- Religion and Belief
- Tales, Myths and Urban Legends
- Traditional Arts and Crafts

Included are full text versions of folktales, fairy tales, myths and legends.

Use it to search for a traditional Irish Tale.



Podcasts in the Classroom

Sites for Educational Podcasts

Podcasts are another reference source for your students to use. Podcasts are audio available on the Web. Most newspapers and magazines include podcasts on their sites. Start your explorations of podcasts by visiting the following:

Princeton Review Vocabulary

www.princetonreview.com/vocabminute/default.asp

Geo Quiz - news and geography from BBC
www.wthworld.or/?q=taxonomy/term/24

National Geographic

www.nationalgeographic.com/podcasts/

NASAcast Video - audio and video files from NASA including transcripts
www.nasa.gov/multimedia/podcasting

History Podcasts

www.historyonair.com

Podcast Alley - a directory of podcasts
www.podcastalley.com/podcast_genres.php?pod_genre_id=7

Of course, as with everything on the Internet, students should critically analyze the information in the podcasts.

Encyclopedias As Reference Books

Should encyclopedias be used for research?



It depends. It depends on whether it's a general or subject specific encyclopedia.

There are general encyclopedias such as *World Book*, *Encyclopedia Britannica* and the online *Wikipedia*. These are written for the average person and are good for background information since their coverage of a topic is focused and brief. A general encyclopedia should not be used for research.

Subject encyclopedias are very useful for research because they provide in-depth coverage of a topic and contain articles written by experts. Subject encyclopedias cover every discipline and a wide range of topics from art to astronomy to genetic engineering to the middle ages to world war. Examples of subject encyclopedias are *The Encyclopedia of American Social History*, *Encyclopedia of Art History*, *Encyclopedia of World War II*.

Playaways Offer Audio Alternative

The newest additions to the IMC collection of resources are pre-loaded audio books called Playaways. Think MP3 player without the need to download, CDs to rip, or USB cables. Playaways are a great way to use audio books in the classroom since they are smaller than a deck of cards and need only on AAA battery to play. Simply plug portable speakers (or the speaker cable from your desktop computer) and your students can listen to one of the Fireside Chats, Act III of Hamlet, or an Edgar Allan Poe poem. You and your students can also check out the Playaway version of popular titles such as James Patterson's *Beach Road* and Christopher Paolini's *Eragon* or use the *Learn Anywhere!* Language courses to brush up on a foreign language. Check your mailbox for a complete listing of the IMC's audio books.

