

The Kansas Library Card (KSLC)
 Database Information
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SIRS Discoverer

SIRS Discoverer is a K-8 database, that is geared especially for schools. The Interface is very friendly to young searchers. The opening screen, provides links to “current events,” a compilation of articles that change daily on current news, from political events to social issues.



Spotlight of the Month
 Current events

“Spotlight of the Month” collects articles by theme. A link to Article of the Month Archive links

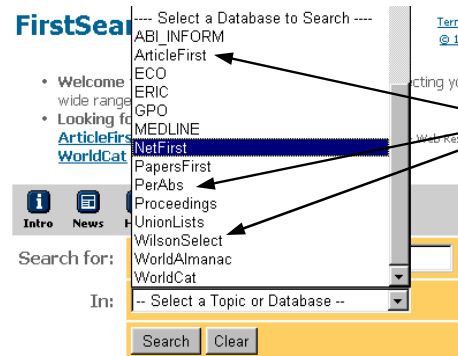


Subject Search Screen

the previous 12 months list of themes. The bottom row of links on the “Subject Tree” shows a “map” link, and a “biography” link and a picture link. All good tools for younger students. Hits, or articles returned are labeled by icon for difficulty level, plus icons are shown for article with “people, fiction, pictures, and activities.” All articles are chosen for the database and are all full text.

OCLC FirstSearch

Of the 13 databases, 3 have good quantities of full text articles. Articlesfirst, PerAbs (Periodical Abstracts) and Wilson Select. This is the most academic of the databases provided. Full text articles are clearly identified in the “hits” or “returns.” Wilson Select is the best of the databases. Notice also, MEDLINE (professional information) ERIC and Worldcat. Worldcat contains the Kansas Library Catalog, but is a much larger database.



full text

InfoTrac

The full text databases in Infotrac are Academic ASAP, Informe and Business and Company ASAP. Academic ASAP is the best database for high schoolers. Lots of full text and a check box that can limit to only full text is on the first screen. Articles can be viewed as HTML text files, or in PDF version. Very fine database. Informe, the Spanish language database has a curious feature—the interface is in English, but all the results are in Spanish. Business and Company ASAP, has great company, a good database for company research and



business classes. Health Reference Center has brief articles and some full text also. Newspaper Index is just an Index, but useful for Interlibrary Loan

netLibrary

Everyone must create an account to begin using this database.

The screenshot shows the netLibrary website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Search, Tools, Reading Room, About Us, and Help. Below this is a search bar and a 'Please login' section with a 'Create Account' button. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Search This eBook Collection' with various search filters, 'Online Dictionary', 'About the Reading Room', and 'Learn More About eBooks'. A callout box on the right points to the search filters with the text 'Search by various methods'. Another callout box points to the 'Create Account' button with the text 'Create Account'.

Once the account is created by clicking the link on the bottom right and filling out a simple form, one can use the login name and password created to check out more than 7 thousand books, fiction and non-fiction. The checkout period varies, but is always displayed in the online, or desktop reader—anywhere from 24 hours to 3 days. Books check in automatically if left to the end of the loan period. Any book from the “Guttenberg Project” is a book in the public domain, not current information. There are two ways to check out books, this information is displayed when one views a title on the selection list. Browsing a book gives temporary access to see if it contains the information needed. *“Check out and read online”* is preferred in a school library. The book can be read at any Internet computer, and does not require a downloaded reader. *“Download and read offline”* requires each student to download a separate reader so it can keep track of each student’s “book shelf” (checked out books). Also, books checked out to a local computer can only be read on that computer. PLEASE NOTE FOR READING OFFLINE: CURRENTLY EBOOK READERS ONLY WORK ON PC’s, A MAC VERSION SHOULD COME LATER.

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