Digital Knowledge Central

Thanks to Region XIII, TSD has access to a wonderful selection of current, relevant, online resources. Digital Knowledge Central is a collection of three different resources: Encyclopedia Britannica, NewsBank, and EBSCO. They make up a virtual library that can be accessed 24 hours a day from anywhere you have an internet connection. There is a balanced amount of K-12 resources which cover all content areas. You can even search for TEKS aligned materials or look up something in the professional development section.

What can you find in each of the DKC resources?

Encyclopedia Britannica contains three levels of encyclopedias—high school students and up, middle school students and up, and elementary school students and up. Each has its own interface and leveled articles. In addition, there are journals and magazines, a collection of web sites reviewed by the editors, and more than 2,000 video clips available. You also have access to an online dictionary, atlas, bibliographies, annotated timeline, Spotlight Features and more. The Learning Materials Section consists of materials in Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. Click on a type of Learning Material to see a complete listing.

Many of the interactive lessons contain animations. Usually the narration is an option, along with a suggested activity and quiz in Microsoft Word format.

NewsBank is a comprehensive research collection of articles, documents and statistics from hundreds of real-world sources which are updated daily. You'll find news headlines with daily lesson plans on current events. There are over 800
As your island of knowledge grows, so does your shoreline of wonder.” Anon.

state and country maps. You can even use the Big 6 process for doing research projects.

For younger students, the NewsBank site includes publications such as Weekly Reader, Time for Kids, Scholastic News, World Almanac for Kids, government sources and Kids sections from newspapers from all over the country. There is often a full color scan of the publication in PDF format. In the projects section, students are lead step-by-step through the research process.

For older students, along with magazines and newspapers from around the world, there are historical documents, speeches, wire services, TV & radio transcripts, news agencies, US government documents and UN documents.

Articles may be searched for by topic, lexile (reading level), or even by state standards (TEKS correlation.)

EBSCO is a database containing periodicals, biographies, primary source documents, almanacs, newspapers, transcripts, images, etc. There are two sections, Student Research Center for older students, and Searchasaurus for younger students. The interfaces are different and age appropriate. In the Student Research Center, you can narrow your search by full/partial text, publication date, and lexile reading level. In Searchasaurus, you have options such as Encyclopedia of Animals, General Encyclopedia, Middle Search Plus, Primary Search, Dictionary, Pictures, and Fun Facts. There are also captioned tutorials available by going to EBSCOhost Support and Training.

Now you are excited about all the possibilities, right, and want to know how to access these wonderful resources?

First, you go to http://dkc.esc20.net.

Next you will select DKC Libraries under the blue rectangle. The next page will contain the three options.

Click on the resource you want. You will then be asked for the username and password which can be stored and saved on your computer. Be careful as they are case sensitive.

Encyclopedia Britannica:
Login: xxx Password: xxx

NewsBank:
Login: xxx
Password: xxx

EBSCO:
Login: xxx Password: xxx

Be sure to share these with your students so they can access them from the dorm or their home.

Please respect the copyright laws. You can get the copyright statements from each of the vendors at http://dkc.esc20.net/copyright.htm.

Let me know if I can help you with DKC!
Need a good way to get your kids to read for information? Want a great way to integrate technology into your curriculum? I think the Hunt the Fact Monster activities provided at Education-World are excellent. They will teach your students to use key words while they learn about search engines.

Each week two new Fact Monster activities are available. The Primary-Grade Hunt is designed for students in grades 2 and 3. Each hunt has five multiple choice questions based on a timely theme. The Intermediate-Grade Hunt was developed for students in grades 4 and up. They have 10 questions related to events, people, places and ideas. Using these hunts will help your students to:

- Develop research skills.
- Build cultural literacy.
- Practice test taking skills
- Learn to skim for information
- Teach about time management

Click on http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/archives/factmonster.shtml to check out the available hunts. Your students will then use http://www.factmonster.com to search for the answers to the questions.

Printing Tips!

With paper and ink pricess rising, it’s time we all take extra care to make sure we are not wasting either. Make sure your students always ask permission from you before printing. If they want to print some information or a picture from a web site, show them how to copy and paste into Appleworks or Microsoft Word. If you are printing digital pictures, use the iPhoto feature that allows multiple pictures to a page, or insert several pictures into Appleworks or Microsoft Word. Think about the background in the picture before you take it. A picture with a white background will use much less ink than one with a solid colored background. When using Print Explosion, think about the background and don’t use a solid color. Let’s all stop and think before we hit that print button. Thanks for your help with this.

**Web Sites of Interest:**

Science & Math Games and Puzzles:
http://education.jlab.org/indexpages/elementgames.html

Learn about the government:
http://pbskids.org/democracy/

Math Solutions/Classroom Lessons:
http://www.mathsolutions.com/mb/content/publications/p_pub_13.html

Excellent Grammar Site for HS/MS:
http://cctc.commnet.edu/grammar/
How would you like to create an interactive test form with MSWord? Students will be able to add information without disturbing your original content. We'll be using Microsoft Word's Forms toolbar.

To open the Forms toolbar:

♦ Open a new document in MS Word
♦ Click View in the menu bar at the top of the Word window
♦ Click Toolbars
♦ Click Forms. The Forms toolbar will appear.

We will now create a test with fill-in-the-blank questions.

• Type the following text into your new document: 1. is the capital of Texas.
• Place your cursor before the word “is” in the sentence.
• Click the abl button (called the Text Form Field) on the Forms toolbar. A gray rectangle will appear.
• Double-click the gray rectangle to open the Text Form Field Options window.
• In the Text form field Options window, click the drop-down menu beneath Type: to choose the type of information that will be entered. Select "regular text."
• In the Text Form Field Options window, beneath Default text, you can type a prompt for the test-taker (for example "Type your answer here") or just leave it blank.

1. [ ] is the capital of Texas.

• Click OK to close the window.
• Hit the space bar to add a space or spaces between the gray rectangle and the rest of the sentence.
• Place your cursor at the end of the sentence and hit Return.
• When you are done with all of your questions, click the last button (the lock) on the Forms toolbar to protect your document.

Adapted from Education World article by Lorrie Jackson.