

The Secrets of AVL: Beyond the Search



*Teresa Kiser, Systems Librarian
Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County
tkiser@anniston.lib.al.us*

*Gina Sullivan, AVL Help Desk
Alabama Supercomputer Authority
gsullivan@asc.edu*

***Alabama Educational Technology Conference 2003
June 11-12, 2003
Birmingham, Alabama***

To use the following resources to the fullest extent - you must have the following programs downloaded on your system. These are free programs that are either included with your browser or may be downloaded from the Internet.

- Adobe Acrobat Reader** - <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>
- Macromedia Flash Player** - <http://www.macromedia.com/software/flashplayer/>
- Macromedia Shockwave Player** - <http://www.macromedia.com/software/shockwaveplayer/>
- Microsoft Media Player** - <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/download/default.asp>
- Apple QuickTime** - <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>
- RealPlayer** - <http://www.real.com> (look for Free Real One on top right of screen to download)

LEARNING MATERIALS:

The *Activities* available from the menu on the right side of the Britannica Online School Edition, include:

	Grades K-5	Grades 6-12
Language Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 Activities • 22 Reading Exercises • 6 Writing Exercises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 43 Study Guides covering American Literature, English Literature, Literary Genres and Writing • 6 Web Site Activities
Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34 Manipulative Activities covering Algebra, Geometry, Numbers and Operations, and Statistics • 15 Activities • Over 100 Exercises broken down by grade level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 39 Manipulative Activities covering Geometry, Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Statistics, and Fractals • 29 Study Guides covering Geometry, Pre-Algebra, Algebra, and Statistics
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Earth & Space Exercises • 17 Life Science Exercises • 5 Physical Science Exercises • 6 Web Site Activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 Earth & Space Activities • 14 Life Science Activities • 13 Chemistry Activities • 17 Physics Activities • 6 Web Site Activities
Social Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 32 Encyclopedia Activities • 12 Web Site Activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 32 Encyclopedia Activities • 12 Web Site Activities

VIDEO BROWSE

Accessible from the *Learning Materials* menu on the right of the screen in the Britannica Online School Edition, educational videos are organized by subject category as follows:

- Language Arts - Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening
- Mathematics - Geometry and Measurement
- Science - Earth & Space, Physical Science, and Life Science
- Social Studies - Geography, History, Government, Cultures, and Holidays

Students can view these clips to supplement learning. Click a link to open a video window, select a player (if necessary), and watch and listen. You can also use the regular search box on the School Edition and click the option to search Video & Media only.

SPOTLIGHTS

Accessible from the *Learning Materials* menu on the right side of the screen, the multimedia Spotlights are like Web sites. They cover a variety of topic areas (Civil War, Shakespeare, Dinosaurs). They include activities, quizzes, study guides, and teacher guides.

Serials Solutions / EBSCO / Gale

Serials Solutions is a tool that can be used to determine whether or not the full-text of a particular magazine/journal is available through AVL. And if it is available, which database contains which issues.

Example: Click on "Serials Solutions".
Enter "Redbook" next to "Title contains all words"
Click "Search"



Redbook (0034-2106)

from 01/01/1996 to present in [MasterFILE Premier](#), [MAS Ultra - School Edition](#) and [InfoTrac Student Edition](#)
from 01/01/1996 to 45 days ago in [General Reference Center Gold](#) and [InfoTrac OneFile](#)

Redbook is available in more than 1 database; we have a choice. MasterFILE Premier & MAS Ultra – School Edition are EBSCO. InfoTrac Student Edition, General Reference Center Gold, & InfoTrac OneFile are Gale.

Using InfoTrac OneFile, find all the articles in the May 2003 issue. Note: 45-day embargo period

Click the box to limit our search *to full-text articles*.
Click *between* and enter *May 1 2003 to May 31 2003* as the date range.
Enter "*Redbook*" (include quotes around the magazine title) next to *by journal/s*.
Click *Search*.



Now, using InfoTrac OneFile, find all the articles in the March 2003 issue.

Click the box to limit our search *to full-text articles*.
Click *between* and enter *March 1 2003 to March 31 2003* as the date range.
Enter "*Redbook*" (include quotes around the magazine title) next to *by journal/s*.
Click *Search*.

Click on "*The best way to boost self-esteem*".
Scroll to the bottom. Notice the *Related Articles* and the *Print, e-mail, and other retrieval options*.

Now, using EBSCO's MasterFILE Premier, find all the articles in the May 2003 issue. Note: no embargo.

Click *+2003*.
Click *Vol. 200 Issue 5 - May2003*.



Gale/EBSCO Comparison

- Gale includes "letters to editor" and "related articles"; EBSCO does not.
- EBSCO has a hyperlinked format.

To search for images in EBSCO (MasterFILE Premier):

Click on *Images*
Enter "*George Bush*"
Click *Photos of People*
Click *Search*

To copy/paste the image:

Right click on picture and select *copy*
Open document you would like to insert image into. Then, right click and select *paste*
At this point the picture can be modified.



ACTIVITIES

Choose the Activities option under the Database Features at the bottom right of the screen and find numerous articles with related worksheets that can be printed off and used in the classroom (example - seek a word, cross word puzzles), or instructions for activities (example - making bird nest soup, making your arms into zombie arms). Using the source and summary legend, you can choose an activity or project just right for the age group you are teaching. Create entire class lessons around many of these activities.

WOOBOOKS

Choose Workbooks at the very bottom of the SIRS Discoverer home page and download Educators' Guides (designed to help educators get the most out of SIRS Discoverer and provides information about the Student Workbooks as well as the answer key to them.), Student Workbooks (elementary or middle school versions, designed to help students learn to use SIRS Discoverer), or Research Strategies Overview and Worksheets (especially useful to teach students how to start writing a research paper). You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader (free download from <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>) to print the best copy.

CHALLENGE QUEST

Every month a new Challenge Quest is posted to SIRS Discoverer. The Challenge Quests are research questions designed to help students learn to use the Discoverer Database to find answers. To access this Quest, choose "Suggested Research Topics" from the Database Features to the bottom right of the home page. The challenge quest is posted to the bottom left of the Suggested Research Topics screen. The prior month's answers are also printed.

SIRS Knowledge Source Search Portal for SIRS Databases

CHALLENGE QUEST

Challenge Quests are questions designed to help students learn to use the various SIRS databases to research answers. Each month a new Challenge Quest is available for each Database (Researcher, Government Reporter, and Renaissance). To access the Challenge Quests, choose the Database Features tab from the SIRS Knowledge Source home page, then choose Suggested Research Topics under each database to find the Challenge Quest. Answers are posted the following month.

LIBRARIAN'S CORNER

Choose Librarian's Corner from the last menu line at the bottom of the SIRS Knowledge Source Home Page.

Government Reporter Educator's Guide - This 32 page guide located under "Reference Toolbox" on the Librarian's Corner page, provides educators with Lesson Plans and Worksheets for various topics within the Government Reporter Database. Topics include: U.S. Supreme Court Decisions, Bioethics, Environment, Constitutional Amendments, and much more. (Requires Adobe Acrobat Reader)

Research Strategy Worksheets - This 4 page guide located under "Reference Toolbox" on the Librarian's Corner page, provides educators with student worksheets that assist the student in learning to research topics using SIRS databases. (Requires Adobe Acrobat Reader)

SIRS Web Resource Center - Just for Teachers - Linking off the Librarian's Corner page, the SIRS Web Resource Center - Just for Teachers provides educators with the Curriculum Standards for Alabama, as well as links to Lesson Plans for various subjects.



NoveList Learning Center (left side of screen)

Check out the *NoveList in Schools* section and the *Instructional Modules*, especially *1-Minute NoveList*

For Staff Only (at the bottom of the NoveList Home page - you must click *Start*)

1. *Book Discussion Guides* - Material for book discussions at the Adult and Young Adult levels
2. *BookTalks* - Sample talks for books at the Children's and Young Adult levels
3. *School Media Center Staff and Teachers*
 - a. *Activities for High School English Classes* - Fully developed activities designed to introduce students to a variety of novels, encourage reading, and enhance the study of literature. Examples include: *To Kill a Mockingbird*; *Things Fall Apart*; *The Lord of the Flies*; *All Quiet on the Western Front*.
 - b. *Standards Based Thematic Units* - for Grades Pre-K through 12 - Complete curriculum guides on a wide range of topics and themes. Examples include: Bullying, Crisis and Conflict, Heroic Women, Immigration, Tornadoes and much more.

Join AVL Listserv

The AVL listserv provides you with service bulletins and other announcements pertaining to the AVL. To join:

- Go to: <http://list.virtual.lib.al.us/cgi-bin/lyris.pl?enter=avl>
- Scroll until you see *Join AVL* and click on that button.
- Enter your email address in the space provided. Scroll to the bottom of this page and click on *Save*.

CITING AVL SOURCES IN MLA AND APA FORMAT

African-American History and Culture:

Citation information is included at the bottom of each article in MLA format.

Text Citation:

"Alexander, Archie." Facts On File, Inc. *African-American History & Culture* . <www.factsonfile.com>.

Image Citation:

"Alexander, Archie." Charles H. Alston. Office of War Information. News Bureau. 1943. National Archives and Records Administration. Facts On File, Inc. *African-American History & Culture* . <www.factsonfile.com>.

Britannica Online

Citation information is available at the bottom of each article in APA and MLA format.

MLA Style:

"Chinese New Year." *Britannica Elementary Encyclopedia*. 2003. Encyclopædia Britannica Online School Edition. 22 May, 2003 <<http://school.eb.com/ebk/article?eu=415556>>.

APA Style:

Chinese New Year. *Britannica Elementary Encyclopedia*. Retrieved May 22, 2003, from Encyclopædia Britannica Online School Edition. <<http://school.ed.bom/ebk/article?=415556>>.

EBSCO

Citation information is available from the Help option at the top right screen of each EBSCO database. From the Help - Contents listing - choose "Styles of Citation" and then choose "Modern Language Association " (MLA), or "American Psychological Association" (APA).

MLA Style:

Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of work." Article's original source and publication date: page numbers. Product name. Publisher. Date researcher visited site. <Electronic Address, or URL, of the source>.

For example:

Tator, Charles, James D. Carson, and Robert Cushman. "Hockey injuries of the spine in Canada, 1966- 1996." *CMAJ: Canadian Medical Association Journal* Vol.162 Issue 6, 03/21/2000, 787. Available from Academic Search Elite [database on-line]. EBSCOhost. Accessed 15 November 2000. <<http://search.epnet.com>>.

APA Style:

Author (date of original source). Article title. *Original source of article*, page numbers. (Retrieved [month day, year,] from [source] database ([name of database]).

For example:

Tator, C., Carson, J. D., & Cushman, R. (2000) Hockey injuries of the spine in Canada, 1966 - 1996. *CMAJ: Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 162(6), 787+. Retrieved November 15, 2000, from EBSCOhost database (Academic Search Elite).

Gale Databases

Information on citing articles is available from the results screen by clicking on "Help - Citation" in the blue menu on the left side of the screen, the clicking on the hypertext link "standard style" on the help page. More examples are given on the help screen than those shown below.

MLA Style:

Davidson, Paul. "Globalization." *Journal of Post Keynesian Economics* 24 (2002): 475+. Expanded Academic ASAP. Gale Group Databases. College of Staten Island Lib., NY.15 Apr. 2002. <<http://www.infotrac.galegroup.com>>.

APA Style:

Battersby, John (1999, May 10). Nelson Mandela's Moral Legacy. *The Christian Science Monitor*. Retrieved November 21, 2001, from InfoTrac Web InfoTrac OneFile CJ54593610.

The above are shown only as examples for citing AVL Database articles. Guidelines for citing electronic sources are not yet standardized. Information sources, such as the Internet, are constantly changing, and therefore citation formats are adapting to these changes.

CHECK THESE OUT

What else is included in the AVL databases that you might have missed? Be sure to check these out:

African-American History and Culture:

Click on "Further Information" on the homepage to W.E.B. DuBois's *The Exhibit of American Negroes*, including over 300 photographs and 60 charts.

Choose "Historical Documents" and browse by Era, Topic, or Document type to find the text of hundreds of sermons, speeches, pamphlets, letters, etc.

Click on "Gallery" and browse by Era or search by Topic the 850 historical and contemporary photographs, paintings, and other images of people and events in African-American history.

Access Science

Be sure to click on the "Data, Tables, and Tools" section of Access Science at the bottom left of the homepage menu. Here you will find many useful tables, especially the Periodic Table at the bottom of the page. Open the Periodic Table and click on any element to find an overview of the element. Or, open the Geological Graphical Time Table and discover geographic information on the various time periods.

Gale Group Resources

Looking for some resources to help your students learn to use the Gale Databases? Go to <http://www.galegroup.com> and try the G-Whiz Kidz Quiz. Depending on your school district's policy for letting students use their names online - you can either let them complete the quiz online, or print it off for them to complete.

For Elementary Schools: http://www.galegroup.com/schools/whiz_kidz/elementary/index.htm

For Middle & High Schools: http://www.galegroup.com/schools/whiz_kidz/high_school/index.htm

Also check out Gale's Free Resources (an option of the left side of the www.galegroup.com site) on the following topics:

1. Black History Month - resources include: activities, biographies, links, literature, quiz, and a timeline. The "featured titles" link give books you can buy from Gale on this topic - so if your funding is like most school districts' - you can skip this link.
2. Celebrating Hispanic Heritage - resources include: activities, biographies, links, music, quiz and a timeline. (It also has "featured titles.")
3. Poet's Corner - resources include: activities, biographies, links, poems, quiz and a timeline. You may want to use "Poem Finder" on the AVL in conjunction with this resource.
4. Women's History Month - resources include: activities, biographies, links, quiz, timeline, and women's rights on trial (this has some info, but to get the complete "Women's Rights on Trial" you have to buy Gale's book).

Remember: In accessing the above Gale resources, you are outside the AVL. However, AVL resources may be used to answer the quizzes.

SIRS Knowledge Source

Don't overlook the Database Features Tab. Here you will find a wealth of information, such as:

1. Country Profile Documents - Click on Country Profiles under SIRS Government Reporter and find information on hundreds of countries - including, geography, government, people, economy, foreign relations and more. Be sure to click on the "Graphics" icon that appears at the top and bottom of each profile to find a map of the country and sometimes a flag of the country.
2. Maps of the World - Find a map quickly. Select "Maps of the World" from SIRS Researcher and then find maps of the United States, Canada, Regions, and Nations. Some include both, physical and political maps.