



Welcome to the Learning Guide that helps you to get a good start to your research. Here you will find special **online resources**, **quick-start Internet search tools**, and **Internet reference works**. Each site is described in three ways:



**S Source:** *Who created the site? Discover sites you can depend on.*

**F Features:** *What kind of information and links are on the site? Read point-form notes about each site.*

**T Tips:** *What special strategies can you use? Learn ways to get the most from each website.*

## Online Encyclopedias

### The Canadian Encyclopedia

<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=HomePage&%20Params=A1>

**S** Historica Foundation

**F** **Collections Tab:** *The Canadian Encyclopedia* • *The Youth Encyclopedia of Canada* (formerly *The Junior Encyclopedia of Canada*) • *Encyclopedia of Music in Canada* • *Maclean's* • *Feature Articles* (biographical and historical)

**Explore Tab:** *Gallery* (History, People, Arts, Nature, Science and Technology) • *Interactive Resources* (illustrations, text, animations, sounds and games) • *Canucklehead Quiz* (test your knowledge of Canada in sixty dynamic quizzes with visual or text clues) • *Timeline* (over 6000 events from Canadian and world history that can be searched by era, subject, keyword or date) • *100 Greatest Events* (in Canadian History).

**T** Search each source separately or together by keywords or subject/topics. Includes Advanced Search. On the Home Page, check out History by the Minute, On This Day in Canadian History, Daily Quotes, and How About That! Click the icons below the line to find *Historica*, *Historica Youth Links*, *Historica Minutes* (multimedia), *Historica Fairs*, and *Professional Development* for teachers.

### Encyclopédia Hachette Multimédia

<http://www.ehmel.hachette-multimedia.fr/infos/accueil>

**S** Hachette Livre (Multimedia Education Reference) France

**F** French language encyclopedia, world atlas, and dictionary  
• 50,000 articles • 65,000 definitions • media library includes images, video, Internet links

**T** Search by keyword or choose advance search to search by subject. Check out the verb conjugation helper.

### Grolier Encyclopedia (Dictionary & Atlas)

<http://go-passport.grolier.com/splash>

**S** Scholastic Library Publishing

**F** Large multimedia database of reference sources: *Encyclopedia Americana*, *Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia*, *New Book of Knowledge*, *La Nueva Enciclopedia Cumbre*, *The New Book of Popular Science*, *Lands and People* • five dictionaries and three thesauri • printable maps (geopolitical, thematic, and exploration) • Feature Showcase highlighting a particular topic • International News Desk • World Newspapers

**T** Use "Find it Fast" to search all sources by keyword. Click each title on the left to search it separately. Use advance search to further refine or limit a search by "Titles Only," Boolean operators, or by an exact phrase.

#### What is a database?

A database is like a huge electronic filing system that collects and organizes information.

Most online resources are made as databases so you can find the information you want quickly and easily.



## Online Databases

### EBSCO Resources

Please use the [TDSB School Library Website](#) for access.

- S** EBSCO Industries, Inc
- F** A broad range of databases with thousands of pre-selected magazine, newspaper, and journal articles plus reference resources (e.g., encyclopaedia, biographies) and images:
- *Student Research Centre* - Full Text Articles, Image Collection, and Reference
  - *Canadian Reference Centre* – Canadian magazines, essays, and biographies
  - *Education Information Database* - Articles and professional resources for Teachers/Students
- T** Select the most appropriate database before you search (get to know the reading level and content). In *Student Research Centre*, search by keyword, limit results to particular sources and formats. Use Visual Search to create a search map. Use *Canadian Reference Centre* to find Canadian information.

### E-STAT (Statistics Canada)

<http://www.statcan.ca/english/Estat/intro.htm>

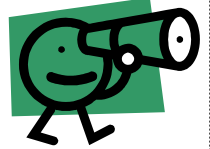
- S** Statistics Canada
- F** Interactive learning tool with reliable and timely statistics about Canada and its ever-changing people • tracks trends in virtually every aspect of the lives of Canadians • updated once a year during the summer
- T** Select Search CANSIM from the side bar. The data of the Censuses of population and agriculture and the Aboriginal Peoples Survey can be displayed in the form of tables, graphs and maps for several geographic areas. Select Search Census from the side bar.
- Instead of starting with data choices, using Search map 2001, begin by locating your place of interest on a map of Canada - province, region, city or neighbourhood. Then choose the particular 2001 Census characteristic - such as occupation or language - that you want to map. Unlike the regular E-STAT map created as an output of selected data, this thematic map provides street names at the neighbourhood level and is easier to navigate between geographic levels.

### Novelist

Please use the [TDSB School Library Website](#) for access.

- S** EBSCO Industries, Inc
- F** A large database of reviews, analysis, and discussion guides, of fiction titles • includes School Resources, BookTalks for Children's and Young Adult Titles, Canadian Awards Lists, Author Biographies, and Picture Book Extenders
- T** On Home tab: click on any of the other tabs to search for books; browse lists to read supporting content; perform a Quick Search; click on any of the links listed in the left hand frame.
- Use Search Our Database menu tab to perform different searches: find a favorite author, title or series name; describe a plot; do a Boolean Search; search ready-made lists for articles.
- Use Browse Lists to find special resources: Best Fiction (awards lists); Explore Fiction (genre and topic lists); All Authors, Titles, Series Names and Subjects.

### What are online resources?



“Online” resources are:

- library catalogues
- fiction and non-fiction books
- encyclopedias
- magazines and newspapers
- audio, video, and other texts

that can be stored, found, and searched electronically, e.g., by computer or the World Wide Web.

The “online” resources provided by the TDSB, Knowledge Ontario, and OSAPAC are part of the “hidden” or “deep” Web. Such resources are purchased specifically for the TDSB or Ontario community. They are not freely available on the Internet: users need permission through proper logins and passwords.

Online resources are great for learning and leisure because they are created by experts and selected by educators. Unlike the Internet, readers can usually be sure that online resources from reputable publishers have been researched, written, edited, validated, reviewed, and published by well-known experts in the field.

## Thompson Gale Resources

Please use the [TDSB School Library Website](#) for access.

### S Thompson Gale

F A broad range of databases with thousands of pre-selected magazine, newspaper, and journal articles, plus reference resources (e.g., encyclopaedias, biographies) and images:

- *Academic OneFile* – Full-text international articles and reference
- *Computer Database* – Full-text articles on computer technology
- *CPI.Q (Canadian Periodical Index)* – Canadian and international articles and reference
- *Discovering Collection* – Full-text essays, multimedia, and reference,
- *Expanded Academic Index* – Full text titles and journals; 5 newspapers indexes
- *Gale Virtual Reference Library* – Full-text reference and e-books
- *General Reference Centre Gold* – One-stop access to multiple periodical databases
- *Health and Wellness Resource Centre* – Medical reference, articles, and multimedia
- *InfoTrac Religion and Philosophy* – Full-text articles on religion and philosophy
- *InfoTrac Student Edition* – Full-text articles and reference 9-12
- *Military and Intelligence Database* – Full-text articles on military and foreign affairs
- *National Newspaper Index* – Indexing of U.S. five newspapers (citations only)
- *PowerSearch* – One-stop search of most of the databases and e-books
- **TDSB Virtual Reference Library – E-books especially purchased for TDSB schools**
- *Thomson Gale LegalTrac* – Indexing of major law and criminology articles

T Select the most appropriate database before you search (get to know the reading level and content). Follow the steps suggested on the menu: 1. Start Your Search; 2. Search General Databases; 3. Search Subject Reference. Use 4. PowerSearch to search most of the databases and e-books at once.

Use **TDSB Virtual Reference Library** to read a large collection of e-books for students, teachers and families. Search an e-book by keyword or a link from the index. To see all available titles, click “Show All.” To browse individual titles, click View Publications, then click chapter headings or go to e-Book Index, when available.

- *Arts and Humanities Through the Eras* (Grades 9–12)
- *Berkshire Encyclopedia of World Sport* (Grades 7–12)
- *Fashion, Costume, and Culture* (Grades 7–12)
- *Grzimek’s Student Animal Life Resource* (Grades 4–12)
- *Literary Themes for Students* (Grades 7–12)
- *New Dictionary of the History of Ideas* (Grades 9–12)
- *Real-Life Math* (Grades 6–12)
- *Science of Everyday Things* (Grades 6–12)
- *U\*X\*L Complete Health Resource* (Grades 6–12)
- *U\*X\*L Encyclopedia of Drugs and Addictive Substance* (Grades 6–12)
- *Worldmark Encyclopedia of Religious Practices* (Grades 7–12)

### What are e-books?

E-books are “electronic” books.

Just like the traditional print book, an e-book is organized into pages, keeping all original features, like table of contents, chapters, illustrations, captions, bibliographies, and indexes. Unlike a printed book, however, an e-book can be searched like a database (e.g., by keyword or index), either by itself or as part of an integrated search in a larger database.



## Toronto Star Pages of the Past

Please use the [TDSB School Library Website](#) for access.

- S** Micromedia ProQuest and Toronto Star Newspapers Limited
- F** Archives of the Toronto Star back to 1892 in the form of screen captures of actual pages.
- T** Search by word, phrase, a date or date range, or a combination of both words and date. Search up to five years at one time. Check with your teacher-librarian for home access login and password.

## Knowledge Ontario

### Knowledge Ontario

<http://knowledgeontario.ca/>

- S** Knowledge Ontario, an initiative supported by the Ontario Government
- F** Links to free online 24/7 reference help (in production) • local Ontario history (available through this portal) • Resources Ontario (online databases) available to all Ontario Residents through either school library sites or public library sites
- T** Check out the resources linked on Our Ontario for primary source material including digital images, text, audio and video materials.

## Toronto Public Library

- S** **Toronto Public Library Home Page** <http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca/>
- F** Your Community (Programs and Events, Multicultural Connections, Ressources en français, KidsSpace, Ramp for Youth) • Collections and Services (Ask a Librarian, Recommended Reading, Book Clubs, Unique Collections, Special Services) • Your Library (About the Library, Hours and Locations, News and Publications, Support Your Library) • Search the collection), check Accounts (reserve and old Books), search Databases and Virtual Library
- T** Click Special Services to Dial-A-Story and hear stories in 8 languages. Click Unique Collections to find e-books in NetLibrary and the Osborne Collection of Children's Books. Get involved in the Leading to Reading and Homework Clubs. Access the Virtual Librarian for librarian-selected websites, online magazine, journal and newspaper articles, homework help (search using key words and/or subject directories).
- S** **Ramp for Youth** <http://ramp.torontopubliclibrary.ca/>
- F** Space for youth to discover job and volunteer opportunities, share writing, and join discussion groups • links to health and help agencies for youth
- T** Check out Book of the Week and the homework help section in School Stuff.

## An Elementary Library Website

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/libraries/Links.asp?schoolNo=10>

- S** Toronto District School Board: Library and Learning Resources and Interdisciplinary Studies
- F** Parallel School Library Website created for TDSB secondary schools
- T** Explore the different links of interest to elementary students. ESL students will find many resources of use in their studies.

## Quick-Start Internet Search

### Clusty (Metasearch Engine)

<http://clusty.com/>

- S** Three Carnegie Mellon University scientists. Clusty was formerly Vivisimo.
- F** Searches Ask, Open Directory, and Gigablast databases • groups results into topics or "clusters" • searches web, images, news, and blogs • direct link to Wikipedia • advanced search option
- T** Search using keywords. Create a "Clusty Cloud" (A cloud tag is the number of times that tag has been applied to a single item or the number of items to which a tag has been applied). The font size can be increased (e.g., for visually impaired).

### Google Canada (Search Engine)

<http://www.google.ca/>

- S** Google
- F** Search Google index of websites by keyword or limit to pages from Canada • images, maps, news headlines, or newsgroups • advanced search features (e.g., choose language) • "I'm feeling lucky" automatically connects to first page returned from your search.
- T** Click "more" on menu bar for more useful Google services (e.g. Books, Directory, and Scholar) and Google tools (Blogger, Google Earth, Translate). Check out the Help Centre on the left frame of the "more" page for useful search tips.

### Librarians' Internet Index (Directory)

<http://lii.org/>

- S** Library of California
- F** A searchable, annotated subject directory of over 20,000 Internet resources selected, evaluated, and maintained by librarians • organized into 14 main topics and nearly 300 related topics • link to newly added sites in right frame • advanced search to narrow research
- T** In the subject directory, click a main subject heading (e.g., Health and Medicine) for the list of subtopics or click a specific subtopic (e.g., Nutrition) under the main subject heading to go directly to that topic. Click Help for useful additional search strategies.

### Link to Learning Grades 9–12 (Directory)

<http://www.linktolearning.com/secondary/>

- S** Kevin McAsh, Vision Resource Teacher
- F** Quick links to websites that help Ontario students arranged by curriculum subjects and grade 9-12 • Ask a Teacher: provides high school homework help, chat sections with teachers, EQAO support for grades 9 and 10, and tools and resources (easy reference tools)
- T** Site is updated only once a month. Check out Ask a Teacher for Brain Bank for exercises and lessons on English grammar, physics, business, and dozens of other topics. The Question Finder gives special treatment to math and science.

## Yahoo! Search Directory

<http://dir.yahoo.com/>

**S** Yahoo! Inc.

**F** Search directory section of larger Yahoo! portal • selected links to Internet sites, organized by subject categories and subcategories in all subjects • keyword search can be made within the directory or back out to the Web

**T** Click a category and view subcategories arranged by topic and other sites. Use subject categories provided to narrow your search. Note sites on the right are sponsored.

## Online Reference

### Answers.com

[http://www.answers.com/main/home\\_simple.jsp](http://www.answers.com/main/home_simple.jsp)

**S** Answers Corporation (previously GuruNet)

**F** Instant answers, explanations, or definitions to simple queries about people, places, things, etc. (e.g., Who-Is and What-Is questions) • key source of varied (mainly U.S) reference books to search and browse in full text • citation feature for articles found • teacher and librarian resources, including video on Internet research

**T** Keep search terms simple and use drop down “Choose a suggestion” box to focus topic quickly. Note options in left frame to improve search (On this Page, Search, Library, Resources). Click on the Cite button at the bottom of each Answer Page, to view a fully-formatted citation, ready to include in a bibliography in MLA, Chicago and APA formats. Note use of Wikipedia in most articles (type in “wikipedia” as a search term to see rationale for use)

### Bartleby Great Books Online

<http://www.bartleby.com/>

**S** Bartleby.com Inc.

**F** Searchable classics of literature, nonfiction, and reference in full text • centre panel provides featured highlights

**T** Search box allows search of the whole site (All Bartleby) or separate sections (e.g., Reference). Browse titles using the Reference, Verse, Fiction, and Non-fiction tabs on the top menu. In the right frame, browse titles using Index by Author, Subject, or Title.

### Cambridge Online Dictionary

<http://dictionary.cambridge.org/results.asp?dict=CALD>

**S** Cambridge University Press

**F** Definitions (with optional phonetics) from a variety of dictionaries aimed primarily at learners of English: *Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary* (default), *Cambridge Dictionary of American English*, *Cambridge International Dictionary of Idioms*, *Dictionnaire Cambridge Klett Compact*, *Diccionario Cambridge Klett Compact* .

**T** Check out the Resources (e.g., on line activities), Top 40 words, and Word of the day.

### Canadian Atlas Online

<http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/atlas/intro.aspx?lang=En#>

**S** Canadian Geographic

- F** Interactive atlas of Canada, with historical, geographical, social and economic information • issues, themes, glossary • lesson resources with games, quizzes and crosswords.
- T** Click How to Use This Site for animated mapping tutorial, Learning Centre, and FAQs. Click Timeline (in First People's theme) to view defining moments in history.

### **CBC Archives**

<http://archives.cbc.ca/index.asp?IDLan=1>

- S** Canadian Broadcasting Corporation
- F** Canadian radio and television audio and video clips dating back to 1940's • search by keyword, general subject, or clip/interview index • timeline on different topics with key events • accessible version for those with limited vision or using screen readers • On This Day provides a calendar of events on a particular day in Canadian history
- T** The homepage features different topics each week. Explore the teacher lessons and webquests at all levels. Take the archives quiz or virtual tour. CBC: Days to Remember recreates what it would have been like to watch or listen to a typical CBC broadcast day through the decades.

### **Dictionary of Canadian Biography**

<http://www.biographi.ca/EN/index.html>

- S** Library and Archives Canada
- F** Electronic access to the 14 volumes already in print and to a selection of biographies from unprinted volumes • presents persons who died between the years 1000 and 1930 or whose last known date of activity falls within these years • biographies are fully searchable by keyword
- T** Use Quick Search Biography search box or browse by first letter of last name. Quick Search returns all biographies with search terms highlighted. Boolean searches significantly narrow down results and help focus research (e.g., "Confederation AND fenian" found 50 matching biographies that made interesting connections between the two terms.

### **Guinness World Records**

<http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/default.aspx>

- S** Guinness World Book Records Limited
- F** Redesigned site with a search feature for key world records • history of Guinness world records • break a record information • Guinness world records in the news and television • available in nine languages
- T** Check out the preview of the latest book. Check out the trade and play card collection. Watch selected videos of dramatic records.

### **Information Please Almanac**

<http://www.infoplease.com/almanacs.html>

- S** Infoplease/Pearson Education
- F** Authoritative answers to all kinds of factual questions • access to atlas, dictionary, encyclopedia, and thesaurus • initial search on keyword or topic provides Related Content (e.g., Encyclopedia, Year by Year, Archives, Quizzes)
- T** Browse from the centre panel of topics, use menu at left side to limit searches, or click Alphabetical Index for an A to Z keyword index of general, entertainment, and sports almanacs. Read 'Search Tips' for hints on effective searching. Homework Center has useful links for writing and research.

## Internet Public Library Reference

<http://www.ipl.org/div/subject/browse/ref00.00.00>

- S** The Regents of the University of Michigan
- F** Extensive reference collection (e.g. dictionaries, almanacs, encyclopedias, calendars, grammar, tutorials) • Special Collections (e.g. institutional links, blogs) • Reading Room • Searching Tools
- T** Browse from the centre panel of links or use menu at left side to limit searches by subject, collection, magazines, or associations on the net. In search box, search by keyword in a traditional (fast) way or select “Grok it” to cluster results from selected sources, organize them by topic, and display them in the Outline and Map views.

## Pics4Learning

<http://www.pics4learning.com/index.php>

- S** Orange County Public Schools Technology Development Unit of Orlando, FL. and Tech4Learning, Inc.
- F** A copyright-friendly image library of thousands of images for teachers and students • browse by topic • advanced search • 100 most popular images • lesson plans • contribute images
- T** Use Advanced Search to search by keywords, location, caption, and photographer. Use your own slide program in lesson plans for media literacy projects. Contribute certain images to the database (check legal requirements and discuss with teacher or teacher-librarian).

## ThinkQuest

<http://library.thinkquest.org/>

- S** Oracle Education Foundation
- F** Over 6,000 educational sites and web-based lessons created for students, by students, as part of an international competition. Search by keyword or browse directory.
- T** Check FAQ for permissions regarding using images found on sites. Explore Spotlight site for the best of the best competition sites. Read competition information on left frame.

## Visual Dictionary

<http://www.infovisual.info/index.html>

- S** Bernard Déry (doctoral candidate in Canada)
- F** Copyrighted images/pictures (limited number of images have sounds, animation) • English and French descriptions • bookmarking feature
- T** Search by image, topic, alphabetical list, or key word in English or French. Note the detailed plant/animal skeletons. After viewing image, click Wikipedia for more information. Some advertisements are sponsored by Google.

## WordWeb Online (Dict./Thesaurus)

<http://www.wordwebonline.com/>

- S** Anthony Lewis, with copyright material from Princeton University
- F** International dictionary and word finder. • searches word in WorldWeb Online • provides additional corresponding entries in Wikipedia, *Cambridge Dictionary*, *Encarta Encyclopedia*, OneLook, and Google • translates word to French, German, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish.
- T** Right frame displays links to words that are close alphabetically. Check out links to crossword software and crossword puzzles.

## World Factbook (CIA)

<https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html>

- S** Prepared by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency for the use of US Government officials
- F** National-level information on countries, territories, and dependencies, but not subnational administrative units within a country. Each entry is organized by categories, fields, and subfields of information • Rank Order pages are presorted lists of data from selected Factbook data fields, generally given in descending order–highest to lowest • Flags of the World in full colour with descriptions reference maps
- T** Check FAQs for information about how the *World Factbook* is compiled. You can compare annual data as previous versions of the *Factbook*, beginning with the 2000 edition, are available for downloading—but not browsing—on the CIA Web site <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/index.html>

## Your Dictionary (World Languages)

<http://yourdictionary.com/languages.html>

- S** Houghton Mifflin Company
- F** Foreign language dictionaries. • thesauri, antonyms, synonyms, and other vocabulary aids. • language translations • multilingual phrase dictionary • linguistics research • game room
- T** Click top menu for many resources: grammars and courses for over 100 languages on line and in books, language finder, current language research, library of articles on language, and endangered languages, etc..

## News Services

### BBC Newsround

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/>

- S** British Broadcasting Corporation
- F** Daily British and world news and special reports for kids and teens • varied topics include sport, music, TV/Film, animals, Sci/Tech, weather, pictures • search box returns both current and archived reports
- T** Click Specials and Guides sections for current reports of key issues, events, and ideas. Check out games, chat, vote, and quizzes on top menu of home page.

### CBC News

<http://www.cbc.ca/>

- S** Canadian Broadcasting Corporation
- F** Daily Canadian and world news and in-depth reports • stories organized in left frame under health, arts and entertainment, technology and science, money, consumer life, sports, and diversions • search box returns and ranks both current and archived reports
- T** Under Diversions view wacky news stories, daily Sudoku and crossword, editorial cartoons, commentaries, and quizzes. Under Services view videos of news clips and archived TV programs. Use capitals for proper nouns to refine searches. Use exact phrase button for words that you want adjacent to each other.

### Environment Canada Weather

[http://weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/canada\\_e.html](http://weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca/canada_e.html)

- S** Meteorologists Services of Canada

- F** Environment Canada's official online-presence for weather information, water quantities, research on climate, atmospheric science, air quality, ice and other environmental issues • a variety of interactive and/or animated features
- T** Click on Home Page to access “quick links” on sidebar that provides valuable information on current environmental topics. Click “5 day weather” for forecasts for Canadian locations. Click “Aviation weather” to link to maps and webcams of airports. Click “Radar Imagery” then click on map and adjust speed of precipitation with buttons above map. Click “Past Weather” to find out what the weather was like on a particular day, for a month, or for a whole year, as well as averages and extremes for nearly 1,500 locations across Canada.

### Foreign Languages News/Magazines

<http://libraries.mit.edu/guides/types/flnews/>

- S** Massachusetts Institute of Technology Library
- F** Collection of electronic journals, newspapers and magazines in eight different languages: Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish
- T** Click the left frame for each language. Browse annotations to narrow your search.

### NewsHour Extra (PBS)

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/index.html>

- S** MacNeil-Lehrer Productions Online Newshour
- F** Resources for students (extra stories written for students with interactive reports organized into categories) • resources for teachers (e.g., lesson plans) • Newz Crew (teens as reporters) • In the News (global perspective)
- T** Check out the top story, daily buzz, and video picks. Get involved by submitting an essay to the “Speak Out” section or read what other students are concerned about.

### World News Network

<http://wn.com/>

- S** World News Network
- F** Global news from varied sources, including English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Polish, Czech, Swedish, Romanian, Hindi, Korean and Malay • Coverage of a wide range of interests from politics to sports, business, arts, health, lifestyle and leisure • Editors claim that the site follows a "No editorial - No bias" principle • comprehensive and multilingual Search Engine
- T** Click the left frame for special reports, regional coverage of the news, entertainment, science, sport, business, and current events by country. Click centre panel for latest headline stories. Click right frame for slide shows, currency conversion, and world weather. Click bottom photos for sponsored news sources. Search engine can be filtered by language.