



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
- *Kids Search* - Image Collection, Full Text Articles, Encyclopedias and Reference
- *Searchasaurus* - Elementary Research Centre - Images 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* and *KidsSearch*, search by keyword, limit results to particular sources and formats, or create a search map with a visual search.

On the *Searchasaurus* map, take the tutorial to learn about using databases for research. Use Visual Search to create a search map. Use *Canadian Reference Centre* to find Canadian information.

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.

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:

- *Kids InfoBits K-5* – Full-text articles and reference
- *Discovering Collection* – Full-text essays, multimedia, and reference,

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.

- *Gale Virtual Reference Library* – Full-text reference and e-books
- *CPI.Q (Canadian Periodical Index)* – Canadian and international articles and reference
- *Computer Database* – Full-text articles on computer technology
- *General Reference Centre Gold* – One-stop access to multiple periodical databases
- *Health and Wellness Resource Centre* – Medical reference, articles, and multimedia
- *PowerSearch* – One-stop search of most of the databases and e-books
- ***TDSB Virtual Reference Library – E-books especially purchased for TDSB schools***
- *InfoTrac Junior Edition 6-8* – Full-text articles and reference

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 More Reference Works. Use 3. PowerSearch to search most of the databases and available 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 to 12)
- *Berkshire Encyclopedia of World Sport* (Grades 7 to 12)
- *Fashion, Costume, and Culture* (Grades 7 to 12)
- *Grzimek’s Student Animal Life Resource* (Grades 4 to 12)
- *Literary Themes for Students* (Grades 7-12)
- *New Dictionary of the History of Ideas* (Grades 9 to 12)
- *Real-Life Math* (Grades 6 to 12)
- *Science of Everyday Things* (Grades 6 to 12)
- *U*X*L Complete Health Resource* (Grades 6 to 12)
- *U*X*L Encyclopedia of Drugs and Addictive Substance* (Grades 6 to 12)
- *Worldmark Encyclopedia of Religious Practices* (Grades 7 to 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 **Kids' Space** <http://kidsspace.torontopubliclibrary.ca/index.html>
- F Explore and Learn (homework A-Z, research skills) • Books and Stories (create your own story, featured story) • Grownups (reading tips, activities, dial-a-story) • Preschoolers (early reading support, great first books list) • Fun & Toronto (great places to visit in the city)
- T Check out the printable activities, games, lists of things to do, daily poles, and fun facts that change often.
- 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.

Other TDSB Library Websites

A Secondary Library Website

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/libraries/Links.asp?schoolNo=9>

- 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 secondary students. Middle school students will find many resources of use in their studies.

Quick-Start Internet Search

Ask for Kids (Search Engine)

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

- S IAC Search and Media
- F Search with keywords or questions • search by topic/subject using stack of books on right • search tips and new features in Help.
- T Search with simple and direct terms (e.g., Toronto, wolves, SpongeBob , or convert 4 miles to kilometres). Ask for only one thing at a time (e.g., instead of searching for "What is the capital of Ontario and what is its provincial bird?"),

first ask “What is the capital of Ontario?”). Direct responses to search terms will appear at the very top of the results page. Use the drop down box to see a list of topics to answer your question.

Google Directory for Kids and Teens

http://directory.google.com/Top/Kids_and_Teens/

- S** Google
- F** Directory of websites selected by volunteer editors that is then ranked by a computer program for importance.
- T** Click a category to see subcategories, then selected websites. When you enter a search in the Google directory engine, you narrow your search to that category only. Horizontal bars, which are displayed next to each web page, indicate the importance of each web page. Click menu to order alphabetically. Explore Related Categories to find web pages that are similar to the ones in the category you are looking at, but in a different part of the directory.

KidsClick! (Search Engine/Directory)

<http://www.kidsclick.org/>

- S** Ramapo Catskill Library System and Colorado State Library
- F** Directory organized by subject and then by alphabet for specific subjects • reading level given for sites
- T** Click librarian’s eyes to see the sites arranged by the Dewey Decimal System.

Link to Learning (Directory)

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

- S** Kevin McAsh, Vision Resource Teacher
- F** Quick links to sites that help Ontario students arranged by curriculum subjects • special Kindergarten page • web-based, printer-friendly student learning activities related to the Ontario curriculum
- T** Site is updated only once a month. Check out What’s New section.

Yahoo! Kids (Directory)

<http://kids.yahoo.com/directory/>

- S** Yahoo! Inc.
- F** Directory section of larger Yahoo Kids! portal (formerly Yahoooligans) • Categories and subcategories in all subjects • Menus top and bottom to games, activities, and other entertainments.
- T** Click a category and view subcategories arranged by “best” and other sites. “Best” sites often contain media. Web links may come in only at second level of subcategories so click subcategories for more detail. Scroll right on the page to access top menu’s Study Zone where you can view News, Ask Earl questions and jokes.

Online Reference

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.

Fact Monster

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

- S** Information Please (part of Pearson Education)
- F** Search using key words • information and facts about the World, News, Sports, People, Science, Math & Money, Word, Cool Stuff • Reference Desk (Atlas, Almanac, Dictionary, Homework Center • Games and Quizzes • Blogs for boys and girls
- T** Explore the Fact Monster Subjects and Favourites (fun facts, Q&A, current information). Check out the changing special features (monthly topics, word of the day, spelling bee, quizzes, surveys, facts)

GS Kids Atlas Online

http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/cgKidsAtlas/default_en.asp

- S** Royal Canadian Geographic Society, Department of Canadian Heritage, and TD Bank Financial Group
- F** Colourful, interactive site about Canadian geography etc. • Josie's classroom opens up into School of Rock (geology), Geodome (geography), Time Machine (history), Culture Club (society and culture), Marketplace (economics), and Maps (*Canadian Atlas Online*)
- T** Turn on Josie's projector to begin. Mouse over pictures to animate them or do activities. Click icons on right side to view video and picture. Click "Check out The Canadian Atlas Maps Now" button at bottom and learn the many features of the Atlas including map symbols, searching for places, selecting layers of detail, zooming in and out of maps, and measuring distances.

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 9 languages
- T** Check out the preview of the latest book. Check out the trade and play card collection. Watch selected videos of dramatic records.

Internet Picture Dictionary

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

- S** Pdictionary.com
- F** A multilingual online picture dictionary with a picture dictionary function • activities include flash cards, word scrambles, fill-in-the-blanks, and stinky spelling
- T** Check out the activities for online challenges for ESL students. Note: downloading and printing of the images is expressly prohibited.

KidSpace Reference (IPL)

<http://www.ipl.org/div/kidspace/>

- S** University of Michigan School of Information
- F** Internet public library with links to encyclopaedias, dictionaries, and almanacs • subject categories and homework help
- T** Check out Features which include Science Fair, Learning Html, Orca Search, Poison Prevention, and Story Hour. Explore resources for parents and teachers.

Memorable Canadians

<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/8/2/index-e.html>

- S** Library and Archives Canada
- F** Biographies related to Canadian history, society, literature, music, and library and information science.
- T** Search by Name, Field of Endeavour, Subject and Resource Index. Enjoy the readable short articles which include hyperlinks to other information

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 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 (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

Word Central

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

- S** Merriam-Webster Inc.

- F** Interactive, friendly site organized into classrooms: Music (compose a poem), Science Lab (experiment with letters), Computer Lab (code words) • search for definitions • build your own dictionary • student dictionary • bulletin board with other online resources • teacher resources and lesson plans
- T** Navigate this site by either clicking on “Enter Hallway” or using the drop-down “Select Destination” menu. Check out the daily buzzword. In the Music Room, use rhyming dictionary and create weird poems.

World Almanac for Kids

<http://www.worldalmanacforkids.com/index.aspx>

- S** World Almanac Education Group
- F** Internet almanac of facts • Explore section to browse by subject area (e.g., animals, environment space) • Fun and Games section to play games, complete quizzes, and enter contests on line • Insider Info section allows user to ask the editors questions
- T** Explore how different pages provide links, summaries, charts, and illustrations for a good overview to topic. Check “Privacy” in Insider Info section, and discuss the information with a teacher/teacher-librarian before you consider entering any contest or contacting editors.

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.

Environment Canada Weather

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/animated features
- T** Click on Home Page to access “Quick Links” on sidebar that provide 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.

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 (featured 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 (discuss this with a teacher/teacher-librarian) or read what other students are concerned about.