

MLS Core Electronic Resources List for Public Libraries Serving Grades K-12
Metropolitan Library System, Burr Ridge, IL
Adopted August 2008

The MLS Core Electronic Resources List for Public Libraries Serving Grades K-12 was created to help public librarians in choosing the most appropriate resources for their patrons and library. A committee was formed, consisting of MLS youth services public librarians and the core list was developed. All of the links provided were live when the committee closed selections. Please let a committee member know if a link has been lost. The list is in Dewey Decimal order and includes **Highly Recommended, Recommended, Good** and **Free** resources. **Highly Recommended** databases are those that are considered superior and should be highly considered for purchase. **Recommended** databases are those that either may be cost prohibitive for some libraries or the information is acceptable, but better resources are available. **Good** databases are a step below recommended, but could still be useful. **Free** resources are websites that we have found that include reliable and useful information for free. A nice site with free basic chemistry info. **Free**

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000's

Encyclopedias

Encyclopaedia Britannica for Kids www.library.eb.com

This resource is part of the Encyclopaedia Britannica Online Public Library Edition. Users can search or browse Compton's Encyclopedia for middle school students or Elementary Encyclopedia for younger children. The interface is attractive and most appropriate for older elementary and middle school students. Additional features include a world atlas, a dictionary, timelines, and a How to section which includes step by step instructions on how to write school reports. **Good, similar resources available**

Grolier Online

Full package includes: The New Book of Knowledge, Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia, Encyclopedia Americana, La Nueva Enciclopedia Cumbre, The New Book of Popuar Science, Lands and Peoples. This is a great source, but it's high cost makes it a luxury, not essential. **Recommended, but pricey**

Marshall Cavendish Digital www.marshallcavendishdigital.com

A customizable, Web-based, digital collection of Marshall Cavendish's reference titles. Libraries can choose individual titles or a number of titles bundled in the following categories: Sciences, Animals and Plants, Geography, Health, Social Studies, and World Cultures. One particularly useful feature is the "My Folder" function, which allows users to bookmark pages and save notes. **Recommended**

World Book Online www.worldbookonline.com

More than 1.3 million pages of primary source documents—books, documents, selections—fully integrated with the encyclopedia content. Research and teaching tools include timelines, citation builder, and saved research. **Highly Recommended**

Search Engines/General Reference

GVRL: Gale Virtual Reference Library

This unique database offers a large collection of digitized reference books on a wide variety of subjects. It provides the ability to use reference works from home, combined with the easy searching of an online database. **Good, but not essential**

KidsClick! www.kidsclick.org

A search engine for kids created by librarians. Includes over 600 search subjects. **Free**

Kidspage @ The Internet Public Library www.ipl.org/div/kidspage

Searchable by subject. Websites indexed by library students. Includes ask a librarian. **Free**

Kids InfoBits <http://www.gale.cengage.com/InfoBits/>

A database geared especially toward young researchers in Kindergarten through Grade 5. The content is full-text and covers geography, current events, the arts, science, health, people, government, history, sports and more. **Highly Recommended**

Magazine/Newspaper Indexes

eLibrary Elementary http://www.proquestk12.com/productinfo/elibrary_elementary.shtml

eLibrary is a Proquest product that contains age appropriate information geared toward elementary students. From a colorful, graphical search page students can search over 200 magazines, newspapers, books, transcripts, maps, images, weblinks and audio/video clips. Users can also search and sort articles by Lexile score. **Good, but similar resources available**

SIRS Researcher

SIRS is a general reference database containing thousands of full-text articles and graphics exploring social, scientific, health, historic, business, and political issues. Articles can be printed, saved or e-mailed. This is a wonderful resource for student research projects. Good for science fair projects. **Highly Recommended**

MasterFILE Premier (EBSCO)

Need an article from one of your magazines that's checked out? Want to see if Cobblestone Magazine has done an article on Illinois? Use MasterFILE Premier's advanced search to help students find articles in back issues of popular children's magazines. Usability by children would be limited, but this source is very useful if you're helping kids find an article, newspaper source, radio transcript, magazine etc., Optional--use if your Adult Services Department has already purchased this source. Check the list of sources to see if your favorite children's magazine is indexed. **Adult Resource, also useful for children**

Professional Resources for Collection Development

Children's Core Collection <http://www.hwwilson.com/print/childcat.cfm#Online>

The electronic version of H.W. Wilson's Children's Catalog, this resource provides collection development, readers' advisory, and curriculum support to children's librarians. Entries contain bibliographic data, price, subject headings and descriptive annotations of books, graphic novels, websites and magazines recommended for readers in preschool through sixth grade.

Recommended

Middle and Junior High Core <http://www.hwwilson.com/print/mjhscat.cfm#Online>

Similar to Children's Core Collections this is the electronic version of H.W. Wilson's *Middle and Junior High School Library Catalog*. It provides collection development, readers' advisory, and curriculum support to children's and YA librarians. Entries contain bibliographic data, price, subject headings and descriptive annotations of books, graphic novels, websites and magazines recommended for readers in middle school and high school. **Good, but not essential**

Graphic Novels Core Collection http://www.hwwilson.com/databases/graphicnovels_core.cfm

This unique resource, available only online, provides collection development support for libraries with or looking to develop a graphic novel collection. Entries include bibliographic data, age appropriateness and cover art. **Good, but not essential**

100's

200's

Catholic Online Saints and Angels <http://www.catholic.org/saints/>

Great site for researching saints. Indexed alphabetically according to first name. **Free**

Saints and Commemorations of the Episcopal Church

http://satucket.com/lectionary/Alpha_list.htm

This page lists all Saints' Days and Commemorations of the Episcopal Church alphabetically, with links to pages which give the lectionary readings and more information about each one.

Free

300's

The Old Farmers Almanac www.almanac.com

Great information on weather, moon phases, gardening and other fun *Old Farmers Almanac* stuff. **Free**

The American Presidency Project www.presidency.ucsb.edu

This site was established in 1999 at the University of California, Santa Barbara and contains nearly 77,000 documents including Proclamations, Inaugural Addresses, and State of the Union Addresses. **Free**

Ben's Guide to U.S. Government for Kids <http://bensguide.gpo.gov>

This site is sponsored by GPO Access and provides the official online version of legislative and regulatory information. The site is organized by grade and then by topic. **Free**

Kids.gov <http://kids.gov>

The official kids portal for the U.S. government. **Free**

SearchGov.com <http://searchgov.com>

A directory to federal, state and local government websites. **Free**

Occupational Outlook Handbook www.bls.gov/k12/

This is a simplified version of the Bureau of Labor Statistic's Occupational Outlook Handbook website. Occupations are categorized according to popular interests among young people. **Free**

Curriculum Resource Center: Junior Edition

An electronic library of printable teacher handouts designed specifically for use by elementary school teachers, librarians and educators looking to supplement their classroom texts and lesson plans. Includes short biographies, country and state information, science projects, career information and more. **Good, but not essential**

LearningExpressLibrary www.learningexpresslibrary.com/

Provides completely interactive online practice tests and tutorial courses designed to help you succeed on academic or licensing tests, including the ACT, SAT, ASVAB, GED, GRE, GMAT, LSAT, AP courses, PRAXIS, and civil service exams. Also included are a number of skills improvement sections which are particularly helpful to school aged children. **Adult Resource, also useful for children**

Brownielocks and the Three Teddy Bears <http://www.brownielocks.com/>

Great site for children for holidays both normal and bizarre. **Free**

400's

Dictionary.com <http://dictionary.reference.com>

Searches dictionaries, thesauri, encyclopedias and more. **Free**

Merriam-Webster Visual Dictionary Online - <http://visual.merriam-webster.com>

Free online visual dictionary with more than 6,000 images, which can be searched using the keyword index or by clicking one of 15 major themes. Definitions for the word associated with the image, as well as for all words labeled in the image, appear in the search result page. Also includes audio pronunciations of the words. **Free**

500s

StudyJams www.studyjams.com

This is an interactive teaching tool produced by Scholastic that reinforces math and science skills for grades 3-6. Provides short video clips and slide shows that explain key math and science concepts. It also includes State information and facts. **Good, but similar free resources available**

Discovery Channel: Science Fair Central

<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/sciencefaircentral>

A free resource that offers project ideas and science fair guidance. **Free**

Sciencebuddies.org: www.sciencebuddies.org

Includes a wide range of science fair topics, including lists of supplies needed for each topic, explanations of the various parts of a science fair project from the scientific method itself, through the final report. Information for teachers, such as downloadable posters and guidelines for running a science fair. Lists of science competitions are provided. Easy tabbed navigation. Volunteer scientists staff an Ask An Expert discussion board kids can post questions to. A "Topic Selection Wizard" with questionnaires helps kids choose or narrow their topic. There is also a section that helps kids formulate background research questions. **Free**

Numbernut.comnumbernut.com

Teaches basic and advanced math. Includes lots of math games. **Free**

Cosmos4kids! cosmos4kids.com

Includes astronomy basics and science of the stars. **Free**

Physics4kids! physics4kids.com

Includes information on motion, heat and thermodynamics, electricity & magnetism, light, and modern physics topics. **Free**

Chemistry4kids! chem4kids.com

A nice site with free basic chemistry info. **Free**

Geography4kids! geography4kids.com

Includes information on earth structure, atmosphere, land biomes, food chains, and other earth science topics. **Free**

Biology4kids! biology4kids.com

Basic biology information including cell structure, cell function, scientific studies, plants, vertebrates, invertebrates, and other life science topics. **Free**

Dino Directory <http://internet.nhm.ac.uk/jdsml/nature-online/dino-directory/>

Created by Great Britain's National History Museum, this resource allows users to search for Dino information by body type, time period and country. Basic information including, taxonomic details and realistic drawings are given for each dinosaur. Dino Directory is really useful and well organized, however, it has one major down fall; it links users to more information in Wikipedia. **Free**

What Tree Is It? www.arborday.org/trees/whattree/

Searchable by leaf, fruit or name. From the Arbor Day Foundations through Indiana State Library. **Free**

Amazing Animals (Grolier)

Nearly 1,200 articles on all kinds of animals, complete with information, photographs and web links. Expensive, but an excellent product. Can be purchased alone or as part of a package.

Recommended, but pricey

600s

Famous Inventors A to Z

<http://inventors.about.com/od/astartinventions/a/FamousInvention.htm>

Research the history of famous inventions, past and present. **Free**

National Inventor's Hall of Fame www.invent.org/hall_of_fame/1_1_search.asp

Search by inventor, invention, induction date or decade. Each entry includes inventor profile and picture. **Free**

United States Patent and Trademark Office www.uspto.gov/patft/index.html

Full-text since 1976, full-page images since 1790. **Free**

Kids Health <http://www.kidshealth.org/>

"Created by The Nemours Foundation's Center for Children's Health Media, KidsHealth provides families with accurate, up-to-date, and jargon-free health information they can use. KidsHealth has been on the Web since 1995 - and has been accessed by about 250,000,000 visitors." This attractive free site includes articles in Spanish and additional recourses on each topic. **Free**

Medline Plus: Children's Page <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/childrenspage.html>

Learn about everything from how the body works to what happens when you go to the hospital. There are quizzes, games and lots of cool web sites to explore. A service of the U.S. National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health. **Free**

Teen Health and Wellness <http://www.teenhealthandwellness.com>

Comprised of a number of Rosen health series including “Coping”, “Need to Know” and “Drug Prevention” This database contains essential health information presented to teens in a realistic and straight forward fashion (can be very frank about the subject matter). This site has received favorable reviews, however much of the same material covered can be accessed for free at www.teenhealth.org **Good, but similar free resources available**

NASA-Students K-8 www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/k-4/index.html

This free website has age appropriate searchable space and science information for students. **Free**

A Guide to the Business of Babysitting www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/babysitting

Through the University of Illinois Extension, a great guide to information about babysitting - what to charge, appropriate activities to do with kids, safety issues, etc. **Free**

700s

ART CyclopEDIA <http://www.artcyclopedia.com/> **Free**

This site contains an indexed list of 180,000 images of famous artworks on the web. Users can search by artist, title of work, or museum. They can also browse popular artists. **Free**

Smithsonian Education www.smithsonianeducation.org/students

Includes games and activities on a variety of school related topics. **Free**

DLTK's Printable Crafts for Kids www.dltk-kids.com

Includes a variety of crafts, coloring pages and more including holiday projects, educational projects, and cartoon characters. **Free**

Pop Culture Universe: Icons, Idols, Ideas <http://www.greenwood.com/PCU>

Made up of 300 Greenwood Press reference and narrative titles, this resource provides information on the last 90 years of pop culture....”covering everything from 1920’s radio to American Idol” **Good, but not essential**

800s

A Basic Guide to Writing an Essay <http://members.tripod.com/~lklivingston/essay/>

A free resource that provides helpful information on essay writing **Free**

Citation Machine <http://citationmachine.net/>

This tool helps students credit their research sources by generating properly formatted citations. Students choose the citation format they need and type the source information into a form. It is important, however, to remind students that Citation Machine results should be checked against the appropriate Style Guide or Manual. **Free**

International Children’s Digital Library <http://icdlbooks.org>

Online books, shows pages. It’s a very large database of international titles, many in other languages. Full text and pictures of books, searchable by country, language, age ranges, length,

favorite characters, and much more. It's linked to WorldCat for ease of ordering titles from your library. Titles available are not popular/well known, they are all old editions/illustrations, such as A Child's Garden of Verses and Denslow's Humpty Dumpty. **Free**

Novelist K-8 (EBSCO)

Novelist K-8 allows you to discover the fiction titles that are popular with young readers. It's good for finding similar books or for parents asking about Lexile scores. **Highly recommended**

Preschool Book FLIX <http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/bookflix/freetrial/index.htm>

This interactive e-story book resource for young children, pairs classic Weston Wood video storybooks with scholastic non-fiction titles. Remote access is available however, some older computers may not meet the system requirements. **Recommended, less expensive resources available**

StorylineOnline <http://storylineonline.net>

An online streaming video program featuring Screen Actors' Guild members reading children's books aloud. It's dial-a-story meets television! **Free**

Tumblebooks

Features stories, games, puzzles, and even language learning! It's a great alternative to computer games for young children, and has books for kids through 6th grade in an electronic format. Picture book stories are available in formats to sit back and listen or read along at your own speed. **Recommended**

900s

ABC-CLIO Social Studies Databases <http://www.abc-clio.com/libraries/index.aspx>

Middle School and High School level reference resources for social studies, history, geography, current events, made up of eight online databases that combine primary and secondary sources, including photography, video clips, government documents, and current and historic maps. Users can perform cross-database searches by keyword, place, time (era), broad subject and source category. Libraries can choose different level packages made up of eight six or four databases. Databases include, Issues, United States at War, American Government, American History, State Geography, World Geography, World History: Modern Era, and World History: Ancient/Medieval **Recommended**

A Chronology of U.S. Historical Documents www.law.ou.edu/hist/

From the University of Oklahoma College of Law. A list of U.S. historical documents by date. Documents are full-text. **Free**

History Reference Center (EBSCO)

<http://www.ebscohost.com/thisTopic.php?marketID=8&topicID=84>

History Reference Center offers full text from more than 400 history reference books and encyclopedias, cover to cover full text from 52 history magazines, 58,000 historical documents, 43,000 biographies and 12,000 historical photos, maps and other images. This resource is good

for video clips. Users can search by lexile ranges to help limit results for kids doing research. "History Reference Center is made available via Kids Search, Student Research Center and/or EBSCOhost®." **Recommended**

Biography Resource Center <http://www.gale.cengage.com/BiographyRC/>

A comprehensive database of biographical information on more than one million people from throughout history, around the world. The database also includes full-text articles from nearly 250 periodicals. Search for people based on one or more personal facts such as birth and death years and places, nationality, ethnicity, occupation or gender, or combine criteria to create a highly-targeted custom search path. Good for high school and above. **Adult resource, but useful for high school**

Culturegrams <http://online.culturegrams.com/>

Culturegrams is a database that provides great information about countries throughout the world from what they eat and wear to climate and government. It is especially useful for students and travelers. Great for converting money or finding holidays and recipes. **Highly Recommended**

Daily Life Online <http://www.greenwood.com/dailylife/>

A suite of History products from Greenwood Press Includes Daily Life Through History, Daily Life America, World Folklore and Folklife. This is designed for older students. **Good, but not essential**

Atlapedia Online www.atlapedia.com/index.html

Contains full color physical maps, political maps as well as key facts and statistics on countries of the world. **Free**

CIA World Factbook <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>

Good for country reports--Same text as the book, which is still published. First produced as an annual product in 1981, CD-ROM versions were available from 1995-1998, and The World Factbook was first introduced onto the Internet in 1997. From Library journal, in reference to the print source: "... entries note historical background; detailed geographical facts, including current environmental issues; and a full description of the people, with information on literacy rates, HIV prevalence, and major infectious diseases. There are also details on conventional political parties, contact information for diplomatic representation, and the nation's economic status, complete with statistics... recently-updated maps..." **Free**

African American Experience

<http://www.greenwood.com/mosaic/aae/productInfo.aspx>.

This electronic research tool draws from over 450 Greenwood Press titles. It is designed for older students however, it is the only database available devoted to African American history and culture. **Recommended**

Encyclopedia of Chicago <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/>

Electronic version of the Encyclopedia of Chicago. Good resource for Illinois History Fair project
Free

Latino American Experience

http://www.greenwood.com/mosaic/lae/product_info.aspx

This electronic research tool draws from over 200 Greenwood Press titles. It is designed for older students however, it is the only database available devoted to Latino American history and culture. **Recommended**