



Kindergarteners Developing Research Skills Using Kan-ed Databases

Kan-Ed-- Where Kansans Access the Information Age

Inman USD 448 is making excellent use of the Kan-ed Educational and Research Databases. The databases are used extensively throughout the school district. Although it might not be surprising that the databases are being used for research in the high school, even the kindergartners are using them!

In her role as K-12 Media Specialist at Inman USD 448 in south central Kansas, Cheryl Rife has been introducing students to the Kan-ed databases starting in Kindergarten. She provides guidance to approximately 400 students of varying ages, but her efforts at teaching library skills to students in Kindergarten to 5th grade using the Kan-ed databases are especially exciting. Rife described that she starts the youngest students out using Searchasaurus, a popular database on Ebsco that is tailored to elementary students. Searchasaurus includes a dinosaur guide to accompany students on the journey as it introduces them to online searching. While young students are typically unable to participate in online searching due to their reading levels, Searchasaurus removes that limitation by incorporating a reading level that is appropriate to young students and by generally powering the site through clicking on pictures that represent topics.

Rife also described another elementary school project completed by their 4th graders using the kids' version of World Book, an online encyclopedia. She shared, "We did a project on states. Each student had a different state, and they had to show what was special about it by coming up with 'five wonders.' They found pictures and made posters. We used World Book for that and easily found information. It was on their level, which was nice." As with Searchasaurus, Kids World Book assists lower level readers by pairing words with pictures. Students click through a series of pictures to find more specific information.

"We would be in big trouble if we didn't have access to these databases because we wouldn't have the money to get Ebsco or any of these databases that Kan-ed provides for us, including World Book," Rife expressed.



Inman USD 448
Serves: 460+ students,
45+ educators
Kan-ed member since:
September 25, 2002



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