

SIRS Discoverer WebFind™ Quick Start Guide

About SIRS Discoverer WebFind™

SIRS Discoverer WebFind is a dynamically updated database of carefully chosen global websites for researchers in grades 1-9. Each website is carefully evaluated for its research value, relevance, credibility, age appropriateness and reliability before being added to the database. Sites are monitored daily for changes by SIRS' sophisticated software. When a change is detected, the site is removed from the product until personally reviewed by our staff to ensure compliance to our rigorous standards.

The screenshot shows the SIRS Discoverer on the Web interface. At the top, it says "SIRS Discoverer on the Web". Below that is a search bar with "Discoverer WebFind" and "Search Tips" links. There are two search options: "Subject Headings" and "Keyword/Natural Language". To the right is "WebFind's Top Pick" featuring a gorilla and the text "Congo Gorilla Forest" and "Imagine being this close!". Below that is "Featured Content" with links for "New Content & Hot Topics!", "Activities", "Biographies", "Careers", "Fiction", "Holidays", "Spotlight on...", and "Dictionary/ Thesaurus". At the bottom is a navigation bar with "Tutorial | Help | How to Cite | Workbooks | Tips | Bookmark".

A points to the search methods section.

B points to the navigation bar.

C points to the "New Content & Hot Topics!" link in the featured content section.

Familiar search options provide methods and tools for all students to achieve success.

Editor's Top Pick – Updated weekly by the SIRS' editorial team.

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Part 1: Navigating the Interface

(A) Search Methods - Full-text articles are searched by the following user-friendly methods:

- Keyword Search finds articles based upon combinations of key words and phrases.
- Subject Headings Search displays articles indexed by subject headings.
- Subject Tree Browse locates articles by drilling down through categories, topics and subtopics in a multi-level subject tree.

(B) Help Topics

- Tutorial provides an overview of features and content.
- Help launches a searchable help index.
- How to Cite details MLA, Turabian and APA examples of how to cite articles, graphics and documents retrieved from SIRS Discoverer.

- Workbooks contain in-depth exercises that assist the user in the research process. Educators can also use them as curriculum tools.
- Tips list search tips that may be printed for easy reference.
- Bookmark provides instructions for bookmarking and linking.

(C) Database Features



Suggested Research Topics provide a list of sample Keyword, Subject Heading, Encyclopedia entries and Subject Tree Path searches that are updated biweekly and link directly to recently added content and hot topics.



Activities provide a shortcut to all websites on biographies of famous and/or notable people, including every United States president.



Biographies Hundreds of websites detail and explore the many careers available from the Arts & Sciences to Sports & the Military and beyond.



Careers Hundreds of websites detail and explore the many careers available from the Arts & Sciences to Sports & the Military and beyond.



Fiction From Historical Fiction to Myths & Fairytales, SIRS Discoverer WebFind provides hundreds websites and E-books to suit every interest.



Holidays Websites representing dozens of holidays and celebrations from around the world. Includes activities and provides historical foundations and cultural awareness.



Spotlight on... Spotlight of the Month features a new topic each month covering timely issues selected from the Discoverer WebFind database encouraging further research. Preview the upcoming spotlight for lesson planning, or review the archive from the previous year.



Dictionary/Thesaurus assists users in defining words, checking spelling, choosing the perfect word and more.

Part 2: Search Methods

Enter key words or phrases, select your search and sorting options and then click Search.



Search Examples

Boolean Operators
 sun AND moon
 dinosaurs OR fossils
 mouse NOT computer

Truncation
 elect* (elect, elected, elections)
 recycl* (recycle, recycled, recycling)

Phrases
 "sand dunes"
 "international space station"

Natural Language
How is garbage recycled?
Which animals are mammals?

Subject Headings Search - is useful when you have a research topic in mind.

Keyword Search - is useful when you want to locate websites based upon your own combination of key words and phrases.

Subject Tree Browse - provides 15 general categories that are further divided into topics and subtopics, creating a "subject tree." Use Subject Tree Browse to browse a category for a possible research topic or to narrow down a general topic. Locate Web sites by exploring categories, topics and subtopics in a multi-level subject tree.



Discoverer WebFind: [Animals](#): Mammals

- > [Bats](#)
- > [Bears](#)
- > [Dogs](#)
- > [Elephants](#)
- > [Horses](#)
- > [Primates](#)
- > [Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises](#)

[Hide Details](#)

[4-H Club: Beef Cattle](#)

Source: 4-H Club

Summary: This site focuses on beef production and beef producers. Listen to an interview with a beef farmer, learn facts about Virginia beef production, learn beef terms, and take a quiz when you're done to see how much you know about raising cattle. Some of the activities on this site require QuickTime or the Flash player.

URL: <http://www.ext.vt.edu/resources/4h/virtualfarm/beef/beef.html>


Part 3: Analyzing Your Results

Legend - Select the Book Icon  to view the website summary.

Title: [An Outline of American Government](#)
Author or Institution: University of Groningen
URL: <http://odur.let.rug.nl/usanew/GOV/index.htm>
Contact: usa@let.rug.nl

An Outline of American Government explores the U.S. Constitution, the branches of government, the processes of government, and the powers and responsibilities of state and local governments.

- **Title:** The title of the website.
- **Author or Institution:** The author(s) of the website content.
- **URL:** Uniform Resource Locator, or the website address.
- **Contact:** E-mail address of the website creator.

The color of this icon  also indicates the Reading Level assigned according to editorial judgment. All reading levels are returned, unless one is manually de-selected by clicking on the box.


Easy
(grades 1-4)


Moderate
(grades 5-7)


Challenging
(8th grade and beyond)

Source & Summary

 Easy
  Moderate
  Challenging

Note: Selecting the corresponding links may further narrow your search results.

[Discoverer WebFind](#) : [Arts](#) : Literature

> [Fiction](#) 
 > [Writing Instruction](#)

[Show Details](#)

-  [75 Years of Winnie the Pooh](#)
-  [The Academy of American Poets Home Page](#)
-  [African American Women Writers of the 19th Century](#)
-  [Agatha Christie and Archaeology](#)