



Dear Library Media Specialist:

Thank you for your interest in SIRS Discoverer/WebFind—the editor selected collection of K-8 digital library learning resources. Enclosed is a *Toolkit* to assist in your evaluation of Discoverer/WebFind content, tools, training, and curriculum support. This guide will help you and other members of your learning community understand how this digital library learning resource can help your teachers increase student achievement in the essential skills of reading, writing, and critical thinking.

We at ProQuest encourage you to invite teachers, curriculum leaders, parents, and students to participate in the evaluation. When you can demonstrate the teaching and learning value of Discoverer/WebFind, you will gain the enthusiastic support of these partners and funding support will follow. With the additional bonus of home access, your K-8 digital library will always be open for students and teachers.

The Toolkit (download links at bottom) contains the following evaluation resources:

- **Summary of Features** --You can use this to evaluate Discoverer/WebFind and compare its unique content, teacher and student tools to any alternative resource that you already have or are considering.
- **Guided Searches** --These searches show how students, teachers, librarians, parents, and school leaders can use and benefit from this powerful digital learning system.
- **QuickLinks to Curriculum and Training Resources** -- ProQuest provides you with the curriculum resources to support teachers and students during the trial and after purchase of Discoverer/WebFind (See *Appendix*).
- **Quick Start Guides** -- These handy guides contain a summary of most-used system features (See *Appendix* for link).

During the trial we encourage you to explore the Lexile reading search/sort tool. This scientifically-based measure of reading difficulty provides a score for each article returned from a search. Using these scores can help students to select articles that are written at their Lexile levels so that understanding and achievement are increased. Teachers can select appropriate Lexile scored articles for printing and make copies for a variety of classroom activities. Another vital tool for teachers is the State Standards search that automatically searches for articles and websites that correlate to a specific state standard.

The *Colorado, Iowa, and NCES Studies* (et. al.) of the impact of libraries prove that student achievement increases when librarians provide teachers and students with quality customized learning resources. More important is librarian collaboration with teachers to motivate and support frequent research activities. SIRS Discoverer/WebFind will provide the content, tools, curriculum resources, and training for you to succeed with both of these vital missions.

ProQuest provides **free online training** during your trial. You or your colleagues can register for classes by going to www.proquestk12.com/training.

We look forward to your evaluation, feedback, and ultimately to supporting the future learning needs of your students and teachers.

Your ProQuest Sales and Marketing Team

SIRS DISCOVERER/WEBFIND TRIAL EVALUATION SYSTEM FOR SCHOOL

Access: URL =

Username =

Password =

Evaluator's Name =

Librarian Teacher Curriculum Leader Parent Student

Please perform the operations listed to explore the key features of SIRS Discoverer/WebFind and then rate the value of each feature in terms of its importance as a resource for learning and teaching.

STUDENT TOOLS FOR ONLINE LEARNING AND MINI-RESEARCH

SEARCH 1 – Basic key word search that accesses a variety of media resources including websites

1. Type **global warming** in the *Search* box; then click the *Search* button
2. Note the variety of resources available in the *Summary* bar at the top of the results list
3. Click *Sort by: / Lexile* (Lexile scores are included with each article citation)
4. Note the results list is now organized in Lexile reading score order (level of reading difficulty)
5. Note the SIRS editors' color-coding designations for reading difficulty to the left of each article
6. Click *Celebrate Arbor Day* to open this article
7. Browse the article and then click the *Back* link at the top to return to the results list
8. Click on another article and browse it
9. Click the *Home Page* link at the top to end this search session

RATE THESE FEATURES IN SEARCH 1: (1 = no value for learning 5 = very valuable for learning)

- _____ Ease of conducting a natural language/key word search for beginners or *inexperienced* students
- _____ Access to a variety of media sources including visuals and websites in **one search** to save classroom and library time for the more *essential skills* of critical reading, analysis, organization, synthesis, and writing
- _____ Option to sort the **Results list** by Lexile scores to support students reading above or below grade level
- _____ Ease of navigating from a selected document back to the **Results list** for more document browsing
- _____ **Lexile and SIRS** reading scores for each article to help students select material that they can understand more easily

SEARCH 2 – Browse Subject Tree search using K-8 curriculum-correlated icons

1. Click the icon for *Health & Human Body*
2. Note the list of Topic/subtopic on the right side
3. Click *Eating Disorders*
4. Click the *Title* of an interesting article to open it
5. Click *Source and Summary* and note the citation information and the document summary
6. Click the *Back* link
7. Browse the full article and select a word that students may have difficulty in understanding
8. Click the *Dictionary* link at the top of the page
9. Type the word in the *Search Term* box (you can also copy/paste the word from the article into the *Search* box)
10. While reading the definition, also note that you can click the *Thesaurus* link and get synonyms
11. Close the *Dictionary* pop-up box to return to the article
12. Click the *Home Page* link to end this search session
13. Note students can also access a K-8 appropriate *Encyclopedia* and *Almanac* from the *Reference* section icons on the bottom of the *Home Page*

RATE THESE FEATURES IN SEARCH 2: (1 = no value for learning . . . 5 = very valuable for learning)

- _____ *Browse Subject Tree* icons are correlated to K-8 curriculum to facilitate searching for younger students
- _____ Document summaries to help students make relevancy decisions quickly to save classroom/library time
- _____ *Dictionary* and *Thesaurus* to help students better understand what they are reading
- _____ Topic/subtopic listings for each *Browse Subject Tree* icon search
- _____ Easy access to K-8 appropriate *Almanac* and *Encyclopedia* to expand their learning

SEARCH 3 – Browse Subject Tree icon search for Countries and Country Facts

1. Click the *Countries* icon to get articles and pictures about a country
2. Note the list of *Countries* links on the right side of the results page
3. Click on the link for *Afghanistan*
4. Note the variety of articles about the country
5. Note the *Camera* icon included with some articles indicating it contains a picture
6. Note other icons included with some articles indicating *Fiction* or *Activities* to motivate reading
7. Click to open one of the links with the *Camera* icon and review the photo
8. Click the *Home page* link at the top of the page to return to the *Search* page
9. Click the *Country Facts* link on the right side listed under *Database Features*
10. Note the map, flag, and organized facts about the country: population, history, government, etc.
11. Note that graphic elements can be printed for use in posters, photo essays, and integrated into written reports
12. Click the *Home page* icon at the top of the page to set up another search

RATE THESE FEATURES IN SEARCH 3: (1 = no value for learning . . . 5 = very valuable for learning)

- _____ *Country* icon that connects students with a very popular K-8 curriculum related research topic
- _____ *Camera* icon for each article that has pictures included
- _____ *Country Facts* is separate from articles about the country to make research easier for younger students
- _____ Ability to print pictures and other graphic elements separately from any text included
- _____ Article icons for pictures, fiction stories, and activities are included in some articles to motivate reading

SEARCH 4 – Searching Pictures and Photo Essays that motivate visual learners

1. Click the *Photo Essays* link on the right side of the *Home* page
2. Note the variety of *Photo Essays* topics that link to popular K-8 curriculum topics
3. Click on *Dogs* under *Domesticated Animals*
4. Click *Search and Rescue Dogs* for a picture and a brief essay
5. Click *See Photo* to enlarge the photo for printing
6. Drag your mouse over the picture to get a print icon option
7. Use the printed photo and some others to create your own poster or visual display
8. Click the *Pictures* link on the right side of the page listed under *Database Features*
9. Type **Martin Luther King** in the *Picture Search* box
10. Click on one of the picture choices to open it up
11. Refer back to steps 6 and 7 to print the picture

RATE THESE FEATURES IN SEARCH 4: (1 = no value for learning . . . 5 = very valuable for learning)

- _____ Abundance of curriculum-related visuals to support learning for student with reading difficulty
- _____ Ability to print pictures for use in visual-based student projects
- _____ Ability to search the picture collection by key word or through alphabetical listing

TEACHER EFFECTIVENESS TOOLS

SEARCH 5 – Current Events search to integrate with lesson plans and classroom activities

1. Click the *Current Events* link near the bottom of the Home page
2. Note that the articles are updated daily to help teachers take advantage of the news in the classroom
3. Note that some articles have *Camera* icons indicating that the article includes a photo
4. Click to open an article with a picture that will engage students and support the curriculum
5. Click the *Print* icon above the article title
6. Make classroom copies of the printed article for reading and discussion
7. Click the *Home* page link at the top of the page to set up the next search

RATE THESE FEATURES IN SEARCH 5: (1 = no value for learning . . . 5 = very valuable for learning)

- _____ Easy access to daily listing of K-8 appropriate news stories to include in classroom discussions
- _____ Use of the *Camera* icon to help teachers locate articles that have pictures included
- _____ Ease of using the *Print* icon to print a copy of an article
- _____ Ability to print and make copies of articles for classroom reading and discussion activities

SEARCH 6 – Search Librarian’s Corner for curriculum and training resources

1. Click the *Librarian’s Corner* link on the bottom of the page
2. Browse the categories of teacher and student support resources available
3. Click the link for *In-Depth Guide to Mini-Research*
4. Browse through the guide to see how research activities correlate to essential skills standards
5. Browse through the guide to see models and strategies for critical thinking research activities
6. Close the newly opened browser window and return to *Librarian’s Corner*
7. Note the links for *Problem Solving, Map Skills, Analyzing Graphs and Charts, Citation Guidelines*, and the variety of other educator guides and workbooks for students in elementary and middle school
8. Open another resource link that interests you
9. Close the new window and return to *Librarian’s Corner*
10. Click the *Home page* link at the top of the page to end this session and start another search

RATE THESE FEATURES IN SEARCH 6: (1 = no value for learning . . . 5 = very valuable for learning)

- _____ Easy access to a variety of teacher support materials such as *Map Skills, Citation Guidelines*, etc.
- _____ Access to a *mini-research guide* for critical thinking strategies and models for research activities
- _____ Availability of functionality tutorials, workbooks, and training guides for students and teachers

SEARCH 7 – Using the Suggested Research Topics and Subject Paths

1. Click *Suggested Research Topics* link on the right side of the *Home* page under *Database Features*
2. Scroll down the page to browse the variety of suggested research topics
3. Note that each topic is linked to Subject Paths to help students find relevant information more quickly
4. Click the *Iceberg Subject Headings* link under the Topic--*Global Warming*
5. Click *Sort by: Lexile* to order the results list by level of reading difficulty
6. Click and open an article with an appropriate reading level for your students
7. Click the *Print* icon (teachers can select more than one article and Lexile level)
8. Click the *Home Page* link to end this search session
9. Make copies of the article for class reading and discussion

RATE THESE FEATURES IN SEARCH 7: (1 = no value for teaching 5 = very valuable for teaching)

- _____ Access to the most popular K-8 research activities in other schools and *Subject Paths* to support resources
- _____ Ability to sort results list by *Lexile* scores to customize selection of articles to be printed for classroom activities with students
- _____ Ease of navigation between results and home page
- _____ Ease of printing articles and graphics

SEARCH 8 – Use the *State Standards Searching* tool to access articles for a standards-based lesson

1. Click the *Librarian’s Corner* link at the bottom of the *Home* page
2. Click the *Standards Correlation* box link at the top of the page
3. Click the *Select State* box down arrow
4. Click your State (all states will be available soon—click *Florida* if your state is missing)
5. Click the *Select Subject* box for *Science Standards* and then click *Go*
6. Click the link for *Life Science* appropriate for the K-8 grade that you teach
7. Continue to click the arrow icons to get to a life science topic that you teach
8. Under the specific standard, click *See Resources* link
9. Note the *Subject Path* links to appropriate resources
10. Click one of the *Subject* titles to open it and browse the search results
11. Close the browser window and return to *Librarian’s Corner*
12. Click the *Home Page* link to end this search session

RATE THESE FEATURES IN SEARCH 8: (1 = no value for teaching 5 = very valuable for teaching)

- _____ *Librarian’s Corner* feature to make a direct connection to teacher/librarian tools
- _____ *State Standards Search* to find relevant standards-based articles and websites

SEARCH 9 – *WebFind* collection of safe and relevant K-8 websites

1. Click the *Web Sites for Kids* link just below the cluster of *Browse Subject Tree* icons
2. Notice the search option organization for *WebFind* is the same as that of *Discoverer* for articles
3. Click the *Cultures* icon
4. Click the *Native American* link
5. Scroll to see the collection of editor selected K-8 appropriate websites
6. Note the summary provided for each websites to help teachers and students judge its relevance
7. Click *Alaskool Central*
8. After reviewing the website, you may want to bookmark it and add it to your favorites list
9. Close the newly opened browser window for the website and return to the results list
10. Click on the *Home Page* link at the top of the page to set up a new search

RATE THESE FEATURES IN SEARCH 9: (1 = no value for teaching 5 = very valuable for teaching)

- _____ *WebFind* collection of K-8 appropriate websites for students
- _____ Ability to bookmark selected websites to a teacher favorite collection
- _____ *WebFind* summaries to save time in deciding which websites are most appropriate for the topic

SEARCH 10 – Searching the *Activities* tool for ideas on classroom activities related to curriculum topics

1. Click the *Activities* link on the right side of the page
2. Click the *Quizzes* link
3. Note the variety of curriculum-related quiz resources
4. Click the *Print* icon to make copies for classroom use
5. Click the *Back* link at the top, then click it again to return to the *Activities* list
6. Click *Science and Nature Projects*
7. Click on *Play a Blade of Grass* as a fun activity for students
8. Print a copy for a lesson plan

RATE THESE FEATURES IN SEARCH 10: (1 = no value for teaching . . . 5 = very valuable for teaching)

- _____ Easy access to a collection of K-8 curriculum related activities for classroom use
_____ Organization of the *Activities* collection by curriculum related subject

SEARCH 11 – Use *Maps of the World* for studying geography and countries

1. Click the *Maps of the World* link on the right side under *Database Features*
2. Click *Outline* (These outline maps allow students to fill in details as they research and learn them)
3. Click *Africa*
4. Print and make copies for classroom use by students when studying Africa
5. Click the *Back* button of your browser to return to the list of *Maps of the World*
6. Click *U. S. Historical*
7. Click *Campaigns of the American Revolution*
8. Mouse over the map and use the print icon to print and make copies for classroom discussion
9. Click on *Home Page* to end this session

RATE THESE FEATURES IN SEARCH 11: (1 = no value for teaching . . . 5 = very valuable for teaching)

- _____ Easy access to a variety of K-8 appropriate maps
_____ Availability of a collection of outline maps to facilitate classroom learning activities about geography
_____ Ability to print and make copies of a variety of maps
_____ Availability of both current and historic maps to support instruction in history and geography

Librarian Resources

Librarian Alternative Funding Guide — Alternative funding sources and strategies for librarians who are challenged by local budget cuts. Included is a whole section on No Child Left Behind and how librarians can tap these funds including NCLB boiler plate for LSL and EETT grants. <http://www.proquestk12.com/funding.shtml>

Online and On-Site Training — Training for using SIRS Discoverer/WebFind teacher and student tools, and curriculum resources is offered online by monthly schedule. On-site training requires a request and approval. You can get more on training from www.proquestk12.com/training.

Quick Start Guide — A four-page document containing basic search, display, and printing information. <http://www.proquestk12.com/lsm/sirs/pdfs/DiscoWFQuickStartGuide.pdf>

Teacher and Librarian Resources

Discoverer/WebFind Mini-Research Guide — Correlates DWF content and features with national standards in the core curriculum and provides mini-research strategies and models for teachers—makes the NCLB connection for grades 3-8. http://www.proquestk12.com/lsm/sirs/pdfs/DiscoWebFind_MiniResearch.pdf

Educator Guide — Explains how to use DWF most effectively for student research activities. <http://www.proquestk12.com/pdfs/educator.pdf>

Elementary and Middle School Student Workbooks – Supports student use of DWF by providing step-by-step instructions and activities for the most important features needed for successful research activities. <http://www.proquestk12.com/lsm/sirs/dis-workbooks/elmwkb/> (Elementary workbook)
<http://www.proquestk12.com/lsm/sirs/dis-workbooks/midwkb/> (Middle School workbook)

Citation Guidelines — Examples of how to convert SIRS DWF citation information into a variety of formal citations for bibliographies when appropriate. <http://www.proquestk12.com/pdfs/discite.pdf>

Lexile Overview – Explains how DWF Lexile scores determine the reading difficulty of articles so that teachers can guide students in the appropriate selection of DWF articles from the results list of a student search. http://www.proquestk12.com/lsm/sirs/downloads/SIRS_Lexile_Rollout.ppt

School and Curriculum Leader Resources

Discoverer/WebFind At-A-Glance Summary--Written for *school leaders*, it is curriculum, standards, NCLB, and teacher focused. Librarians can convince school leaders that DWF supports student achievement and teacher effectiveness in grades 3-8. <http://www.proquestk12.com/pic/pdfs/discowebfindglance.pdf>

Scientific-Based Research on Learning—A summary of scientific research that proves that **inquiry-based learning activities (mini-research)** with eLibrary **increases student achievement in essential skills** (reading, writing, and higher-order thinking). <http://www.proquestk12.com/lsm/pqelib/pdfs/SBReLibTeacherTraining.pdf>

Criteria for Evaluating Digital Library Learning Resources	SIRS	
	Discoverer/WebFind	Alternative
Digital Learning Resources	Quantitly	
Newspapers/Newswires--International, National, and Regional	290	
Magazines	550	
Pictures and Photos	17,000	
Current and Historic Maps Collection	330	
Activities Collection	2,450	
Fiction and Poetry Collection	F=800, Poetry=54	
WebFind K-8 Appropriate Websites	7,000	
Encyclopedias, Dictionaries, Thesaurus, Almanacs Reference Books	4	
Photo Essays	290	
Biographies	2,000	
Country Facts, Canadian Provinces, and US States	197--14--52	
Suggested Research Topics and Subject Paths	11-15/month	
Student Learning Tools		
Key Word/Natural Language or Subject Search Options Simplify Searching	Yes	
Subject Icons for Searching Correlate Directly with K-8 Curriculum	Yes	
Sort Search Results by Lexile Reading Scores to Ensure Student Understanding	Yes	
Formal Citation Support Examples in 3 Popular Styles	Yes	
Email Text & Pictures to Home Computer or to Others on Research Team	Yes	
Reference Tool--Understand or Expand on Difficult but Interesting Words	Yes	
Summary of Each Article and Website to Save Time in Making Relevancy Decisions	Yes	
Standard Formats for Text/Pictures for Easy Saving into Reporting Applications	Yes	
Help Screens are Context-Sensitive to Reduce Confusion	Yes	
Students Can Access and Learn at Home , or School, or During Vacations	Yes	
Teacher Tools, Curriculum Resources, and State Standards Support		
Lexile Sorting of Results Helps Teacher Guide Students to Appropriate Reading Levels	Yes	
Activities Collection Correlated to Curriculum Subjects	Yes	
Biographies Collection to Facilitate Popular K-8 Research Activities	Yes	
Country Facts Collection to Facilitate Popular K-8 Research Activities	Yes	
Current Events for Printing/Copying for Classroom Activities and Discussion	Yes	
Mini-research Guides with Projects/Models to Increase Critical Thinking	Yes	
Dynamic Standards Searching Ensures Resources Are Correlated to State Standards	Yes	
Online Teachable Moments Newsletter --Lesson Ideas for Using DWF	Yes	
Keep Textbooks Current --Browse and Print from 100s of Subject Area Publications	Yes	
Current and Historic Maps Collection Supports Popular K-8 Research Activities	Yes	
Spotlight of the Month Activities Connect to National Themes for Motivation	Yes	
Access to All Resources at Home or at School or on Vacation	Yes	
Workbooks to Help Students and Teachers Use DWF More Effectively	Yes	
Suggeted Research Topics and Paths Motivate Assigning of Research Activities	Yes	

Criteria for Evaluating Digital Library Learning Resources	SIRS	
	Discoverer/WebFind	Alternative
Curriculum Leaders and State Standards Support		
One Search Yields K-8 Articles and Websites Saving Classroom/Library Time	Yes	
Dynamic Standards Correlation of Learning Resources	Yes	
Parent Involvement Opportunities Increased through Home Access	Yes	
Editor Selected Articles and Websites Reduce Need for Surfing and Supervision	Yes	
Integrates Inquiry-Based Activities Supported by Scientific Research on Learning	Yes	
With Remote Access, Students Can Learn at School, Home , or on Vacation	Yes	
Beats Surfing and Googling--Editor Customized for K-8 Teachers and Students	Yes	
Research Activities Develop Essential Skills Tested on the State Assessments	Yes	
Library Media Specialist Support		
Librarian's Corner Resources to Encourage Use	Yes	
Tutorials --Multimedia and in Print for Downloading	Yes	
Live and Online Training Available by Trainers on Request or by Schedule	Yes	
Usage Summaries Available	Yes	
Technical Support by Phone and Email	Yes	
Monthly Email Product Bulletins to Provide Ideas and Support Use of DWF	Yes	
Guides to Alternative Sources of Library Funding for Digital Resources	Yes	
Parent Support of Schools and Student Learning		
Home Access to Safe, Relevant, and Custom Learning Resources	Yes	
DWF Models for Reports Use Digital Methods to Save Time and Use Skills	Yes	
Learning Digital Information Literacy Skills Needed for College and Careers	Yes	
eMail of School Research to Home to Facilitate Learning and Save Time	Yes	
Technology Coordinator Support		
Support for Multiple Platforms, Browsers, and Plugins	Yes	
Remote Access Authentication	Yes	
Automatic IP Authentication	Yes	
Number of Simultaneous Users (Site License)	Unlimited	
Typical Response Time/Simple Queries (User Dependent)	3 seconds	