

## **SIRS Discoverer Product Reviews**

The database's non-intimidating, attractive, and user-friendly interface combined with its various search capabilities will enable students to navigate and use it with ease. This database can be used for research, creative writing, language arts enrichment, reading comprehension activities, dictionary skills, and for developing search strategy. Limited English Proficiency students can also benefit from using it.

### **"SIRS Discoverer"**

**Terrence E. Young Jr. @ *School Library Journal***

Creating an information database for elementary and middle school students should be simple. Combine a resource package with a child-friendly search device, and there you have it. As we all know, it's not so simple at all. This combination has not been easy to find; either the resources are shallow and redundant, or the search process is complex and awkward, or both. SIRS Discoverer on the Web manages to deal with an in-depth resource base with an amazing set of search devices that offer both simple and complex searching possibilities. Add to this another [content set that's integrated.] Discoverer WebFind, websites selected for children, which can be used with the basic database and which uses the same strong search capabilities, and schools have available an extremely powerful information tool. I found SIRS Discoverer with WebFind to be a superior elementary and middle level reference database. If I could afford only one elementary/middle level subscription database, SIRS Discoverer [with WebFind] would be my choice.

### **"SIRS Discoverer Meets the WWW"**

**Barbara Ripp Safford @ *School Library Media Activities Monthly***

"Since the Information Network for Ohio Schools (INFOhio) first made SIRS Discoverer Deluxe available to Ohio schools in October 1999, the number of full-text articles retrieved by students and teachers has jumped five-fold, from around 200,000 to more than one million per year. This speaks both to the need for current information that SIRS provides, as well as the increased sophistication of students and teachers to make use of current information technologies. Of course, everyone appreciates having a high-quality resource funded by the State of Ohio for all Ohio schools. Librarians I talk to are pleased with SIRS Discoverer Deluxe for several reasons. They like the point and click interface that makes searching by younger students easy and effective. They also like the more complex searching possible for older students. The wide range of articles from magazines, newspapers, and government documents is another strength I hear."

**Theresa M. Fredericka, Executive Director  
The Information Network for Ohio Schools  
Warren, OH**

"As an Idaho educator (elementary media/computer specialist) I just wanted to let you know that your SIRS Discoverer Deluxe online database is excellent. I like it because it has adequate breadth of information, a large number of available pictures, and is well organized with an easy to understand interface. Keep up the excellent work."

**Dean Lake, Elementary Media/Computer Specialist  
Bear Lake County School District #33  
Montpelier, ID**

"SIRS is always used in my training session for the AVL. The teacher workbooks for SIRS Discoverer are always a hit. In addition, the new interface for SIRS Knowledge Source is so strong and easy to use. I always point out how teachers can search for resources, save the tagged list to your site for 30 days and send students there to read the resources reviewed by the teacher. It is an outstanding resource!"

**Lisa A. Woodward, Coordinator**  
**Office of Technology Initiatives**  
**Alabama State Department of Education**  
**Montgomery, AL**

"SIRS Discoverer contributes a wealth of information for use by the program offerings in our special education secondary school. Grade nine students enter our school with a median reading level tested at approximately the grade three level, so the selection of appropriate information resources is a challenge. The indication of reading levels for the resources offered by SIRS Discoverer has proven to be a most beneficial aid in the selection of our students' research material. The content of SIRS Discoverer supports numerous areas of our curriculum, including, childcare, science, English and communication technology. The diversity of its information content has proven to be most appropriate to our needs."

**David Williams**  
**Thames Secondary School**  
**London, Ontario, Canada**

"With SIRS Discoverer, the student can work at his or her reading level, find information to help write an assignment, print the article(s) instantly and take it home with him or her."

**Barbara Sharry**  
***Bits, Bytes & Nibbles***

"SIRS Discoverer is easy to use but offers a powerful search engine that gives students and teachers a variety of ways to gather and search for information."

***CMC News***

"This is an excellent tool for teaching beginning research skills... I highly recommend the purchase of this product for schools seeking a beginning research tool for younger students."

***Technology Connection***

"Young researchers won't have difficulty learning how to conduct research with a tool like SIRS Discoverer. In fact, research in my media center will never be the same again."

**Denise Allen**  
***Teaching K-8***

"I am sending this email to tell you how wonderful your SIRS Discoverer program is, both on CD-ROM and on the Web. I have used the CD-ROM version for the past two years, and my students and I are amazed at the information we can find. Keep up the good work!"

**Robert Burnley**  
**Klinger Middle School**  
**Southampton, PA**