

SIRS Knowledge Source Reviews

[Video Overview](#) | [Product Information](#)

[SIRS Issues Researcher](#) > There are many similar products on the market, but by far, this database is the most comprehensive. Issues can be searched using “leading issues A-Z,” a top 10 list of Pro vs. Con, browsing eight broad topics, six broad groups, and a visual browse that breaks down the topic into smaller webs, all of which support differentiated learning. Each article includes a summary, keywords in bold, MLA citation, the ability to listen to the article, and the option to email, print or share. The Toolbox includes a research guide for critical thinking, mini-research paper, debate outline, how to cite a source, tutorials, search tips, dictionary, and thesaurus. Searching can be done by keyword/natural language or subject heading, as well as proximity search and captions. Resources include articles, newspapers, magazines, reference, and graphics. The database also tracks state and national curriculum standards as well as AASL Standards for the 21st-Century Learner and ISTE National Educational Technology Standards. **It's been a long time since I have been this excited about a database.** No one database has everything, but this one comes pretty close to supporting the needs of students and teachers using current information and an attractive yet functional interface. Highly Recommended.

Judyth Lessee, MS/HS Librarian

American International School, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Library Media Connection (Fall 2010)

SIRS [Issues] Researcher makes research interesting and enjoyable. It reduces much of the chore of finding relevant information. The database’s approach focuses on developing understanding information that is found, encouraging thoughtful selection and rejection from that information, and the building of a personal viewpoint. In all, the responsibility is placed upon the student. The research remains personal, and so does the work...SIRS Researcher remains impressive. ProQuest’s pre-selection process eliminates irrelevant articles, reduces duplication, and enables users to concentrate on using the information rather than searching. SIRS has long been invaluable for high school research into social issues, and it continues to improve. This database is highly recommended.

“ProQuest Historical and Political Databases in Review”

John Royce @ KQW, Knowledge Quest Web Edition

ProQuest has taken SIRS Researcher beyond a simple resource and added content that will make it much more useful in the classroom. By providing resources that directly relate to curriculum standards, as well as critical thinking components, step-by-step guidelines for analyzing individual subjects, and teacher-librarian resources to assist in the instruction of the content, SIRS Researcher has become much more functional and more likely to be used by both students and teachers. SIRS Researcher earns a well-deserved A+ for such improvements.

"Six Controversial Databases"

Shonda Brisco @ School Library Journal

"I have always relied on SIRS products to provide my students with highly selective, full-text databases. [SIRS Knowledge Source](#), SIRS' online interface, extends the power of a student's search, providing an integrated, multidisciplinary list of results. Within minutes of our trial, a student's search on philosophy and religion yielded results never found in our traditional periodical databases. An eclectic scope of resources blends critical readings in science, social science, the humanities and politics. SIRS Knowledge Source is an exceptional tool for schools moving 'out of the box' to a more realistic, multidisciplinary and resource-based approach to learning."

**Joyce Kasman Valenza, Librarian
Springfield Township High School
Erdenheim, PA**

"For the students at Vienna International High School, [SIRS Databases](#) have been an indispensable source of information on any topic of research and project for years now. We cannot imagine a thorough project and research work without using reference from SIRS databases. The enhanced features that facilitate browsing, selection of appropriate key words, quick overview of topics and summaries of the articles do not just facilitate finding relevant information; they enable the users (students and teachers) to learn the skills of information retrieval which will make them "information literate" and which they can use successfully in their academic pursuits."

**Marija Oblak
Vienna International School
High School Library Media Centre**

"Your fine publications and computer-based materials provide our high school students, their teachers and librarians with excellent quality source materials for classroom and library research, discussion and debates."

**Sister Mary Agnes Casey
Chair, Catholic Library Association High School Section
Librarian, Marist High School
Bayonne, New Jersey**

"Our students have relied on SIRS for years. Now that we have access to SIRS online, locating quality information has become even easier. We depend on SIRS for numerous projects and research assignments. Students love the quick results and the ability to print full- text articles. Teachers appreciate the quality of the information. With the availability of so much information on the Web that is not appropriate, it is essential that we have access to reliable information in an electronic format. I highly recommend SIRS Knowledge Source for all high school libraries."

Anne V. Miller

Library Media Specialist

Maine Central Institute

Pittsfield, ME

Mary Bull explains that SIRS Knowledge Source was chosen because of very high ratings from evaluating librarians: "The Database Assessment Committee had little trouble approving the selection of the SIRS databases to meet the needs of all DISCUS libraries." According to Mary, the quality selection of topics makes SIRS Knowledge Source an extremely useful source of information.

Mary Bull, Project Director for DISCUS

Media & Methods

"At Roanoke we are using SIRS more than ever. Now that we have SIRS Knowledge Source, the databases have been even more beneficial to our students. The nicest aspect about SIRS is that the periodicals and journals cited are reputable and reliable sources."

Di Anna C. Kovacs, Media Coordinator

Roanoke High School

Roanoke, VA

"The students like this resource because of the ease with which they can search the database... Another reason the students like this search tool so much is that it doesn't take a long time to find what they are looking for. Most students only have a half hour of study hall to spend in the Media Center and they have learned that SIRS is speedy! SIRS also gets high approval for content, ease-of-use with little teacher intervention, graphics that can also be printed, and constant upgrading..."

WCHS Media Center