

## ProQuest Reading Level Indicators in eLibrary and SIRS

**1. eLibrary Reading Level (generic)** -- This is the default eLibrary reading level indicator that is based on the Gunning Fogg Flesch-Kincaid Index. This index provides a number on a scale of 0-21 that reflects the number of words with three syllables, number of words per sentence and more. Documents containing paragraphs with longer words and sentences are thought to be harder to read, and will therefore result in a higher reading level number.

You can search by reading level range. (If you select "Elementary", the documents will include reading levels 0-6, "Middle" includes 4-10, "High School" includes 8-14 and "Beyond" includes 12-20.) A reading level will be displayed for each document on the results page. You may also sort the result list by reading level so that the less-difficult documents appear at the top.

Note: Pictures and other multimedia are listed with a reading level of 0, and are still included even if you select a reading level range. For example, while selecting a reading level of "Middle" nominally returns documents with levels 4 through 10, documents with a listed reading level of 0 — such as pictures — will also appear.

**2. Lexile Reading Level Scores**-- Many states and standardized test publishers have adopted the Lexile reading level indicator because it is the only method that is based on scientific research of the degree of difficulty of reading. The Lexile system was designed to match document readability with student reading ability. When properly matched, students should be able to read and understand at least 80% of the Lexiled text. Student Lexiles ranges are determined by standardized testing results that are available to teachers in each school. The scale ranges from 200-1700.

**Lexile Score Table** from [www.lexile.com](http://www.lexile.com):

Age	School Year	Typical Lexile Level
7	3	300-800
8	4	400-900
9	5	500-1000
10	6	600-1100
11	7	700-1200
12	8	800-1300
13	9	900-1400
14	10	1000-1700
15	11	1100-1700
16	12	1200-1700

Note the correlation of grade and Lexile score

Lexiles are based on sentence length and how often specific words are used in the English language. While elementary school students typically read in the 200-750 Lexile range, middle school students typically read in the range of 700 to 1000, and many high school students read at levels near the top of the scale.

*It is recommended that students read at a level that is 100 points below and up to 50 points above their personal Lexile score.* For more information on [Lexiles in eLibrary](#), retrieve this set of PowerPoint files. One contains a broad overview of Lexiles, while the second focuses on Lexiles within eLibrary.

You can specify your own Lexile score in the advanced search fields. Documents consisting primarily of pictures, audio or video will not display a Lexile value but will still appear in the results list. If a Lexile score is specified, the query will only retrieve results 100 points below and 50 points above the specified score. For instance, entering a Lexile value of 950 will return results between 850-1000 Lexiles. You may also sort the result list by Lexile so that the less-difficult documents appear at the top.

**3. SIRS Editor-Rated Reading Levels** -- SIRS Editors select only articles with reading levels appropriate for **K-8 in Discoverer**. They then classify each using the categories *General*, *Easy*, *Moderate*, and *Challenging* to provide guidance to students and teachers. Discoverer also provides Lexile searching and sorting as another method of evaluating each article for reading difficulty.

SIRS Researcher with Leading Issues rates all search results for article in Lexiles. Students and teachers can sort the results in either in ascending or descending order.

**4. California Reading List Numbers (CRL #)** -- You will probably see reading levels expressed in CRL numbers if your school or district is in California and your administrator has selected this option. The state of California has adopted the California Reading List as their standard reading level measurement. All California students in grades 2-11 are tested for their CRL number using the Lexile test (see above).

Obtaining a CRL number involves rounding each student's Lexile level and then chopping off the last two digits. Parents receive notification of their child's CRL number as part of an annual assessment known as a STAR report. It is recommended that students read at a CRL number that is one point below or one point above their tested CRL number. Elementary students typically read texts with CRL numbers between one and seven. You can specify the CRL number recommended for you in the advanced search fields. Documents consisting primarily of pictures, audio or video will not display a CRL number but will still appear in the results list. If a CRL number is specified, the query will only retrieve documents that are one CRL number above or below the number. You may also sort the result list by CRL number so that the less-difficult documents appear at the top.