



SIRS Researcher® with SIRS® Leading Issues

At-A-Glance for School Leaders

- Product Description:** SIRS Researcher with Leading Issues is a library general reference digital resource for teaching and learning.
- Curriculum Level:** High schools, and upper middle and junior high schools
- Resource Overview:** SIRS Researcher with Leading Issues provides both general reference and **targeted** learning resources for the study of Social Issues, Government, Science, and World Affairs. Tens of thousands of **editor-selected** *full-text articles*, maps, photos, and websites ensure that students can find relevant and authoritative learning resources quickly and easily, saving more time for achievement and test score-increasing skills of analysis, synthesis, and presentation.
- A variety of search types may also include WebSelect websites in the Results List. All articles and Websites are editorially-selected for their value in supporting **curriculum, state standards**, credibility, and multiple points of view. SIRS **summaries** for each resource **save time for learning** for both students and teachers.
- Teachers can use the **Standards Search** tool to find and print standards-based learning materials for reading and class discussion that helps keep textbooks current and students engaged. **Reference** resources help students to understand what they are reading and discover related information. **Lexile** and SIRS reading level indicators provide the reading guidance that teachers can use and students need to select resources that they can understand. Information is organized according to **Library of Congress** derived subject headings that **correlate** with the traditional print collections in each school library.
- Leading Issues** provides more than 90 Pro vs. Con real world controversies to engage students in debate and other forms of presentation. The unique 5-step process ensures critical thinking.
- Supporting School Leader Priorities:**
- [*Appropriate Learning Resources for All Students*](#) — All resources are **selected by experienced editors**, including former teachers, and indexed to curriculum topics and standards appropriate for grades 8-12. Many primary resources support the needs of **AP** or **IB** courses. Lexile scores for each article support the needs of challenged readers.
- [*Leading Issues Provide Real World Focus and Critical Thinking*](#) – Connecting students to the real life problems of their world and using critical thinking are the keys to student engagement and learning. [*Leading Issues*](#) provide a unique **5-step process** for each issue that ensures students develop critical thinking skills.
- [*Proven Learning Pedagogy*](#) — Inquiry-based learning has been proven by [*scientific research*](#) to be more effective in the long run in building essential skills and learning academic content, too. Textbook learning

that depends on rote is quickly diminishing in importance. **AP** and **IB** courses rely on integrating multiple inquiry-based activities in the learning process. Recently, SIRS Researcher was awarded an A+ by School Library Journal as compared to other library resources.

CIPA and Filtering for Websites — Each resource and website is **editorially selected** to ensure there are no inappropriate links and no or minimal advertising, thus reducing the need for **supervision** and limiting **problems** associated with **student discipline**.

Standards Correlation Tool — Teachers can search for articles and websites that are correlated to their state **content standards**. State standards for essential Language Arts skills and critical thinking are inherent in every well-designed inquiry-based learning assignment.

Training and Professional Development — No resource and related pedagogy can be effective unless teachers are trained in the use and development of strategies to integrate the resource into the subject area that they teach. ProQuest provides a variety of online and in-person trainings to ensure best results for your students.

Teacher Power:

Standards Correlation — Teachers can search for articles and websites automatically correlated to state content standards with the new **content standards search** tool.

Building Critical Thinking with Leading Issues — The unique 5-step process that includes Issue Overview, Pro vs. Con, and My Analysis sections of each Leading Issue, guides students to use and develop the critical thinking process.

Keeping Curriculum and Textbooks Current — Teachers who rely on textbooks can use Researcher to expand content by “fair use” printing of current (updated each day) articles, maps, and photos for class discussion and to include in student notebooks.

Models for Student Reports & Presentations — Most teachers lack experience in providing models for students to use for written reports and **PowerPoint presentations**. Teachers also may have difficulty evaluating these activities when their major tool has been multiple choice tests. ProQuest provides a **rubrics evaluation** tool model.

Home Access — Teacher planning time is limited in school. Home access to Researcher and Leading Issues provides the flexibility that good teachers need to plan effective lessons.

Summary for Each Article and Website — Summaries save teacher time in selecting the best resources to use for classroom activities.

Teachable Moments — ProQuest newsletter for teachers includes a Researcher activity and Spotlight themed to significant events for each month such as Women’s History and Black History Month.

Curriculum Pathfinders — Organizes editor-selected resources by curriculum area and the most taught topics in that area to help students find information faster and more easily.

eBook Collection – Access to a growing eBook collection of classical literature provides a strategy to expand what students can read simultaneously beyond classroom and library collections.

Student Power:

Reading with Understanding – Access to an interactive dictionary, thesaurus, almanac, and encyclopedia increases vocabulary and understanding of articles.

Beats Surfing and Googling – Students get articles and websites, save time in searching, get reading level support, and get summaries to help them select the best resources.

Home and Community Center Access – Student time on school computers is often limited. Home and Community Center Access increases learning opportunities.

Citation Support – Examples of the most popular citation styles for a variety of print and digital resources is just a click away.

Time-Saving Tools – *My Research* tool provides students an easy way to collect their selected resources from their search results. They can then print, e-mail to home, or email and share with their research team their Tagged list. The list can also be used for Works Cited.

NCLB Connection:

Reading Level Selection – All articles are rated for reading difficulty by **Lexiles** to help teachers help students to select appropriately.

State Standards Correlation – Teachers can search for resources directly correlated to state and national **academic content standards**.

Reference Tools to Aid Vocabulary and Understanding – Easy access to a dictionary, thesaurus, and almanac help students to build reading vocabulary and aid understanding.

Technology Integration – Every ProQuest mini-research activity integrates teacher and student technology, information literacy, and **language arts** skills.

Activities that Increase Achievement – When teachers get ProQuest training in creating effective mini-research activities, students will build critical thinking skills, language arts skills, and learn academic content in-depth. This will translate into higher state test scores.

Summarizing School Leader Priorities:

1. Integrating technology, information literacy, and 21st Century Literacy and Skills into curriculum and instruction
2. Raising state test scores in essential language arts skills and critical thinking.
3. Using the power of inquiry-based activities for engaged learning.
4. Correlating lesson plans and resources to state standards.
5. Accessing appropriate reading level resources for all students.
6. Providing free training that focuses on effective teacher use of new resources.
7. Ensuring safe, credible, and relevant content to ensure CIPA compliance and save supervision problems and time for learning.