

Grades 6-8

Benchmark A: Use the online public access catalog to locate school library materials for classroom assignments and personal interests.

Grade Six

Online Public Access Catalog

1. Use the author, title, subject and keyword search features of the OPAC to locate school library materials.
2. Understand the difference between the subject & keyword search in the OPAC.
3. Use the OPAC to determine call letters/numbers for library materials (e.g., use to locate library material, identify call letters/numbers and retrieve the material from library).

Grade Seven

Online Public Access Catalog

1. Conduct OPAC searches using Boolean logic (e.g., "AND," "OR," "NOT").
2. Identify information about library materials in the OPAC bibliographic record (e.g., publication date, summary, location, availability).
3. Login to the OPAC remotely via username and password (e.g., login to the OPAC from the classroom or from home).
4. Access OPACs from other libraries via the Internet (public library catalog).

Grade Eight

1. Perform advanced OPAC searches by using Boolean operators, keywords, and subject terms (e.g., "AND," "OR," "NOT").
2. Select library materials based on descriptors and subject terms in the OPAC bibliographic record.
3. Access the school library OPAC and other available OPACs remotely.

Benchmark B: Develop search strategies, retrieve information in a variety of formats and evaluate the quality and appropriate use of Internet resources.

Grade Six

Internet Concepts

1. Explain the function of a Web browser (e.g., what is the difference between the browser software and a page on the Internet?).

Search Engines

2. Incorporate place searching when searching for information using assigned directories and search engines.
3. Use phrase searching in appropriate search engines to improve results.

Evaluating Sources

4. Evaluate Web information for:
 - a. Author's expertise
 - b. Accuracy of information presented
 - c. Parameters of coverage
 - d. Currency of information.
5. Explain the difference between a subscription (fee-based database) & the free Internet.
6. Compare the range of information available from multiple information databases (e.g., examine the purpose and scope of each database and how it would be used for a particular assignment).

Grade Seven

Internet Concepts

1. Recognize that some Web information requires special software for its use (e.g., discuss what plug-ins are and how they expand the use of the Internet).

Search Strategies

2. Search a student-selected online directory or search engine by subject, keyword, author, title, date or format.
3. Use Boolean operators in the search process (e.g., use Boolean logic to expand a search and to limit a search "AND," "NOT").
4. Compare information found in searches done on different types of Internet resources (e.g., meta engine, directory, search engine).
5. Report elements of a Web site that make it effective (e.g., describe why the Web site is appropriate for the particular information needed).

Grade Eight

Internet Concepts

1. Troubleshoot error messages in a Web browser (e.g., procedure to use when a page is not found to verify the address, use refresh and stop buttons).

Search Strategies

2. Incorporate Boolean operators in the search process for curricular needs (e.g., know the basic Boolean operators and use them in a search).
3. Compare information found in searches done on different search engines, directory, search engine, meta engine; and discuss differences in how search engines select and provide information (e.g., results ranked by relevancy, popularity or paid placement).

Web Site Evaluation

4. Compare several Web sites on the same topic and evaluate the purpose of each site (e.g., use several sites for a specific curricular need and note whether the sites have similar or conflicting data).

Benchmark C: Select, access, and use appropriate electronic resources for a defined information need.

Grade Six

Electronic Resources

1. Demonstrate search techniques for subscription (fee-based) databases (e.g., author, title, subject).
2. Use online library catalog to choose and locate a variety of resources on a topic.

Grade Seven

Electronic Resources

1. Compare search results through the use of different keywords (e.g., search for conservation information using "garbage" and search again using "waste disposal").

Grade Eight

Electronic Resources

1. Select research databases that align with identified information need (e.g., specialized databases on government, science, history, as needed for assignments).
2. Locate and use advanced search features and appropriate tools such as Boolean operators ("AND," "OR," "NOT") and a thesaurus in an online database.