INTERNET RESEARCH SKILLS

1. Define the task

What exactly must be researched? It's very easy to get lost if children do not know precisely what they are looking for. In elementary school the subjects may be relatively simple, but they still must be defined accurately to aid in the search. Teachers should talk with students about what they will be looking for and how to get specific results. The more specific they can get, the easier it will be to come up with search terms.

2. Discover keywords

Elementary school students may not fully grasp the concept of keywords, so they'll need to be instructed in this foundational aspect of search technology. Search engines perform well only if correct keywords are used, and students need to learn how to come up with those words to get the results they need. Keywords are typically based upon the most common approach to discussing a subject. Often, it will take some trial and error to discover just what keyword combination yields the desired results. Teachers can create a whole lesson around keywords, including what they are, how they work and how to find them.

3. Use appropriate tools

Google and Bing are probably the most popular search engines, but they may not be the best for teaching research skills to young people. Teacher Mary Beth Hertz recommends one of the more popular search engines for students, Sweet Search, whose results are screened by experts. Using something like Sweet Search may make it easier to teach research skills by weeding out a lot of the chaff that so often comes up on the more popular engines (see examples from Mary Beth Hertz on the next slide)

4. Teach about source hierarchy and evaluation

Elementary students can comprehend the tiers of legitimacy related to information-gathering. Teachers can explain about primary sources, original research and the reliability of information found on the Web. Kids can learn about how information travels from research papers to news sources to blogs and so on. By going through examples, teachers can demonstrate the way various information sources find their information and present it to the public, and how to determine which information is best to use for their projects. Children may not need to cite abstracts from scientific research papers, but they can learn to seek information more intelligently.

5. Take notes and compile information

The complexity of note-taking skills will depend on the students' grade level, but even kids in the younger grades can learn to take pencil to paper and record the most important pieces of information they gather. The better they get at finding quality sources, the easier the note-taking will become. Students should also learn how to cite their sources appropriately.

Here are some resources that help along the way:
[The SweetSearch Tutorial](): Not only is SweetSearch an amazing search tool for kids, but they have some great resources here for helping digest what research is and how to approach it.
[Copyright Confusion Wiki](): A one-stop shop for all things copyright and fair use.
[How to Do Research]() Another take on the research process from the Kentucky Virtual Library.
[Diigo for Educators]() A robust social bookmarking tool through which students can bookmark sites, highlight right on the site, share bookmarks with their peers and take notes on webpages. Teachers can create student accounts without needing emails.
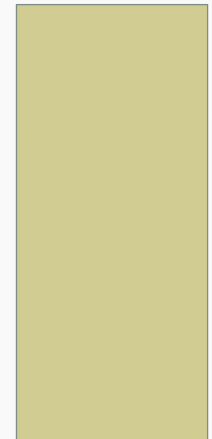[SweetSearch]() A kid-friendly search engine.
[EasyBib]() A robust online citation and organizing tool.
[Flickr]() Find copyright-free images with Creative Commons licenses.
[Search Creative Commons]() Find Creative Commons content on popular sites.

TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

NEWSELA

- URL: Newsela.com
- Newsela.com is a free website for students with extensive non-fiction articles. Each article has a version of the same content at 5 different reading levels. The website also includes CCSS connections and quizzes to accompany the articles (not something I would use, but it is an option). They have a wide range of high-interest topics with updated articles every day. This website is a great resource for finding accessible text on almost any content area topic that is relevant, up-to-date and at an appropriate reading level for students. This would also be a great tool for inquiry and independent research topics in the content areas. The content areas extend beyond the typical science and basic social studies, it also includes articles for health, the arts, and various other topics. This could greatly enhance the resources and texts for content area teaching without limiting topic options because of readability factors. Likewise, for whole-group instruction, all students can be reading the same article, but at different readability levels.

WEBSITE: ANIMAPS

- URL - http://www.animaps.com/#!home
- This free website allows students to create animated maps. The maps can include moving markers, and incorporate video, photos, icons, and text. Animaps uses Google maps so the maps are always up to date. The most interesting feature of this website is that the maps are also linked to time. Students can create maps that show how countries borders change over time, how a character in novel moves through current or historical places, or show the effects of pollution or deforestation on animal populations. Animaps can help students create a visual representation of any content that takes place in a real place and a particular time frame. These maps can be made in conjuction with reading aparticular content area text or after a unit of study. For example, if students were to read about the Silk Road, they could trace the path of the Silk Road, adding in their own text boxes to summarize the reading or highlight key ideas. They could also bring in photos and links to other websites where additional information can be found. The added feature of the timeline would help readers to understand just how long a journey on the Silk Road would take.

BRAINPOP JR.

- URL: http://www.brainpopjr.com/
- Brainpop Jr. is great anticipatory set to use for all subject areas. It has some very beneficial introduction videos for science, social studies, health, art, math, and reading. In searching deeper into the website, I also found a link called "BrainPop Educators" where they include lesson plans, graphic organizers, student project ideas, professional development opportunities, and educational games for the students to play in the classroom or at home. This is a free website with a substansial amount of free resources that could support content area literacy instruction.

CLIMATE KIDS

- URL: http://climatekids.nasa.gov/
- Climatekids is a great website where students can explore about global climate change by reading different articles about energy, weather, air, oceans, plants/animals, technology and more. Each section includes games, trivia, articles, crafts, videos, activities, and more. Each topic, includes multiple readings which use many text features to help students obtain more information. This website is created by NASA so it is a extremely reliable source of information. There s even a section where students can read about different careers which help our earth stay green. The website is organized in a very easy way for students to navigate and gather information. This is a great website for students to use to research information and answer questions they may have about our earth.

DOGO NEWS

- DOGO News is a news website for kids. It contains news articles about current events that is updated daily. Each news article includes vocabulary words. If you click on the vocabulary word, you can listen to a pronunciation and see a definition. Also, each news article has a video clip that relates to the topic. For example, some articles have NBC news clips about the topic. Each article also includes images and diagrams. At the end of each article there are comprehension questions you could use with students. It also contians brain challenges you can give to students to extend their learning or relate it to other topics learned. The website also has a book section that reviews new books for students.

ENCHANTED LEARNING

- URL: Enchantedlearning.com
- Enchanted Learning is an educational website with over 35,000 resources covering a wide range of high-interest topics. You can find almost any social studies or science concept, everything from animals to weather or holidays around the world to Martin Luther King Jr. It is an excellent resource to use when planning content area units. The sheer number of resources makes it an easy stop for any teacher. The website is fairly easy to navigate, especially if you are searching for a specific topic. The activities and resources available emphasize creativity and exploration while enhancing content area learning. My personal favorites are the plethora of diagrams and close reading passages. I am especially fond of these resources because I often run into the issue of finding non-fiction text my first graders can access independently. These short passages and diagrams provide my students with the information they need to be successful. I also love that they can mark all over the print outs, highlighting key ideas and details and identifying supporting evidence in the text. The only drawback to the website is that they limit the free access. To access the entire website you need to become a member.

GENIUS HOUR

- http://www.geniushour.com/
- Genius hour is a movement that allows students to explore their own passions and encourages creativity in the classroom. It provides students a choice in what they learn during a set period of time in the school day. Basically, for one hour out of the day students research a topic of choice and work on an in-depth global project. The research topics and projects are multi-faceted and complex in nature. Genius Hour stemmed from Google's policy of allowing it's engineers to spend 20% of their time to work on any project they want. Google found that allowing the time to explore their passions increased work productivity and was the catalyst for some of the company's greatest projects. This website is a support system for teachers who believe in student inquiry and the idea of creating life long learners. The resources include booklists, tutorials on setting up a Genius Hour in your class, sample Genius projects, teacher links, and student resources. Genius Hour is not a place to gather information about a specific content area, rather it is a forum for those who are passionate about content area inquiry!

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS

- http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/
- National Geographic Kids is a great tool for literacy in the classroom. On the website students can explore different science topics that include text, images, video, and interactive games. By catching student interest, this site can increase literacy by making learning fun and interesting.

SOCIETY FOR SCIENCE

- https://student.societyforscience.org
- Student Science is a free website and the most useful category to students is the "ScienceNews for Students." It has a lot of high-interest and recent science news. It has five content-centered sub topics: Atoms & Forces, Earth & Sky, Humans & Health, Life, Tech & Math.
- In addition to this, the section of For Educator is introducing several sub categories: Great Science Projects, which provides a roadmap helping students to successfully complete an independent research project; STEM Careers, which presents cool jobs in each science areas, Teaching Science which has some materials for teachers' and finally In the Classroom, which offers various reading articles to be used in the class.

TIME FOR KIDS

- http://www.timeforkids.com/news

- Time for kids is AMAZING. The kids love this website because of all the interesting student friendly non-fiction articles they get to read. Time for Kids gives the students access to all kinds of news such as world, national, science, entertainment, health, and sports. With this wide variety all your students will find something they are willing and will enjoy reading. The website also includes pintables, comprehension based assessments that go along with the articles, photos, and videos. This website would be great to use when teaching main topic/ key details of expository text, text features, academic vocabulary, sequencing, cause and effect, and all other strategies and concepts that revolve around non-fiction texts