TIPS AND SOURCES FOR COUNTRY RESEARCHERS

BOOK RESEARCH

- Search the OPAC for books on your research topic using Subject, Keyword and Power searches. (This has already been done for you so just search the cart of books in your classroom)
- When you have found a book to use first turn to the Table of Contents and browse the chapter headings for useful information.
- To answer more specific questions turn to the Index in the back of the book and search for keywords that might be helpful and turn to the pages listed to read the information.
- For the definitions of unfamiliar words that appear in the text look for the Glossary near the back of the book.
- When taking notes using a book be sure to include the title of the book at the top of your note cards and put a #1 in the right hand corner.
- When you are finished your research, the OPAC can help you to create citations for books you use from Pennypack’s library. To write a book citation for a book from another library you will need these pieces of information that can be obtained from the title page and verso: title, author, place of publication (city), publisher and copyright date. Please be sure to copy this information down on a note card to use later or bring the book to class when we are doing the Works Cited page for your project.
WEB SOURCES FOR RESEARCH

WORLD BOOK ONLINE

➢ In school open the Reference Folder on the computer to access World Book Web.
➢ Click to open it and then open World Book Student.
➢ Type your country name into the search bar and click search.
➢ A list of articles will come up and usually the first one or two are the most helpful.
➢ Open your country article and browse the article contents by clicking : on the top right of the page for information that you can use. Click on a heading to go to that part of the article and read the information.
➢ After you take notes from an article, scroll to the bottom and copy and paste the MLA citation into your Works Cited page and identify it on your note card with a #2 and WB and the name of the article.
➢ This resource may also be accessed at home by going to www.worldbookonline.com and using the username: horsham and the password: hatters
➢ More helpful information on research skills may be found on the home page under Research Tools- How to do Research.
➢ A citation builder is also available under Research Tools to help you build citations for books, websites, and other media.
SIRS DISCOVERER

- Locate Power Library in the Reference folder and click to open
- Scroll down to Children’s Resources and click to open it up
- Scroll down the list (alphabetical order) to SIRS Discoverer and click to open
- From the SIRS Discoverer home page look for Country Facts & Maps under the Explore Features section in the middle of the page and click on it.
  a. Click on the A-Z list to find your country and click on its name to open the article.
  b. For more articles and websites on your country click on Learn more about (country name)... at the end of the article or click on the sailboat icon on the top left corner of the page to return to the home page and do a subject search for your country.
- When looking for additional articles and websites limit yourself to those close to your grade level by clicking the Lexile (low to high) in the blue box on the left side of the page. This will list the easiest to read articles first. You may also choose more specific articles from “see also” in the blue box on the left.
- After finding any information from SIRS Discoverer go to the bottom of the page and copy the MLA citation and paste it to your Works Cited page and write SD and the title of the article you used and #2 on the top of you note cards.
- SIRS Discoverer may be accessed at home through your public library website using your library card number.
WEBSITES USING WEBPATH EXPRESS

- Before you begin make a new resource list in OPAC and give it the name of your country to add your websites to.
- Open the OPAC in the reference folder and then log in again on the opening screen in the upper right corner.
- Choose WebPath Express from the menu on the left side of the screen
- Type your country into the Find bar and click Search
- A list of websites will come up that can then be filtered to what you need by using the drop down menus at the top.
- Click on the Related Topics drop menu and select the name of your country or the exact topic you are interested in
- Click on the Grade level menu and choose 3-5
- With the choices made click on Get Results
- A new and much shorter list of websites will appear that will be more grade level appropriate and specific to your needs.
- Read the summaries and open the websites that you want to use by clicking on the title.
- When you use a website copy the URL from the bottom left corner of the list onto your note card with a #2 and click Add to this List to add it to your OPAC resource list making sure that the Selected List at the top of the page is the one you’ve made for this project.

YOU MAY ONLY USE WEBSITES FROM WEBPATH EXPRESS OR SIRS DISCOVERER THAT ARE KNOW TO BE SAFE AND APPROPRIATE. YOU MAY NOT USE GOOGLE TO FIND WEBSITES.
PRINT ENCYCLOPEDIA RESEARCH

➢ When using a print (book) encyclopedia for research start by using the index volume to look up the name of your country. You will probably find the main article listed in the letter volume that your country’s name begins with but you may find that other useful articles about your country and found throughout several other volumes.

➢ After the title of the article the volume letter or number will be listed first, followed by the page number in the volume.

➢ When you locate the article you need, skim over it with your eyes looking for the subheadings that the article is broken up into to help you find the part of the article to read for the research you are doing.

➢ At the end of the article you may find a list of “see also” articles that are related to what you have been researching and may also be helpful.

➢ Identify print encyclopedia articles on your note cards with #1 and the Title of the Encyclopedia as well as the title of the article you used for your research.

➢ If the encyclopedia you use is from Pennypack Library then you will be able to use OPAC to create your citation. If the encyclopedia is from your classroom you will use a citation template to make the citation later using information from the title page and verso of the encyclopedia.