TIPS FOR DISASTER RESEARCHERS

BOOK RESEARCH

- Search the OPAC for books on your disaster research topic using Subject, Keyword and Power searches.
- 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 new or technical 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 identify your source at the top of your note cards with title and author and #1.
- 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.

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 disaster topic 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 disaster article and browse the article contents by clicking [ ] on the top right corner 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 #2 WB and the title 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.

**WEBSITES USING WEBPATH EXPRESS**

- 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 topic 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 of the page.
- Click on the Related Topics drop down menu and select the exact topic you are interested in.
- Click on the Grade level menu and choose 3-5
- With the choices made click 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 visit by clicking on the title.

Copy the URL from the bottom left corner of the list onto your note card with a #2 and click Add to this List (right side) to add the website 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) encyclopedias for research start by using the index volume to look up your disaster topic. You will probably find the main article listed in the letter volume that your disaster’s name begins with but you may find that other useful articles about your disaster are 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 then you will need to use a citation template to make the citation later using information from the title page and verso of the encyclopedia.

SIRS DISCOVERER

Locate Power Library in the Reference folder and click to open.
Scroll down to Children’s Resources and click to open.
Scroll down the list (alphabetical order) to SIRS Discoverer and click to open.

The SIRS Discoverer database contains thousands of magazine and newspaper articles as well as safe websites that are searchable by subject or keyword.
Under the search bar at the top of the home page click on subject search and type in your disaster topic and then click search. A list of subjects related to what you typed in will come up and you can choose the one you want.
Next a list of articles and websites will appear with summaries. 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 then organize the list with the easiest to read articles.
first. You may also choose more specific related topics from “see also” in the blue box on the left.

- After taking notes on any information from SIRS Discoverer go to the bottom of the article and copy the MLA citation and paste it to your Works Cited page under Non Print Resources. Don’t forget to identify the source as **SD #2** and the article or website title on your note cards.

- SIRS Discoverer may be accessed at home through your public library website using your library card number.