Harnessing the Power of ELM for Student Research

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How students research

- More dependent on Open Web
  - Wikipedia
  - Top Google search results
  - Don’t know what’s missing
- Providing full-text access to credible sources is expensive
What is ELM?

- ELM =
  - Electronic
  - Library for
  - Minnesota
ELM: An Overview

- Online portal for magazines, journals, newspapers, encyclopedias, ebooks, practice tests & more
  - All subjects covered
  - K-12, academic and public content
- Made possible by local libraries, the Minitex resource sharing network, State Library Services & MN Library Agency
- Funded through state appropriations
ELM: A Little History

- The ELM Portal launched Jan. 3 2006
- Every 5-7 years resources are reviewed by librarians from across the state
- Option to renew current databases for 1-2 more years
Who can access ELM?

- Any Minnesota resident, anytime, anywhere with an Internet connection
How do you access it?

- Multiple ways!
  - ELM website – [http://www.elm4you.org](http://www.elm4you.org)
  - Public library website
  - School media center website
  - MnLink

- Users may need to authenticate with MN public library ID
Why you should use it

- Reliable information on wide variety of topics
- Databases for various student levels/populations
  - Students gain exposure to searching
  - Easier to find relevant items
- 24/7 availability
- Full-text content
Why you should use it (cont.)

- Cost-effective = it’s “free”!
- Shared resource across Minnesota
- Selected by statewide librarian task force (MEIR)
- All the cool kids are doing it!
66 unique databases
Browse by Topic, Content Type, Grade Level, Database Name or Publication
Britannica entries have reading levels

http://www.elm4you.org/
Know Before You Click

- Make sure your students are familiar with basic search strategies (e.g., keywords, basic vs advanced searching, etc.).
Know Before You Click

- Explore ELM Games
- ELM Topic Sets
- Familiarize yourself with the specific databases you want your students to use.
- A great place for kids to start searching is by Grade
Need help using ELM?

- ELM Learning Center
  - Collection of instructional materials on the ELM databases created by Minitex librarians.
  - Includes fact sheets, short videos, activities, and recorded webinars that can be viewed and used on demand, whenever they're needed.
Need help using ELM?

- AskMN (https://askmn.org/)
  - Online service that will connect you with a librarian
Need Help Connecting to ELM?

- Talk to your tech staff
- From the ELM website click on “Librarians”
- Click “Set up ELM On Your Library Website”
- Fill out Registration Form
- Questions? Use the Contact Form
Questions? Comments?

If you want to chat further, contact us at

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Thank you for coming!