

Librarian's Shelf by Karen Connell

Travel the World with your library

As the weather turns colder, we tend to stay indoors more often. But thanks to the Columbus Public Library's online resources, you can experience the world from the comfort of your own home. View pictures and try recipes from other countries while learning about their culture, climate, history, music, and more. With A to Z the World and A to Z the USA you can access a plethora of information about the United States and countries around the world. These websites are also mobile friendly so you can access all the same information via your smartphone, no matter where you are.

World Trade Press, the publisher of A to Z the World and A to Z the USA, works with an international team of writers and topic experts to create the quality content found on these sites.

Using A to Z the USA, you can click on a state to learn basic state facts like the time zone, capital city, state motto, and view the state flag. But you can learn so much more! Biographies of famous residents, historical timelines, popular food (complete with recipes), National Parks details, and information on the state government are just a few of the things you can find on each state's page. Maps and photo collections are also available and can easily be downloaded or printed. Each state section also has crossword puzzles that can be printed to test your knowledge of the state.

You can find similar information about the United States as a whole in the second section of A to Z the USA. Land, People, and History Snapshots start out the Overview section of the United States profile. Climate & Weather, Life Cycles, and National Symbols are a few of the other information sections available. News Feeds for a variety of topics, including business, finance, and the environment, pull relevant articles from a variety of resources.

In the third section of A to Z the USA, you can learn the names of the US states, capitals, major cities, rivers, and lakes with the use of spoken video guides. A map is displayed, showing where the selected state, city, lake, or river is located. The names and location names are also displayed. You can also listen to the terms to help you learn pronunciation. This Geography section is a great tool to use to memorize states and capital cities.

A to Z the World is organized in the same style as A to Z the USA. Once on the website, select a country to browse, or search for a specific topic. Country information included ranges from business and government, to holidays and recipes. Lesson plans for teachers are available for grades 7 to 12 and comply with a variety of learning standards.

All information from both resources can be easily printed and cited in Chicago style, MLA, and APA citation formats, making them great resources for research.

To access these resources visit the Digital Library page of our website, www.cplconnect.us. If accessing outside the Columbus Public Library, you will be prompted for your library card number. Simply enter the number and enjoy!

Stop by or call the Columbus Public Library at 402-564-7116 if you have any questions about A to Z the World, A to Z the USA, or any of our online resources. Visit our website www.cplconnect.us to access these or other online resources from home.