

Librarian's Shelf by Karen Stuart

Explore Your World Online

Whether you are thinking about taking a vacation overseas, want to plan a themed 'staycation,' or you are just curious about other countries, "A to Z the World" is for you! School may be out for the summer, but "A to Z the World" will still be available for next year and is an excellent resource for country reports and other assignments.

"A to Z the World" is one of the Columbus Public Library's online resources. It can be accessed through our website's E-Materials page at www.columbusne.us/library: Simply log in with your library card number from any device with a web browser and internet access.

Start exploring "A to Z the World" by choosing a country one of two ways: by clicking the country on the map provided or selecting the name from an alphabetical list. From here, you can learn all about the country you've chosen: their business customs, climate and weather, culture, educational system, language, music, national symbols, and more! You can listen to the national anthem under "Country Facts," see pictures of their flag and currency, read about the holidays they celebrate, try making some of their popular food items with the included recipes, and even print a crossword puzzle to help you learn more about the country.

When exploring Denmark on "A to Z the World" I learned that in 2012, the estimated population was 5,543,453 with 65% of that population between 15 and 64 years old. I also found a recipe for a Frikadeller, a type of meat ball popular with Scandinavians. Danish, or Dansk, is the official language of Denmark; however, English is a popular language for business purposes. In the National Symbols section, I learned that in 1984 the mute swan was chosen as Denmark's national bird. Swans were often found in Danish mythology and literature as symbols of beauty, purity, and innocence.

When you have finished exploring a country, you can select another country from the dropdown box at the top or return to the home page by clicking "main menu." On each page of the "A to Z the World" website there is an option to email the page, print in a print-friendly format, and cite the document so you can easily give proper credit for the information you found.

If English is not your first language (or you are learning another and would like to practice), don't feel left out! This entire resource can be explored in the language you choose by using the "Google translate" feature imbedded in the top right corner of the website. You can navigate the menus, photos descriptions, text, and even print in the language that is easiest for you to read! "A to Z the World" also has an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant version of their website that makes it easier to navigate the topic menu.

Call us at 402-564-7116 and we would be glad to help you navigate our resources! You can also make an individual appointment with Rachelle or Karen, or stop by one of Columbus Public Library's Tech Tuesday events on the 2nd Tuesday of every month from 6-8pm.