Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

Excellent E-Resources for Students @ Your Columbus Public Library!

When it comes to offering tangible resources to students, the Columbus Public Library (CPL) has a number of quality hardbound and paperback items from which to select. CPL also provides young learners with reputable newspapers and magazines like The Wall Street Journal and Popular Science.

In addition to supplying students with sound hard-copy items, CPL also has a variety of online resources that students can utilize by getting onto the library's NEW website (www.cplconnect.us) and clicking on "Children's Room." There students will find five databases perfect for engaging young minds.

Probably the most beneficial database for students would be "Primary School Explora." This database, managed by EBSCO Host (one of the top sources of online information), actually consists of four databases. What this means is that when students conduct a search, they are essentially accomplishing four searches at one time, maximizing results in less time. Because "Primary School Explora" offers full-length articles, students can access the entire article they need without having to go from source to source. This database also has a feature that literally reads the article to students, which can be beneficial for students who struggle with reading.

When writing about a social topic, it is important for students to have both sides of the argument equally represented. An excellent resource that students can use to assist them in meeting this objective is "Point of View Reference Center." This database covers 370+ topics and can be run using a basic search bar. Once a topic is selected, students are provided with background information on the issue at hand. Along the right side of the site, users can select "Point" (the argument in favor of the topic) or "Counterpoint" (the argument against the topic). Both "Point" and "Counterpoint" provides just the facts for the various arguments, so students can draw educated conclusions on the topic at hand for themselves.

The next resource I would like to highlight will require students to navigate to a different location on CPL's website. Rather than going to "The Children's Room," they will go to "Digital Resources." There patrons will find "Biography Resource Center." This database contains 460,000 full-text biographies and allows students to search by individual name, occupation, country, or nationality. Students can also search by special categories such as key players in WWII, Nobel Peace Prize recipients, or royalty. "Biography Resource Center" is quite user friendly and guaranteed to find information on any person of interest.

So the next time your child has to write a report, paper, or speech stop by the Columbus Public Library and checkout the many tangible items we have available. In addition, be sure to look into the various databases CPL has to offer. Using both online and hard copy sources will help children gain the knowledge they need to compose the best document they can. If you have questions regarding the items featured in this article, please contact me at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4.