Using the Library & Databases

**WebQuest Description**: Students will use virtual libraries and databases to access reliable, validated, and authentic information for school projects.

**Grade Level**: 6-8

**Curriculum**: Technology

**Keywords**: library, databases, research

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**Introduction**

It is 8:00 pm the night before your South America culminating project is due, and you haven't finished gathering all of the facts for your five themes cube on Brazil. You turn on your computer and launch the web browser. Your first thought is, "I'll just Google it!" Wait, stop! There are better options out there. Travel through this Web Quest in search of more reliable ways to gather facts for your school projects.

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**Tasks**

1. Locate and access both BIS and C.L.A.M.S. virtual libraries.
2. Request a book or materials loan from both BIS and C.L.A.M.S. virtual catalogs.
3. Locate relevant information using resources found on BIS, C.L.A.M.S., and Library of Congress virtual libraries.
4. Use databases for fact-finding.
5. Use databases to cross-reference sources.
6. Download the OverDrive app onto a mobile device, tablet, or e-Reader to download e-books from C.L.A.M.S. virtual library.

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**Process**

Before you start your adventure through the virtual library, you will want to familiarize yourself with Melvil Dewey, the founder of the Dewey Decimal Classification System, which is the way libraries organize books and resources.

1. Music Smart friends: Click the School Tube link to watch a music video about Melvil Dewey called Dewey Decimal Rap:

   [http://www.schooltube.com/video/a6f0e9bf883c6426497b/The%20Dewey%20Decimal%20Rap](http://www.schooltube.com/video/a6f0e9bf883c6426497b/The%20Dewey%20Decimal%20Rap)

2. Art Smart friends: If rap isn't your thing, try this video out instead. It is called Sock Monkeys Do the Dewey System:


3. Word Smart friends: Take a self-guided reading journey at this site. You will find chapters that include Melvil Dewey's biography, an explanation of fiction and nonfiction classifications, a story about the DDCS, and some games & activities. It is called "Do We" Really Know Dewey?

   [http://library.thinkquest.org/5002/Basic/basic.htm](http://library.thinkquest.org/5002/Basic/basic.htm)

4. Body Smart friends: Need a little mouse-click motion? Try some interactive reading at this site called The Dewey Decimal Classification System: An Interactive Tour:


The next part of your Web Quest adventure is just a few clicks away. We will meet up with Mrs. Anthony at the Barnstable Intermediate School's virtual library. B. BIS Library Media Center Our school library has links to many different resources from borrowing a library book to researching for school projects. Don't forget, you are looking for facts that represent the five themes of geography for Brazil, so let's get clicking...

5. Click on the link for the BIS Library and scroll down to Virtual Catalogs. Now, click BIS Library Catalogs. We will meet in a new tab at the Winnebago Spectrum homepage.

   [http://www.barnstable.k12.ma.us/bis/curriculum/library.html](http://www.barnstable.k12.ma.us/bis/curriculum/library.html)

Do you remember the Spectrum card catalog stations from our library scavenger hunt? They are the four white computers across from the circulation desk. Mrs. Anthony provides us with an online card catalog which allows students with Internet connection to request a book loan 24/7.

6. Try a keyword search for Brazil.

   a) How many non-fiction books do we have about Brazil?

   b) What is the Dewey decimal number for the non-fiction books about Brazil? Click the Bibliography button at the bottom of the page.

   What a terrific feature! Within milliseconds up pops a citation for the books we have in our school library.
Don't you just love convenience? This is an easy way to follow copyright and fair use laws. But wait...if your project is due tomorrow, you won't be able to reserve a book tonight and pick it up tomorrow. You need valid information now. Never fear when the library is near...we will go on another adventure and search through databases. Close the Winnebago Spectrum tab (you will now see the BIS Library homepage). Scroll down to Library Databases and click on InfoTrac. If it asks you for a password, it is written on the classroom board. Then select PROCEED. Scroll to the bottom of the page. You are looking for two databases: Junior Edition K-12 and Kids InfoBits. If you have a library card?, you have ended up on the Junior Edition K-12 site. Click the back button on your browser until you return to the InfoTrac page. Then click on Kids InfoBits. Here is another student-friendly searchable database. This database includes a dictionary as well. At the top of the page you can see the search box. However, this database also has topic icons. Let's try searching using the topic icons. Click GEOGRAPHY...SEAS, RIVERS, & LAKES...AMAZON RIVER. We have stumbled upon five entries under the References tab that contain information about the Amazon River. Look at those tabs--what a wonderful system of organization! Kids InfoBits is definitely going to be a great resource center for school assignments. Click on the IMAGES tab and select the picture of the hut. Do you think this picture of the hut would make a colorful addition to your Brazil project? Under which of the five themes would you categorize the hut picture? Hey, did you notice that convenient PRINT icon in the top left of the page? Keep in mind that if you print it, you must include the URL with the picture. We wouldn't want you to violate your A.U.P. and copyright laws, would we? So far, so good. You have learned how to use the BIS Virtual Library Catalog, accessed and used two super-fabulous database, and gathered validated and relevant facts for your project. It's time to close the Kids InfoBits tab and return to the BIS Library webpage. We still have two more virtual libraries to visit: Follow the C.L.A.M.S. link to the next stop on our library quest! Cape Libraries Automated Materials Sharing. Click the first link, "What is C.L.A.M.S.?" and read the Welcome paragraph. You read about how Cape library card holders can access materials from libraries all over Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket. Do you have a library card? If not, you will be happy to know that they are free. All you have to do is go to your library with a parent or guardian and speak with a librarian. By the time we finish exploring the C.L.A.M.S. site you are going to want to rush over to your village library and sign up for your card! In addition to lending books, CDs, movies, and video games, your library also has free museum passes and e-books. Click the back button on your browser. Do you see the link for Museum Passes? Go ahead and click on it—scroll through the list of 28 different museums. Which of these museum passes do you think you and your family would enjoy? Click the back button. At the bottom left of the page you will see a search box. This works just like the search box in Winnebago Spectrum. Give it a try—type in a keyword search for Brazil. C.L.A.M.S. has over 1,000 materials on Brazil. Look to the far right and you will notice that some resources are books, music CDs, video cassettes, and DVDs. But, remember, you need a book tonight because your project is due tomorrow. Click the back button on your browser again. On the bottom right of the page you will see an icon for Digital Media. Give it a click. Digital media includes the newest book-on-the-block, the e-book. With the free OverDrive app downloaded to your mobile device, e-reader, or tablet, you are able to download books from the C.L.A.M.S. virtual library. Not familiar with OverDrive? Well, take a look at the library tutorial, Download Digital Books & more...

http://www.overdrive.com/Solutions/Libraries/tour/MenuWelcome.html

Looking for more information on OverDrive? Try this video from CNet, Get Free Books from the Library:
library? What is the title of one of the books on Brazil you found in the BIS virtual library? The C.L.A.M.S. virtual library? What facts were you able to gather about Brazil using the databases Junior Edition K-12 and Kids InfoBits? Which of these two databases were more user-friendly? Were the facts you found using these resources consistent or were there discrepancies? If you found a discrepancy, how did you verify the fact(s)? How can you assess the value of the OverDrive app?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category and Score</th>
<th>Advanced</th>
<th>Proficient</th>
<th>Needs Improvement</th>
<th>Warning</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dewey Decimal Classification System</td>
<td>After viewing videos, student was able to accurately describe the Dewey decimal classification system.</td>
<td>After viewing videos, student was able to describe the Dewey decimal classification system with minimal teacher support.</td>
<td>After viewing videos, student needed teacher support with a description of the Dewey decimal system.</td>
<td>After viewing videos, student was unable to describe the Dewey decimal system.</td>
<td>___/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Libraries &amp; Databases</td>
<td>Student was able to locate and access resources on the Virtual Libraries and its Databases without teacher intervention.</td>
<td>Student was able to locate and access resources on the Virtual Libraries and its Databases with minimal teacher intervention.</td>
<td>Student was able to locate and access resources on the Virtual Libraries and its Databases with continued teacher intervention.</td>
<td>Student was unable to locate and access resources on the Virtual Libraries and its Databases without teacher intervention.</td>
<td>___/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library of Congress</td>
<td>Student was able to locate and access resources at Library of Congress site without teacher intervention.</td>
<td>Student was able to locate and access resources at Library of Congress site with minimal teacher intervention.</td>
<td>Student was able to locate and access resources at Library of Congress site with continued teacher intervention.</td>
<td>Student was unable to locate and access resources at Library of Congress site without teacher intervention.</td>
<td>___/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five Themes of Brazil cube</td>
<td>Student found 5 facts about Brazil using library resources</td>
<td>Student found 3-4 facts about Brazil using library resources</td>
<td>Student found 1-2 facts about Brazil using library resources.</td>
<td>Student was not able to find facts related to Brazil using library resources.</td>
<td>___/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Score</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

**Conclusion**

Well, it’s been a long night, but you successfully used the BIS, C.L.A.M.S., and Library of Congress virtual libraries. You were able to locate useful and valid facts using reliable sources found in the library databases. Remember that with practice, routines become habits. The more you use the BIS and C.L.A.M.S. virtual libraries and databases, and the Library of Congress site, the easier it will be for you to find the information you are seeking. Plus, it will mean spending less time than searching through Google (believe me)! Check out some of the additional resources below.

**Teacher Page**

This is my first Web Quest creation. It came about as a means of providing my 300+ students with self-guided learning through the Dewey decimal system, and the resources found in our school and town libraries. It follows a lesson in which students conducted a scavenger hunt through our school library to learn the layout, location of resources, and the Dewey decimal classification system. This Web Quest will be followed with a lesson on using World Book online (comparing print encyclopedias to digital encyclopedias). As an Information Literacy & Technology teacher, the curriculum follows both the MSLA and NSTE standards (as well as the Massachusetts ELA frameworks). Below are the MSLA standards for this activity: MSLA 5-8

**Standard 2:** Develop information seeking strategies.
2.15. Understand the library’s organization of resources. 2.16. With assistance, select and modify keywords and phrases for information seeking purposes. 2.17. Understand the difference between, and the uses of, primary and secondary sources.

**Standard 3:** Locate and access information.
3.10. Independently choose information from print and electronic sources. 3.11. Use cross-references to locate additional information. 3.12. Recognize inadequacies or gaps in information.

**Standard 8:** Appreciate literature.
8.16. Display knowledge of various types of print material, of genres, and of selection aids.

**Standards**

**Credits**

**Other**