A Student User Guide for Searchasaurus
by EBSCO Information Services

A full text database for elementary school research and reading

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Welcome to Searchasaurus!

Get ready for a fun adventure in search of information...

Have the librarian help you open the Searchasaurus screen. The picture below shows you the Searchasaurus Home Page.
Keywords & Topics

There are two tools you can use to find the valuable information you need...

Keywords - Just like keys in a lock, keywords open the door to information you need. Before you begin to research, think about any keywords you might use.

Topics - Topics can help you when you know an area you would like to learn about, but need help narrowing down your topic.

The Searchasaurus home page lets you look for information using a keyword or you can browse for information by topic.
Keyword Searching

Do you know what you want to research? Maybe your teacher has given you a topic to write about. Let’s imagine that topic is “bears.”

Before you start, make a list of all the keywords you might use to learn more about bears. Your teacher might give you some words, or maybe your textbook will help you. There are many different kinds of bears. For example, polar bears, grizzly bears, brown bears. You might want to search for a specific type of bear or you might be interested in any type of bear.

Follow these steps to do a keyword search:

1. Type in a keyword in the Find box.
2. Make sure the Full Text box has a checkmark. This tells Searchasaurus to give you only full articles about bears, not short summaries.
3. Click the Search button. Searchasaurus displays a list of articles about bears!
Topic Searching

Now you know how to search using a keyword, but what if you cannot think of a good keyword? You can visit the topic lists to get some ideas. This is called “browsing.” When you browse, you click a topic to get more ideas. You might find a topic you would like to research!

**Follow these steps to search by topic:**

1. Click the general topic you would like to browse. For example, Animals.

2. Choose a more specific topic in the “more topics” list. For example, Birds.
Searchasaurus displays a list of articles about the topic you picked!

You searched: Birds

Filter results by

All Results  |  Magazines  |  Books & Encyclopedias  |  Biographies

All Results: 1-10 of 676

Page: 1 2 3 4 5  Next

   Reading Level (Lexile): 790
   [HTML Full Text]

   [HTML Full Text]

   Reading Level (Lexile): 1040
   [HTML Full Text]
Combining a Topic and Keyword Search

If you know that you want to search for something within a specific topic, you can combine a topic search with a keyword search. This might be useful if you want to search for information about dolphins (the animal that lives in the ocean), but don’t want information about the Miami Dolphins (the football team).

Follow these steps to combine a topic and keyword search:

1. Click the general topic you would like to browse. For example, **Animals**.

2. Type your keyword in the **Find** box.

3. Click the **Search** button. Searchasaurus displays a list of articles relating to your keyword that exist within the topic you selected!
Understanding the Result List

The list of articles that Searchasaurus displays after you perform a search is called a Result List. On the Result List you will find:

- How many articles were found.
- Whether the full text (word for word copy) of the article is available.
- Whether the article has pictures.
- The format the article is in – Some articles are in HTML Full Text and some are in PDF.
  - HTML format means the article will look as though it was typed into the computer.
  - PDF means the article was “scanned” and what you see will look just like the page in the magazine.

Click any article title for more information or to read full article

A camera means the article has pictures

PDF articles look like magazine pages

Click page numbers to see more results
Reading an Article

When you click the title of an article, the "Best View" selected by your Library Administrator is displayed. This can be a citation, HTML full text or PDF. To view a different format, click on any of the icons displayed in the View area.

Citation View

When the citation view is displayed, it may also include a summary or an abstract. Your original keywords are highlighted throughout the record. If activated by your library administrator, the full text of the article might appear below the citation.

- The author and subject terms of the record can appear as links that let you perform a search of that particular field.
The source might display a link or journal logo that leads to a detailed view of the source or publication. Clicking on the journal logo or journal link displays a detailed description of the journal. Clicking Back returns you to the full record of the article.

- The source might also contain a search within this publication link that allows you to perform a search within all issues of the source or publication.

Where a Find More Like This link appears, you can click the link to perform a search for articles with similar subject headings. A new Result List is displayed. You can click the Go Back button to return to your previous screen.

**HTML Full Text View**

When the HTML Full Text view is displayed, you can return to the citation, or any PDF or linked text by clicking the available icons. The text is displayed formatted and ready for printing. A brief citation is always included prior to the text of the article.
From either the citation or HTML full text views, you can refine your search, return to the Result List, and print, or e-mail the article. Where a Find More Like This link appears, you can click the link to perform a search for articles with similar subject headings. A new Result List will display.

**PDF Full Text View**

When the PDF view is displayed, the article opens in the Adobe Acrobat Reader. To print the article, use the print capability available from the Reader. You can also return to the citation, any full text, or linked text by clicking on the available icons. From the PDF view, you can also refine your search, return to the Result List, or e-mail the article.
What are Lexiles?

A Lexile is a number that stands for a reading level. A student in third grade, for example, might read articles in the 500-700 Lexile range. If you want to, you can use Lexiles to narrow down your search.

Here are the Lexile ranges that are built into Searchasaurus. You can use the Lexile range that works best for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Lexile Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>200-400</td>
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<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>300-500</td>
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<td>850-1050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 6</td>
<td>800-1030</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Choose a Lexile here
How to Print or E-mail an Article

If you find an article that you want to save to look at later, you can either print or e-mail the article.

Follow these steps to print or e-mail an article:

1. Click the article you want to print or e-mail.

2. Click either the Print link or the E-Mail link in the top right corner.

Congratulations! You have successfully used Searchasaurus to search for articles and find results. Now you might want to explore some more using your new skills. What else can you do in Searchasaurus?
More Searchasaurus Features

Picture Search

The Searchasaurus Pictures page allows you to search for pictures by specifying a keyword. It also contains a Feature Photo section that displays a different picture every time you log in to Searchasaurus. Below the Feature Photo is a caption that describes the picture.

To search for a picture:

1. Click the Pictures button. The Pictures Search Screen appears.

2. Enter your search terms for the picture you want in the Look up field (for example: mountains).

   Your search term must match exactly a word in the title or caption of an image; the search term mountains does not give you the same results as the search term mountain range. You can use Boolean terms to further specify your search. (For example: mountains and rivers.)

3. Click Search. Searchasaurus displays a Result List consisting of thumbnail images and their captions.
4. To print the picture, click open the thumbnail image and click Print. Follow the instructions to print from your browser window.

To e-mail the picture, click open the thumbnail image and click E-mail. Enter the e-mail address in the E-mail Address box and then click the Send button. To e-mail the picture to more than one person, insert a semi-colon between each e-mail address.
Dictionary Search

If the Dictionary button appears on Searchasaurus, you can search within The American Heritage Children's Dictionary.

To look up a word in the Dictionary:

1. From anywhere within Searchasaurus, click the Dictionary button.

2. Enter your word in the Look up box and click the Dictionary button.
   - If the word is found, Searchasaurus displays the definition.
   - If the word is not found, Searchasaurus suggests words that are close in spelling to the word you specified.
You can then run a search for the word within all the student databases on Searchasaurus.

3. Click the **Search for your word in Searchasaurus** link. Searchasaurus displays a Result List.

To browse the Dictionary:

1. Use the up and down arrows to browse through the Dictionary Browse List. As you scroll down, the list of Dictionary entries changes.
2. To view an entry, click on the hyperlinked word.
Encyclopedia Search

If an Encyclopedia button appears on Searchasaurus, you can search within Funk & Wagnalls New World Encyclopedia.

To search within the Encyclopedia:

1. From anywhere in Searchasaurus, click the Encyclopedia button.
2. Enter your search terms in the Look up field and then click Search.
3. Searchasaurus performs a search within the Funk & Wagnalls New World Encyclopedia and displays a Result List. Your search terms are remembered in the Look up field above the Result List.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All Results</th>
<th>1-4 of 8</th>
<th>Page: 1</th>
<th>Sort by: Relevance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <strong>BEAR</strong></td>
<td><a href="#">HTML Full Text</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. <strong>DENALI NATIONAL PARK</strong></td>
<td><a href="#">HTML Full Text</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. <strong>GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK</strong></td>
<td><a href="#">HTML Full Text</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. <strong>GLACIER NATIONAL PARK</strong></td>
<td><a href="#">HTML Full Text</a></td>
<td></td>
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</table>