

10

BIG IDEAS



for using

iCONN

www.iconn.org

to

*increase the
challenge level for
all students*

**TALENTED
GIFTED AND**

Why iCONN?

There is great disparity among schools and districts across Connecticut in terms of the information and technology resources available to students and teachers. Often, students are limited in their research capabilities by the resources available in the school library media center and the public library. The scarcity of periodicals in many schools can result in a reluctance to give students appropriately challenging assignments that rely on this type of information (e.g., current events, taking a stand on an issue, presenting opposing viewpoints).

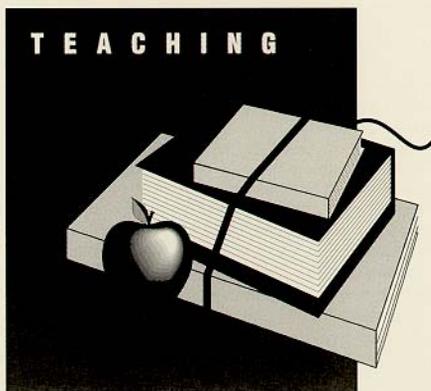
iCONN, Connecticut's digital library, is funded by the Connecticut General Assembly and offers every school and public library in the state free and equitable access to a broad range of Internet-based

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periodicals, newspapers and other resources. In addition, homes with Internet connections provide additional access points to a consistent, extensive set of resources, regardless of geographic location. A public library card is all that is needed for home access.

Because the K-12 iCONN resources are organized by grade configuration, teachers and students can easily locate resources targeted to the appropriate learning level. Thus, iConn fully supports teachers in their efforts to identify information resources that will enable students with learning difficulties and those who need greater academic challenges to fully participate in any given assignment.

In addition, Connecticut students who learn to use iCONN resources will find that their newly acquired skills and knowledge will transfer to their higher education experiences. All Connecticut institutions of higher education also offer core iCONN resources to their undergraduates.



BIG IDEAS for GETTING STARTED

- 1** Learn about the contents and features of the iCONN databases for your own professional use as well as those appropriate to the levels of students you teach. Try searching one of the student databases for a topic you are currently teaching.
- 2** Get a public library card, if you don't already have one, so that you can access iCONN from remote sites, especially home.
- 3** Work with your school library media specialist and/or your public librarian to make sure that all of your students have public library cards that will allow them to access iCONN resources from home, as well as from school.
- 4** Talk with your colleagues about ways iCONN resources can support and enhance units of instruction you already teach.
- 5** Examine ways iCONN resources can be used to differentiate instruction so that all students can succeed. For example, students who are working well above grade level may be directed to a more extensive or sophisticated database to conduct their research.
- 6** Search the professional database for different perspectives on educational issues and best practices. Through this database educators have access to over 300 professional journals that can inform practice and provide viewpoints on issues from different disciplines. Try a search for articles related to a schoolwide issue.
- 7** Become familiar with the customer use, tutorials and other training tools available through iCONN. The tip sheets and sample searches are useful to you and to your students as you learn efficient and effective techniques for making the most of the databases.
- 8** Encourage students in the lower grades to use the "toolbox" features that will help them organize their work and research. Encourage high school students doing extended research projects to use the "infomarc" feature as a research assistant.
- 9** Work with your library media specialist to conduct workshops for parents about the iCONN resources that are available to them and to their children.
- 10** Support technology and professional development budgets that will ensure easy and equitable access to iCONN throughout the school and district. Internet connectivity is key to using the iCONN resources.



Now @ iCONN

Magazines, Journals and Newspapers

InfoTrac Kids' Edition (Elementary School)

Contents: More than 75 full-text magazines, plus *Information Please Almanac*, *Information Please Sports Almanac*, *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, *The Columbia Encyclopedia* and *The Reader's Companion to American History*.

InfoTrac Junior Edition (Middle School)

Contents: 100+ indexed and 90 full-text general interest magazines, including those listed above plus others.

InfoTrac Student Edition (High School)

Contents: 330+ indexed and 270 full-text magazines, more than 40,000 full-text newspaper articles, 14 full-text reference books, 500 historical images, 300+ full-text maps, Asimov's *Chronology of Science and Discovery*, those listed above in InfoTrac Kids' Edition, plus others.

InfoTrac OneFile (Middle School and up)

Contents: 3,100 full-text and 6,000 indexed periodical titles, 1980-present; general interest magazines, refereed academic journals; business publications; technology periodicals; specialty titles in law, health care and computers; full indexing of newspapers.

Expanded Academic ASAP (Adult)

Contents: 1,000 full-text and 2,000 indexed periodicals in the social sciences, humanities, science and technology, national news, and general interest areas.

Informe! (Revistas en Español) (High School and up)

Contents: 50 full-text Spanish-language and bilingual magazines; search interface and titles in both English and Spanish.

iCONN Newspaper Collection (Middle School and up)

Contents and full-text coverage of *The Christian Science Monitor*, *New York Times*, *Sunday Times* (London, England), *The Times* (London, England) and *The Washington Post*.

Professional Collection (Adult)

Contents: 300+ full-text journals for teachers and administrators, updated daily in these and other areas: arts/ humanities, child and adolescent psychology and development, drug abuse, learning disabilities, literature, school law, science, technology, social sciences and sports.

Specific Resources By Subject

What Do I Read Next? (Elementary and up)

Contents: A reader's advisory service featuring more than 80,000 recommended adult, young adult and children's fiction titles in seven genres: mystery, romance, science fiction, fantasy, horror, historical novels, general fiction, classical fiction and nonfiction.

Health and Wellness Resource Center (Elementary and up)

Contents: 350+ health/medical journals, 800+ pamphlets, 2,100 general interest publications, encyclopedias of medicine, childhood and adolescence, and access to key health websites.

Discovering Collection (Middle School and up)

Contents: Thousands of overview essays, critical analyses, biographies, images, timelines and multimedia elements in the fields of literature, history, biography, science and social studies.

*For more detailed descriptions of iCONN contents, visit the iCONN website:
www.iconn.org*