

Iowa AEA Online vs. Other Web Surfing

Question: Do doctors, lawyers, engineers, financial analysts, and other professionals Google for information to solve problems for clients? No, these professionals subscribe to custom print and online databases to keep them current and help them solve client problems.

So: why do so many teachers and students think that Google and other Internet surfing is superior to their own custom library of print and digital learning resources that they can access from school or at home? The K-12 Iowa solution to this dilemma is Iowa AEA Online: <http://www.iowaaeaonline.org>

IOWA AEA ONLINE	Internet Surfing
100% of IAO is curriculum-relevant for teachers and students.	Less than 10% of the free web is K-12 curriculum relevant - focus on consumer related information.
Thousands of editorially selected newspapers, magazines, maps, correlated graphics, literature, reference sources to match curriculum, student interest and reading levels. (Differentiation)	High percentage of information is not updated regularly, and may be created by questionable sources. Time wasted in determining curriculum-relevancy and accuracy of website information.
Reading level designations for many articles and selection of appropriate websites for K-12 education. Lexile levels are given in EBSCO and SIRS Researcher.	No method for adjusting results to student reading levels.
Different learning styles are addressed through graphic and text information within the databases - visual literacy can be addressed as well.	Different learning styles can be addressed but more searching will be required to locate resources.
Refined and pre-selected resources (take some of frustration away when searching and getting huge result lists.)	Search engines do a very broad search of the web - result lists can be very long.
Accurate summaries of articles and websites provide students and teachers with information that saves time for higher-order thinking and writing.	Summaries include phrases based on keyword searches and may or may not be accurate and timesaving for students and teachers.
Copyright provisions allow for K-12 individual use of all Iowa AEA Online resources. See copyright guidelines for expanded use, which are available for each database.	Searches may not include access to newspapers and curriculum relevant magazines and journal archives because of copyright restrictions. *See Google Image Copyright statement at bottom of chart.
Dictionary and Thesaurus support for reading with understanding and enrichment - No Child Left Behind. Available from within World Book Online, EBSCO, and SIRS.	Must use separate resource sites for dictionaries and thesaurus support on the free web. Google dictionary not as complete; special search strategy must be used.
Places for storage of search results for selected resources in EBSCO, SIRS, and AP Multimedia Archive.	No equivalent feature for teachers and students to use.
Citation models and support built into interface. EBSCO, SIRS, AP Multimedia Archive, and World Book Online.	Must use separate resource sites for citation support on the free web.
E-mail functions support accessibility of information - EBSCO, AP Multimedia Archives, and SIRS.	E-mail capabilities vary by web site.
Tutorials and other teacher learning resources provide support for software applications and lesson plans. Atomic Learning, AP Multimedia Archive, World Book Online, EBSCO, and SIRS Researcher.	No equivalent feature for teachers and students to use for software tutorials. Teacher resources available through additional searching.
Publisher quality content and quality websites address concerns about the risks of student Internet surfing. No pop-up ads.	Minimal or user-activated filters and no direct controls over authority or appropriateness of websites. Pop-up ad concern.

*The images identified by the Google Image Search service may be protected by copyrights. Although you can locate and access the images through our service, we cannot grant you any rights to use them for any purpose other than viewing them on the web. Accordingly, if you would like to use any images you have found through our service, we advise you to contact the site owner to obtain the requisite permissions. See Google Image Preferences Help page for Google's copyright policies.

Advantages to Google or other web searches:

Direct access to known quality sites, for example, mayoclinic.com, public broadcasting sites, business/corporate sites, media sites, government sites, popular culture sites, and government sources. Google is also a good resource for breaking news, consumer topics, research that is not published in "mainstream" sources, and sources that promote alternate viewpoints, also outside of the mainstream.

Skills students need to be taught, whether they use the Iowa AEA Online resources or the free web:

Search Technique Instructions: Students will benefit from instruction in the different types of searching: keyword, subject heading, title, author, basic search vs. advanced search options, Boolean searching, truncation or wildcard searching and domain types. Students also need to be taught about the different types of search engines/directories available on the web.

Evaluation of web sites: Students should be taught to look for: Relevance, timeliness, bias, credibility, accuracy, reliability, coverage, and value.

**This document was created based upon a document prepared by ProQuest comparing SIRS to Google and Other Web Surfing. Permission is given by ProQuest to use this concept.