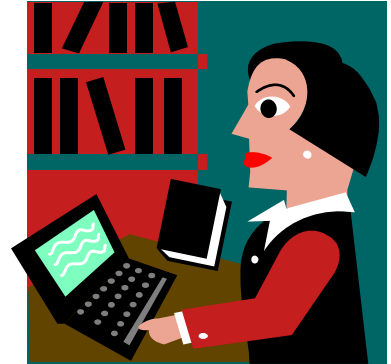


## Subscription Databases, Web Collections, and Electronic Books Assignment

The purpose of this assignment is for you and one or two classmates to collaborate in finding available databases, Web collections, and electronic books for your scenario. You will choose a school (elementary, middle, or high) or public library (children's or YA services) scenario. A good place to start is Digital Knowledge Central (or TexShare). Don't rely solely on these because they are so many more. You will want to purchase a more diverse online collection for your users. Look also at outstanding school and public library web sites to see which databases, web collections, and e-books they have purchased. Remember, the resources you select for this assignment are for purchase and not available on the free Web.



1. Use a wiki to collaborate on this assignment. Consider using Peanut Butter Wiki ([www.pbwiki.com](http://www.pbwiki.com)) or Wikispaces ([www.wikispaces.org](http://www.wikispaces.org)). Supply your instructor with your wiki URL as soon as you establish it. You will have planning pages, as well as the pages that contain the final results of the assignment. Label the pages appropriately. You may have pages labeled Database ID, then one page for each database you study in question number 3. You will also have pages for questions 4 and 5—label appropriately. Each section should be properly identified (name of service, content, list of databases, etc) on the page. Use lists and short descriptions instead of lengthy narratives.
2. Identify database services (or providers), such as Gale, Ebsco, SIRS, Facts On File, ProQuest, Questia, etc. and Web collections, such as WebFeet, netTrekker, etc., that are available through subscription for your age group. Make a comprehensive list including URLs for the publishers.
3. Choose 3 of the database providers (services) and 1 Web collection and answer the following questions about each (you can get free 30-day trials for these):
  - a. Name of service and publisher
  - b. What kind of information (content) does this service provide?
  - c. List the available databases if there is more than one.
  - d. Is the interface easy to use for the target audience? Can users browse for topics?
  - e. Does the simple search use subject, keyword, or full-text or offer a choice?
  - f. Can the user enter a natural language search such as “How fast do pecan trees grow”?
  - g. Which does it include: text, images, sound, video?
  - h. How engaging is it to its intended audience (would the user be likely to use it again)?
4. Identify electronic books for your users. Consider the following:
  - a. What titles are available for your age group?
  - b. Are their fiction titles? Nonfiction? Reference?
  - c. What is the quality of titles offered?
  - d. What are the benefits over printed paper to justify the cost?
  - e. How much will these titles cost you compared to the print version?
  - f. Are any e-books available in the public domain and are they worthy of adding to the collection? What are some titles?
  - g. How will you catalog them?
  - h. Are the e-books “one user, one check-out” or can multiple users access simultaneously?
5. How will you provide access and instruct your users to use the online resources? Write a detailed outline on the methods you will use to ensure your users can physically and intellectually access the information in the databases, Web collections, and e-books.