



## Digital Content for Children and Youth

### Discussion Questions

1. Can children and youth effectively evaluate a Web resource for accuracy and authority? Why or why not? What is an appropriate age for independent evaluation? (Berger, Block, Fitzgerald)
2. Can elementary and middle school age children effectively use a search engine? A subject directory? Why or why not?
3. What are eBooks? How are they different from the resources found in subscription databases? (Balas, Connaway, Gaines, Pennavaria, Winter)
4. What are the benefits and drawbacks to eBooks?
5. To what extent can content on the free Web replace the fee-based Web? Can students accomplish effective research on the Internet? Elementary? High school? Undergraduates? Graduate students?
6. Will Wikipedia take the place of established encyclopedias such as World Book and Encyclopædia Britannica? (Miller, Wong)
7. How can RSS be integrated effectively as a source of information for libraries for children and youth? (Boss)
8. Should public and school libraries purchase databases and eBooks for children ages 5-11? 12-18?
9. How can public and school librarians connect children and youth to electronic resources for their specific needs?

### Preparation for discussion

- Read all of the articles and make notes on them
- Find additional articles to bring to the discussion
- Peruse the other links enough so that you can make informed contributions to the class discussion.
- Bring readings and notes to class in case you need to refer to them