

@Your RMS Library



Mr. Breitsprecher's Edition

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Webs in an Online LMC Catalog? Easier than Google?

Increasingly, librarians value online resources. Folks have always expected libraries to have great books.

Today, many librarians understand that Webpages meet patrons' needs too. If Websites are carefully selected, they can contain information that is more up-to-date than books and other print media.

Today's public and school libraries have grade online LMC catalogs. Most schools use America's premier school library catalog, *Follett's Destiny*.

Each school also purchases access to *Follett's WebPath Express*. What does this mean to you?

Busy people have limited time for searching the Internet and evaluating all the Websites a search engine finds. For example, a *Google* search for "weather" (on November 11, 2010) turned up 1,080,000,000 indexed web pages – many more than one billion! This is far too many to be useful.

Searching *Destiny Quest* using the term "weather" (*Sears subject heading*) returns a more manageable number of Websites. Each is selected because it is helpful in schools. It is easy to narrow this search, helping you quickly find exactly what you need.

Are you busy? Want to save time? What is more useful, a listing of more than 1 billion Websites that you have to evaluate by yourself or a tool that finds librarian/teacher-approved Websites that fit the needs of students around the country and world?

Next time you need information online, resist the urge to go right to *Google*. Try your library's online catalog, *Destiny WebPath*.

Looking for Information About Weather?

Then think like a librarian and other information specialists. Take advantage of how information is organized in a library collection. It saves you time and helps you find better information.

Librarians look at resources and apply "**subject headings**" – vocabulary from a list, words that describe information. When librarians assign subject headings, they create connections between related resources.

Librarians use subject headings for everything in their library: fiction books, nonfiction books, movies, PlayAways, and today - even Web pages. Librarians in schools and most public libraries use a list of terms for subject headings – terms that come from a book, "**Sears Subject Headings**."

Want to find information about weather in a library catalog? Then learn to use these Sears subject headings that information specialist/librarians use to organize information and tie related resources together:

Weather	Weather forecasting	Meteorology	Storms
Blizzards	Hurricanes	Thunderstorms	Tornadoes

Advanced Searches with Destiny Quest: Subject Headings

The *Destiny* online catalog can be used different ways. For most students, simpler is better if we find what we want. *Destiny Quest* allows us to do different kinds of searches and find different kinds of resources.

Just like *Google*, *Destiny Quest* shows us a simple search box. Enter your search term and click GO! A simple search for "weather", on November 11, 2010, returned 77 resources as library titles (books) and 712 Web pages if you click on the "Web Sites" tab on in the upper left screen.

A subject heading search in *Destiny Quest* can be done one of 2 ways. Probably the quickest method is to click on the tab for "Advanced Search" in the upper-right. This brings up a search screen with lots of choices. These help us narrow searches. You can choose up to three ways to limit your search:

- *Show me everything that has...*
- *But I don't want...*
- *Limit my search to...*

Destiny Quest makes it easy to think about what you are looking for (*Show me everything*), what you do not want (*But I don't want*), and type of resources you are looking for (*Limit my search*).

If you do a search for "weather", using the "pull-down" menu to select "**Subjects**", you will narrow your search to books, virtually all containing information about weather. Pretty helpful, huh?

If you click on the "**Web Sites**" tab, you see 712 results, but you have 2 options to limit your search by (look for links in lower left of screen):

- *Domain/URL* (web address)
- *Topics* (a set of links to choose from)

So there you have it! Finding Webpages that meet the needs of most RMS students is easy if you use *Destiny Quest/Webpath*.