

# Successful searching with WebLinks Online

## Searching using WebLinks Online is targeted, speedy and flexible

If you use a search engine students can be overwhelmed with an enormous number of sites. In reality 95% of people never go beyond the first page of search results - but there is no guarantee that appropriate sites for UK students will be there. Search engines tend to be good at finding specific pieces of information. They are rather less successful at finding educational sites that give the sort of introduction and essential background information, appropriately presented, that students often need.

Using WebLinks you can search in several ways - so in fact every time students use it, they are practising and refining their information and search skills.

1. Full search on a topic will locate appropriate, checked and safe sites. This search goes through the descriptions we have written for each of the several thousand sites in the WebLinks database.



2. Subject search - just searches on the main subject heading we have assigned to each web site.

3. Search on 2 terms using the 'And' option eg Shakespeare AND Globe theatre finds sites which cover both, while the 'OR' option broadens the search to find sites covering either term.



4. Search by learning area. This is the one that teachers might use in preparing lessons. There are 17 areas: Art & Design, Business studies, Citizenship, Cross-curriculum, Design & Technology, English, General Reference, Geography, History, ICT, Maths, Modern Languages, Music, PE, PSHE, RE, Science. This will find all the sites for the learning area you have selected and you can narrow these down by age (11-13, 14-16 or 16+). Every learning area is further broken down into numerous topics which you can search on, eg General Reference includes a list

of subjects such as Atlases, Books & reading, current events, Dewey, information literacy, and so on.



5. To stay up-to-date, you can also search by new sites added this month.

6. There is a search option for librarian and teacher resources.

7. If your search is unsuccessful or you would like websites on a particular topic not already in WebLinks, send an email to us with the topic and age level. We will endeavour to find appropriate websites and get back to you in a short time. Websites suitable for a national audience will be added to the database.

WebLinks search results are ranked according to a rating system based on key words in the heading, title and description.

A WebLinks annual subscription costs just £29.95 + vat, or £59.95 + vat with a site licence including home use by students and staff.

WebLinks Online is available on a month's free trial (with full access to all sites) or you can sample it at <http://www.weblinksresearch.co.uk/login/> Log in as guest, though the final web sites are hidden. Happy searching!

