

# Britannica Online School Edition

## Meets the Requirements of Improving Literacy Through School Libraries

### Britannica Online Overview:

Designed for differentiated instruction for all levels of learning, *Britannica Online School Edition* gives teachers and students access to *four* complete encyclopedias and other learning resources correlated to classroom topics. High-quality interactive lessons and online learning materials developed by teachers and curriculum experts are also easily incorporated into the classroom.



- Integrated searching of 203,000 articles and multimedia
- Over 60,000 graphics plus 2,600 animations, audio clips, and videos
- Detailed maps of over 200 countries, U.S. states, and all Canadian provinces
- Spotlight features with study guides on school-related topics
- Web sites based on educational value and curriculum-based content
- Journals and Magazines locating up-to-date information and current events
- Learning Materials including interactive guides, concept reviews, and activities
- Resources for Teachers that help incorporate the encyclopedia and the Internet into the curriculum
- Workspace, a research organizer for assembling and personalizing content

[www.school.eb.com](http://www.school.eb.com)

### Grant Overview: Improving Literacy Through School Libraries

**Purpose of Grant:** The purpose of this program is academic improvement, specifically reading achievement.

**Grant Description:** This federal program helps LEAs improve reading achievement by providing students with increased access to up-to-date school library materials; well-equipped, technologically advanced school library media centers; and professionally certified school library media specialists.

**Grant Requirements:** Districts may use funds for the following activities:

- Purchase up-to-date school library media resources, including books
- Acquire and use advanced technology that is integrated into the curricula to develop and enhance the information literacy, information retrieval, and critical-thinking skills of students
- Facilitate Internet links and other resource-sharing networks
- Provide professional development for school library media specialists and provide activities that foster increased collaboration among library specialists, teachers, and administrators
- Provide students with access to school libraries during non-school hours, weekends, and summer vacations.

**More information:**

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/lsl/index.html> -or- <http://www.ed.gov/programs/gtep/gtep.pdf>

**Grant Requirement:** Purchase up-to-date school library media resources, including books.

How Britannica Online meets grant requirements:

- *Britannica Online* combines the resources of books, magazines, and journals as a complete program package for research and information.
- Online access and daily content updates allow learners to use technology to obtain up-to-date information and current events.
- Online programming allows information to be updated or readily changed more expediently than textbooks or hard-copy resources.



Suggested applications:

- Have learners research current events using *Britannica Online* as part of a weekly social studies activity.
- Limit the purchase of hard copy magazines and journals and save on storage space by purchasing *Britannica Online* as a complete solution for an up-to-date research tool.

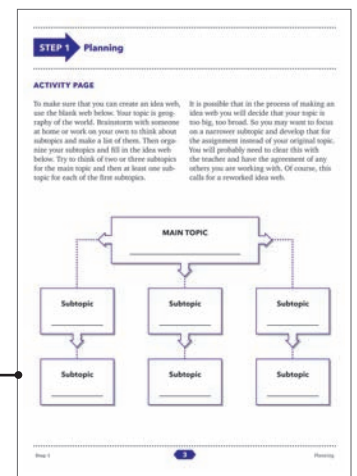
“Students learn quickly that by searching Britannica first, they not only save lots of time, but they also find excellent, authoritative, comprehensive information. They find articles, pictures, maps and charts, and video clips. The links to Web sites...deliver appropriate, authoritative information and instantly the students have additional sources.”

—Cynthia Garrett, Librarian, China Spring, TX

**Grant Requirement:** Acquire and use advanced technology that is integrated into the curricula to develop and enhance the information literacy, information retrieval, and critical-thinking skills of students.

How Britannica Online meets grant requirements:

- Information literacy is promoted through the use of online interactive lessons and retrievable information from trusted Web sites.
- *Britannica Online* helps users learn how to locate, evaluate, and collect information from a variety of sources including print and multimedia sources.
- Online activities and stories help learners improve reading/writing skills and promote critical thinking.
- Learning Materials activities foster critical thinking and problem-solving skills by applying knowledge gained during the activities.
- *Ready, Set, Research* materials scaffold the research process for learners to help guide them through information retrieval.
- The *Workspace* feature allows learners to store their own research materials. Learners then synthesize and analyze the information gathered to determine its relevance to a topic.



- Britannica’s workshops assist in building information literacy and research skills, integrating technology into classroom projects, supporting state-mandated curriculum standards, and increasing utilization of online resources.

## Suggested applications:

- To promote literacy and critical thinking skills, invite all K-12 learners to participate in research clubs at each school. Research examples might be music, art, weather, sports, etc. Have each club member research information about a topic of interest using both print and electronic formats. Have participants share their research in small groups, using the Workspace in *Britannica Online* and postings on school Web sites.
- Host mini workshops for learners, educators, and parents to show how to retrieve relevant information from *Britannica Online*. Use the training materials to model how to retrieve information, save information in Workspace, and determine relevancy of information. Then have each participant personally select their own subject matter to independently follow the information retrieval process.

“In our high school, students learn from the first time they come to the library that when conducting research, they should always begin with Encyclopædia Britannica. When doing research, our students are not allowed to waste time searching the Web.”

—Cynthia Garrett, Librarian, China Spring, TX

“...Invaluable...It provides the foundation of my research skills and inquiry class for 9th graders. The academic quality and accuracy of Britannica enhanced the caliber of my students’ first high school research papers.”

—Maureen Copeland, Social Studies Chair, Fort Myers, FL

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**Grant Requirement:** Facilitate Internet links and other resource-sharing networks.

## How Britannica Online meets grant requirements:

- *Britannica Online* provides integrated searching of 203,000 articles and multimedia including 60,000 graphics and 2,600 animations, audio clips, and videos all related to core curricula in reading, math, science, and social studies.
- Access to Web sites based on educational value and curriculum-based content.
- Orange Curriculum Standards buttons link directly from standards to related articles and activities.
- *Merriam-Webster’s* pop-up *Student Dictionary* and *Thesaurus* instantly define unfamiliar words in any *Britannica Online* article.
- Britannica includes links to a World Atlas with thousands of maps.
- Learners can access Workspace from school, home, or the library.
- Share with others by linking a Workspace to a Web page.
- Home access is provided with every subscription, improving links from school to home.



Occupying half of South America and much of the Amazon River basin, Brazil is bordered by every country on the continent except for Ecuador and Chile. Framed by the Atlantic Ocean on the northeast and southeast, Brazil forms a rough triangle about 2,500 miles (4,000 kilometers) from east to west ...

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**Population estimate** : (2008)  
187,163,000

**Total area (sq mi)** : 3,287,612

**Total area (sq km)** : 8,514,877

[Read more](#)

**Adjacent countries:**

- [Argentina](#)
- [Bolivia](#)
- [Colombia](#)
- [Guyana](#)
- [Paraguay](#)
- [Peru](#)

## Suggested applications:

- Network within the school district, local libraries, and nearby school districts to share resources between educators and students (including those with special needs).
- Offer an open house for instructing parents on how to access *Britannica Online* to support the home-school connection.

“The Web links are especially useful, providing students with quality, authenticated Web sites related to their research topic.”

—Deborah Scheurich, Library Media Specialist, Longwood, NY

**Grant Requirement:** Provide professional development for school library media specialists and provide activities that foster increased collaboration among library specialists, teachers, and administrators.

How Britannica Online meets grant requirements:

- Free online training is provided to subscribers which can be utilized for staff development.
- Training tips are provided for training and professional development including preparation for the training, key points to cover, and suggested follow-up activities.
- “Teachers’ Resources” provides resources for educators to enhance their teaching by offering instant-access materials to support the lessons.
- Teachers and library specialists can collaborate in planning lessons using the materials from “Teachers’ Resources” to support the school’s curriculum.
- On-site workshops are offered and CEU credits are available in cooperation with state agencies.



Suggested applications:

- Create a short-term and long-term professional development plan for using technology in the curriculum. Tie the professional development plan to the School Improvement Plan. Incorporate *Britannica Online’s* training materials and training tips as resources for staff development.

**Grant Requirement:** Provide students with access to school libraries during non-school hours, weekends, and summer vacations.

How Britannica Online meets grant requirements:

- Home access is provided with every subscription, improving links from school to home.
- The Workspace can be retrieved from school, home, or the library to access important information when doing a research report or searching for information.
- School libraries can work together with local libraries to purchase *Britannica Online* for all district and local libraries to allow learners to use the program in school or after school hours.

Suggested applications:

- Create Workspaces with students in school that can be accessed from home.
- Offer extended school library hours one day a week for learners to continue their research using *Britannica Online*.
- Offer the use of *Britannica Online* to school tutors or mentors to help learners with their homework or research projects.

“The best part is that because it is Web based, our students can continue their learning outside of school from any computer with Internet access.”

—Eunice Espinosa, Librarian, Kaneohe, HI

