

netTrekker news

In The Field

"High school students in Cobb County, Georgia who were collaborating on a social issues project were able to access information from home or school with netTrekker d.i. to find sites and share them by using a saved search."

— Linda Morrell, Director of Instructional Technology



Guide to Safe and Smart Searching

The World Wide Web offers students the ability to do extensive searches for information. Properly used, it allows them to conduct the type of in-depth research that past generations could only dream of.

Safety First

Yet along with the opportunities are challenges. Danger lurks in the form of sites with misleading, incorrect or even harmful information, attempts to violate privacy by gathering personal information, and there are also predators and pornography. In addition, using general search tools returns lists of thousands of sites, most of which are off topic or inappropriate, and their sheer number can overwhelm students.

Using a search engine designed specifically for education makes all the difference. For example, netTrekker d.i. contains a carefully generated taxonomy to return only resources that have been identified and reviewed by educators. There's never a chance of encountering dangerous or inappropriate sites. The Web is a visual medium; because pictures are worth a thousand words, teachers have to be careful where to send students to find them. Searching with netTrekker d.i.'s new image database means that students will find only safe, pornography-free images.

Preparing to Teach

When you search for resources online and when you send students to the Web, you want to make sure that they have a wide selection of grade level appropriate materials. The content should be relevant to the curriculum you are teaching and support your state's academic standards. With netTrekker d.i., you can find lesson plans, learning exercises, primary source documents, and language-specific sites for ELL students and sharpen your search with an expanded set of refinement tabs. When you find exactly the resources you need on netTrekker d.i., email those search results to students as an assignment or save them to use later.

Target Each Child

When resources are separated for elementary, middle, and high school appropriateness, students will more easily find information that engages them. To target search results to a student's individual reading skills even more, check the readability measure based on Lexile® ratings and other popular methods that netTrekker d.i. assigns to each website in its database. And use the dictionary/translation hot key for definitions and translation to multiple languages for any word in all of netTrekker d.i.'s 180,000 resources.



netTrekker d.i.'s Quick Guide:

- Use educator-selected sites with information that is true and accurate.
- Know if a site is at the right readability level for your students.
- Find resources designed for ELL students.
- Get definitions and translations of words and phrases.
- Go to curriculum materials linked to YOUR state standards.
- Get definitions and translations of words and phrases on a website.