

# netTrekker news

## In The Field

*In Cobb County, Georgia, the trend toward a Lexile reading level metric is important as they plan for differentiated instruction. Director of Instructional Technology Linda Morrell says, "netTrekker d.i. helps us sort sites by Lexile level to address student needs. And the ELL teachers find the translations are helpful too."*



## Differentiated Instruction and the Web

With today's drive toward inclusive classrooms, students present a wider range of abilities, skills, languages, and learning styles than ever before. How can teachers address the needs of all? The answer is differentiated instruction, grouping students with similar abilities and needs and providing appropriate learning activities to maximize growth.

### Student Research

Thanks to the Web, teachers can assign research projects, confident that there's an abundance of information at students' fingertips. Students like doing research online; they can focus on complex topics and create thorough and thoughtful reports. For elementary students searching for simple texts and images to high school students looking for sophisticated data, the information is available online.

### Web Resources

However, the web offers challenges as well as benefits. Some sites are too simple; some are too complex, and many are off-topic. With so many options, how do teachers provide the best resources and search parameters for their students? How do they find sites that address the various learning styles and academic needs? They start with netTrekker d.i., an academic search engine that delivers the best web resources so that searches are productive. Smart searching with its new tools that address such variables as reading level and facility with the English language makes the difference.

### Readability

Students in a single class may read at very different grade levels, but web sites generally don't offer information on how to gauge their difficulty. netTrekker d.i. has nine readability analysis tools built in so teachers can search web sites by readability level and target search results to student reading skills.

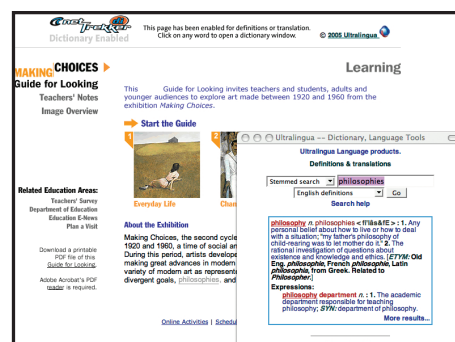
### English Language Learning

For teachers who have to adapt instruction and find alternative resources for English Language Learners, especially when their students speak different languages, the Web can help. netTrekker d.i. provides customized ELL content and access to sites in multiple languages and based on ELL skill development.

### Translating Information

Even when students become facile with the English language, specific words and phrases often present obstacles to comprehension. netTrekker d.i.'s new Dictionary/Translation Hotkey provides the definition or translation into multiple languages for any word a student selects.

The Web offers so many opportunities to create meaningful learning experiences for all children in a classroom. Using netTrekker d.i. with its new tools for differentiated instruction results in higher achievement and greater success for all students, no matter how varied their skills.



The dictionary and translations help students understand.



Find ELL materials and go to the Multicultural Pavilion.