

Random Acts of Continuing Education

Lexiles Part II:  
Electronic Resources

Participant Guide

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**south dakota**  
**STATE LIBRARY**  
**Leadership. Innovation. Excellence.**

with  
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# Welcome

Please check that you can see and hear us!

For audio, please dial 866-410-8397 and enter conference code: 6052951994

How to Login via LiveMeeting guide <http://library.sd.gov/forlibrarians/development/LiveMeeting.pdf>  
Still having trouble? Call Jasmine Rockwell at 605-773-5066

## Today's Objectives

- Review Lexiles
- Show resources that contain Lexiles
- How to find the Lexile of material that hasn't been scored
- Round table discussion for participants to share their ideas

## Lexile Basics:

Lexile measures are all about growing literacy!

Lexiles are used in all 50 states as a common scale of measuring the readability of text and ability of the reader.

Lexile measures help educators, librarians and families to select books, articles and other materials that provide the right level of challenge for the reader's skills and goals, and to monitor growth in reading ability.

South Dakota linked the Dakota STEP reading assessment to the Lexile Framework for reading in spring of 2009.

Look for books 100L below to 50L above your child's Lexile measure. This is your child's Lexile range. Readers can experience frustration when a book is 100L+ above their Lexile level. Readers can experience ease when a book is 100+ below their Lexile level. Readers can experience growth when books are within their Lexile range. At a 75% comprehension rate a book is not too difficult to be frustrating, but difficult enough to be challenging and to encourage reading progress.

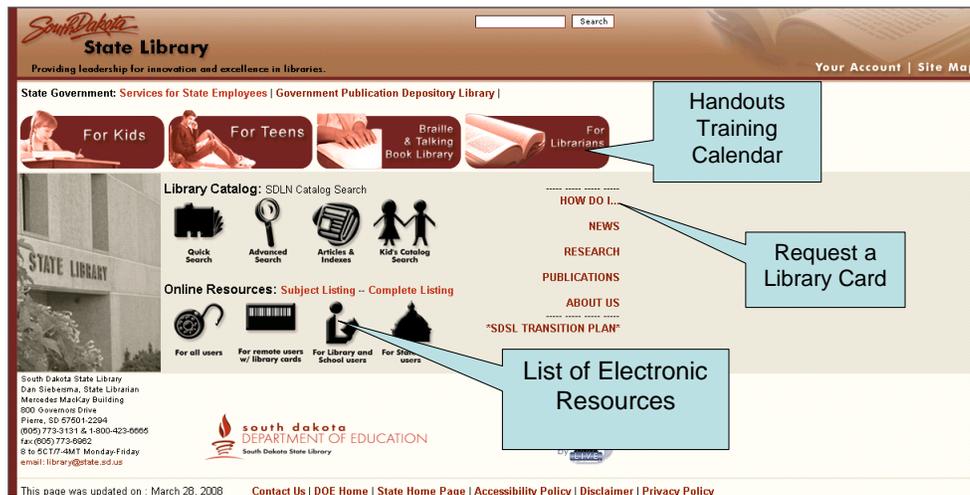
Lexile measures are a measure of text difficulty. They do not address age-appropriateness, student interest or the quality of the text. **Educators, librarians and/or parents should always preview books.** All selection of curricular programs or items should be made in line with the policies and procedures adopted by local school boards and administrators.

## Sharing:

Are you and your staff currently using Lexiles?

# State Library Subscription Resources

## South Dakota State Library <http://library.sd.gov>



## FAQ

### Where can I access the electronic resources?

You can **directly** access the resources while inside any school, library or academic institution in SD or **at home** with a SDLN member library card or SD State Library card.

### What is my password for at home access?

Your password is your LAST NAME.

The image shows a login form with two input fields: 'Barcode:' and 'Password:'. Below the fields are two buttons: 'Submit' and 'Cancel'.

Figure 1: Login screen for at home access

### What can I find in the electronic resources?

Full text magazines, South Dakota newspapers, genealogy information, practice tests, online books and more.

### How do I get a library card?

Ask your librarian if your library is a member of SDLN or request a SD State Library library card by clicking on “**How Do I...**” on the SD State Library homepage (<http://library.sd.gov> )

### Where do I find specific resources to share with my co-workers?

Color and black-and-white handouts for the resources discussed today are available at:

<http://library.sd.gov/forlibrarians/licenses/index.htm>

# SIRS Discoverer

SIRS Discoverer provides selected full-text articles that support grades K-9. Every article has a summary and a reading level. SIRS Discoverer's special features include biographies, over 3000 maps, country studies and an encyclopedia.

## SIRS Discoverer features include:

- All articles are full-text.
- Three ways to search:
  - Subject heading
  - Keyword
  - Browse subject tree
- Biographies of nearly 2000 famous and notable people
- Country Facts of nearly 200 countries plus every US State and Canadian Province.
- Pictures
- Over 3000 printable maps including:
  - US and World historical (i.e. Civil War maps)
  - Outline
  - Nations and Regions
- SIRS stands for "Social Issues Resources Series"
- Most articles have two reading levels
  - Lexile—matches reader ability and text difficulty
  - Editorially assigned—look at subject matter, depth of coverage and Flesch Reading Ease scale.



The screenshot shows the SIRS Discoverer web interface. At the top, it says "SIRS Discoverer on the Web". Below this is a search bar with "SIRS Discoverer" and "Advanced Search / Search Tips" links. There are radio buttons for "Subject Headings" and "Keyword/Natural Language", and a "Search" button. A "Sort by:" dropdown is set to "relevance". To the right, there's a "Discoverer's Top Pick" section featuring "Leafy Sea Dragon". Below the search bar is a "Browse Subject Tree" with various categories like Animals, Arts, Count, Environment, Health & Human Body, History & Government, People, Personal Growth, Science, Social Issues, Sports, and Technology. At the bottom, there's a "Reference Web" section with "Discoverer WebFind" and "Web Sites for Kids" buttons. Below that are icons for "Current Events", "Spotlight of the Month", "The 2006 World Almanac for Kids", and "Encyclopedia". On the right side, there's a "Database Features" list including Pathfinders, Activities, Biographies, Fiction, Country Facts, Photo Essays, Pictures, Maps of the World, Educators' Resources, and Dictionary / Thesaurus. A navigation bar at the very bottom contains links for "Home", "Help", "How to Cite", "Workbooks", "Tips", and "Bookmark".

Webfind includes selected, reviewed websites that are reading leveled

Reference includes Current Events, World Almanac for Kids, Spotlight of the Month and Encyclopedia Britannica

## To Access SIRS Discoverer:

- Go to SD State Library website (<http://library.sd.gov>)
- Click *Online Resources: Complete Listing*
- Click *SIRS Discoverer*
- Enter your Library Barcode and Password

Speech bubble: Tabs sort results

SIRS Discoverer on the web Subject Tree Search

Home Page Back Dictionary Thesaurus Help Tips Cite

157 All Articles 23 Newspapers 110 Magazines 2 Reference 288 Pictures 114 WebFind Sites

< ANIMALS

Reading Levels / Source & Summary General Easy Moderate Challenging Subjects Pictures Activities Fiction People

Sort by: [ Title | Publication | Lexile | Date ] ▲ ▼ Details: [ Show | Hide ]

1. **Mythical Creatures Revealed**   a  
*SuperScience* (Vol. 18, No. 8); May 2007; Lexile Score: 830; 13K.  
**Summary:** "Discover the science behind the legends of some magical creatures." (*SuperScience*) Read scientific explanations behind dragons, unicorns and mermaids. Vocabulary, background information and  
**Descriptors:** [Animals](#), [Mythical](#), [Unicorns](#), [Dragons](#), [Mermaids](#), [Questions and answers](#)

See the features of every article at a glance—this article has a photo and an activity

Article may be transmitted to your email. Other transmissions are prohibited.

Your email address:  Include pictures?

Results Source & Summary Subjects Pictures Print

**SUPERSCIENCE**  
 May 2007, Vol. 18, No. 8, pp. 6+

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## Mythical Creatures Revealed

Click on Source & Summary for citation info

### Database Features

- Pathfinders
- Activities
- Biographies
- Fiction
- Country Facts
- Photo Essays
- Pictures
- Maps of the World
- Educational Resources
- Dictionary Thesaurus

SIRS Discoverer on the web

Home Page Back Dictionary Thesaurus Help Tips Cite

### Born this Month



Alex Haley (1921-1992)  
 Alex Haley was born on August 11, 1921 in Iruka, New York. He is remembered for writing the best-selling book *Roots*, which tells the true story of his mother's ancestry.

Updated monthly, Pathfinders include:

- Holidays/celebrations
- Born this month
- Challenge Quest

**Suggested Research Topics**

**Caffeine**  
 Subject Headings: Caffeine; Caffeine and Soda  
 Subject Tree Paths: DRUGS AND SUBSTANCES  
 Keywords: caffeine; soda; coke

**Cloning Animals**  
 Subject Headings: Cloning; Mammals  
 Subject Tree Paths: SCIENCE: Life Sciences  
 Keywords: cloning AND cat

**Global Warming**  
 Subject Headings: Global warming  
 Subject Tree Paths: SCIENCE: Earth and Space Sciences  
 Warming & Greenhouse Effect  
 Keywords: "global warming" AND

**Iraq**  
 Subject Headings: Hussein, Saddam  
 Subject Tree Paths: COUNTRIES  
 Countries by Regions: Middle East  
 Keywords: Iraq NOT "Country Facts"  
 Encyclopedia Keywords: Iraq  
 Encyclopedia Entry: Iraq

**Ocelots**  
 Subject Headings: Ocelot  
 Subject Tree Paths: ANIMALS: Mammals  
 Keywords: ocelot  
 Encyclopedia Entry: OCELOT

Annie Oakley (1860-1926)  
 Benjamin Harrison (1833-1901)  
 Bill Clinton (1946-)  
 Davy Crockett (1786-1836)  
 Duke Kahanamoku (1890-1968)  
 Elizabeth, Queen Mother (1900-2002)  
 Herbert Hoover (1874-1964)  
 Itzhak Perlman (1945-)  
 Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)  
 Louis Armstrong (ca. 1900-1971)  
 Lyndon B. Johnson (1908-1973)  
 Marcus Garvey (1887-1940)  
 Mary Shelley (1797-1851)  
 Matthew Henson (1866-1955)  
 Meriwether Lewis (1774-1809)  
 Mother Teresa (1910-1997)  
 Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821)  
 Neil Armstrong (1930-)  
 Orville Wright (1871-1948)  
 Paula Danziger (1944-2004)  
 Ralph Bunche (1904-1971)  
 Walter Dean Myers (1935-)  
 William Clark (1770-1838)

Searchable photos

Picture for article: [butterfly and moth](#)

Picture title: Great purple hairstreak butterfly



If you have any questions about using this resource, contact a South Dakota Librarian.

# SIRS Issues Researcher

## SIRS Issues Researcher features include:

- All articles are full-text
- 300+ Leading Issues
  - 50+ main issues & 240+ sub-issues.
  - Articles
  - Research guide
  - Pro/con viewpoints
- Save your research
- Create bibliographies
- Templates for research papers and more
- Three ways to search:
  - Subject heading
  - Keyword
  - Browse leading issues
- Articles on these major topic areas:
  - Business
  - Environment
  - Family
  - Global issues
  - Health
  - Human relations
  - Institutions
  - Science
- Articles have a Lexile score reading level
- Articles have a MLA citation included
- SIRS stands for "Social Issues Resources Series"

**Special features**—groups specific topics in high interest areas. Curriculum Pathfinders support 21st Century Skill building.

SIRS Issues Researcher provides selected full-text articles that support grades 6-12. "Leading Issues" provides over 300 topics including abortion, gun control, and capital punishment. Each Leading Issue has the topic overview, reviews the pro/con viewpoints and provides a guide for critical thinking to guide the student through the critical thinking process.



Printable list of Leading Issues

### To Access SIRS Issues Researcher:

- Go to SD State Library website (<http://library.sd.gov>)
- Click *Online Resources: Complete Listing*
- Click *SIRS Issues Researcher*
- Enter your Library Barcode and Password

Every Leading Issue has a **Topic Overview** with terms to know, key figures, events, organizations and primary sources..

**Leading Issues: Alternative Education**

**Topic Overview: Alternative Education**

The public school system as we know it was established in the United States by the mid-nineteenth century. Before this time children were primarily educated at home or were taught in schools run by churches or charity groups. | more...

**PRO/CON ISSUES and Essential Questions**

- HOMESCHOOLING**  
Does the government have the right to monitor homeschooling?
- SCHOOL VOUCHERS**  
Are school voucher programs that allow parents to choose private schools for their children a good idea?
- SINGLE-SEX SCHOOLS/CLASSROOMS**  
Are single-sex classrooms beneficial?

**Research Tools**

- Timeline
- Global Impact
- Statistics
- Research Guides
- Note Organizer

Interactive website for every leading issue.

- Research Tools...**
1. **Timeline** of topic
  2. **Global Impact** articles & graphics showing global impact of topic
  3. **Statistics** View graphs, statistics on topic
  4. **Research Guides** editable documents to guide research—including 21st Century Skills Tutor.
  5. **Note Organizer** Graphical note organizer

Search results guide further research

Subject: Alternative education Search

See also: Alternative education, Timeline Alternative schools Charter schools Children with disabilities, Education Distance education More...

Sort results by: Date Sort

Narrow your results

- Matching Subjects (5 results)
- All source types (180 results)
  - Newspapers (51 results)
  - Magazines (51 results)
  - Viewpoints (18 results)
  - Reference (2 results)
  - Graphics/Media (53 results)
  - WebSelect Sites (5 results)

Sort by date, relevance, or Lexile reading level

View only the type of information needed—including graphics, selected websites, and view-points

If you have any questions about using this resource, contact a South Dakota Librarian.



## World Book Online

Lexile scores are being added to articles in all English language versions of World Book. Once the additions are complete, search options will become available.

## Additional notes:

## Your Ideas for Classroom Applications:

### Classroom:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### Library:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## Sharing:

How do you introduce Lexiles to your students?

## Department of Education (DOE) Resources:

Office of Curriculum, Career and Technical Education: The Lexile Framework for Reading  
<http://doe.sd.gov/octa/lexiles.asp>

Lexile Resources for Educators and Librarians  
<http://doe.sd.gov/octe/Educators.asp>

Lexile Resources for Families  
<http://doe.sd.gov/octe/Families.asp>

## MetaMetrics Resources:

Lexile in the Library  
<http://www.lexile.com/using-lexile/lexile-at-library/>

Lexile Analyzer Guide  
<http://lexile.com/tools/lexile-analyzer/using-the-professional-analyzer/>

Lexile Research  
<http://www.lexile.com/research/>

Stop Summer Academic Loss

[http://www.lexile.com/m/uploads/whitepapers/StopSummerAcademicLoss\\_MetaMetricsWhitepaper.pdf](http://www.lexile.com/m/uploads/whitepapers/StopSummerAcademicLoss_MetaMetricsWhitepaper.pdf)

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: Text Measurement and Analysis

<http://www.lexile.com/research/83/>

## **SDSL Electronic Resources:**

South Dakota State Library Home page: <http://library.sd.gov>

Supporting handouts for the electronic resources: <http://library.sd.gov/forlibrarians/licenses/index.htm>

## **Additional SDSL Reading Resources:**

2008 Kids & Family Reading Report: Reading in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Turning the Page with Technology

[www.scholastic.com/readingreport](http://www.scholastic.com/readingreport)

A Never-ending Story: Action Research Meets Summer Reading

<http://www.pbs.org/teachers/librarymedia/aas/gordon.pdf>

Night at the Library article

<http://www.library.sd.gov/forlibrarians/enewsletter/2010/jan/2010-01g.asp#Kickoff>

SD School Library Standards Revision Task Force Wiki

<http://schoollibrarystandardsguidelines.wikispaces.com/>

SD State Library Youth Services Resources

<http://www.library.sd.gov/forlibrarians/youthservices/childrens.htm>

Atwell, Nancy. The Reading Zone: How to help Kids Become Skilled, Passionate, Habitual, Critical Readers. New York: Scholastic, 2007.

Daniels, Harvey. Literature Circles: Voice and Choice in Book Clubs & Reading Groups. Portland, ME: Stenhouse Publishers, 2002.

Gallagher, Kelly. Readicide: How Schools are Killing Reading and What You Can Do About It. Portland, Maine: Stenhouse Publishers, 2009

Krashen, Stephen D. The Power of Reading: Insights from the Research. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2004.

Reynolds, Marilyn. I Won't Read and You Can't Make Me: Reaching Reluctant Teen Readers. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2004.

Ross, Catherine Sheldrick. Reading Matters: What the Research Reveals about Reading, Libraries, and Community. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2006.

### **Questions?**

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