

THE SCHOOL LIBRARIAN'S GUIDE TO INTRODUCING SDSL ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

A Quick Presentation + Student Lesson Toolkit

This guide is designed to help school librarians confidently introduce state library electronic resources to both teachers and students. It includes a short staff presentation outline and a ready-to-use lesson plan. These materials are meant to be practical, flexible, and easy to customize.

SDSL's Electronic Resources provide:

- Free access to high-quality, credible research materials
- Scholarly and student-friendly articles
- Built-in citation tools
- Reading level supports and accessibility tools
- Reliable alternatives to random internet searching

Teaching students and staff how to use these tools supports strong research skills, information literacy, and academic success.

This guide supports key school library priorities:

- Students read and engage for academic and personal growth
- Students use research strategies to create and share new knowledge
- Students recognize responsible participation in an interconnected world

On the following pages you will find:

5-Minute Staff Presentation Outline

A short, plug-and-play presentation to introduce teachers to state library resources and highlight two high-impact databases.

Research Lesson Plan

A complete lesson you can co-teach or deliver independently to help students use electronic resources for research projects.

Both resources are intentionally general so they can be adapted for different schools, grade levels, and database collections.

Tips for Using This Guide

- Customize with your school's login instructions and favorite databases
- Add QR codes or bookmarks for easy access
- Offer to co-teach with classroom teachers
- Keep copies of handouts at the circulation desk
- Revisit the lesson during major research units

Remember

You do not have to be an expert in every database. Start small, highlight just a few strong tools, and build confidence with each class or staff meeting. Your guidance helps students become thoughtful, capable researchers.

5-Minute Staff Presentation Outline

[Access the Template HERE and make edits to make it your own!](#)

Topic: Introducing South Dakota State Library Electronic Resources

Goal: Staff understand

- How to access SDSL Electronic Resources
- Two key tools to recommend to students

Slide 1: Why the SD State Library Electronic Resources (30 seconds)

- **Talking Points**
 - Our students need reliable, credible sources.
 - SDSL provides free, high-quality research tools for all South Dakotans.
 - These tools support assignments, reading, and media literacy.
- **Example Line:** “If a student can Google it, they can also find something better (and free!) through the State Library.”

Slide 2: How to Access (1 minute)

- **Show**
 - SDSL website: library.sd.gov
 - Electronic Resources page and filtering for grade level
 - Login is via GeoIP meaning that if you are anywhere in SD you don't have to login!
- **Talking Points**
 - Available 24/7
 - Works at school and home
 - No cost to students or teachers
- **Tip:** Include a QR code or bookmark link.

Slide 3: Two Go-To Resources (2 minutes)

(Choose two that are broadly useful across subjects.)

Examples you might highlight:

Option A: General Research Database like ProQuest, World Book, Explora

Good for: essays, science reports, history papers

Features:

- Scholarly articles
- Citation tools
- Reading level filters
- Accessibility features

Option B: Opposing Viewpoints/Topic Overview Database like SIRS Issues Researcher, CultureGrams

Good for: debate topics, persuasive essays

Features:

- Pro/con articles
- Background summaries
- Statistics and media

Option C: Specialized or Student Support Tools like BookFlix, Gale eBooks, Peterson's Test Prep

Good for: literacy support, reference reading, and college/career readiness

Features:

- High-interest eBooks and read-along titles
- Topic-based reference collections
- Practice tests and study guides
- Skill-building tools for ACT/SAT/ASVAB and other exams
- Accessibility supports like audio, highlighting, and translation

Talking Points

- Show quick search example
- Show citation tool
- Mention student-friendly features

Slide 4: How Teachers Can Use These (1 minute)

Ideas to suggest:

- Add link to Google Classroom
- Require one SDSL source in papers
- Use topic overviews to introduce units
- Use citation tools to teach MLA/APA

Slide 5: I Can Help! (30 seconds)

Invite collaboration:

- Co-teach research lessons
- Create curated resource lists
- Help students with citations

End with Contact Info

Optional Handout

1-page sheet with:

- Links
- Login instructions
- Two featured databases
- Your email

Adaptable Research Lesson Plan Template

Title: Smart Research with SD State Library Electronic Resources

Grade Level: Adaptable for grades K-12

Time: 30-60 minutes (shorten or extend as needed)

Subject: Any research-based class or unit

Learning Objectives

Students will (at an age-appropriate level):

- Access library electronic resources
- Conduct a database search
- Identify a reliable source
- Generate or locate a citation or source credit

Aligned to South Dakota School Library Standards:

- ✓ Research strategies
- ✓ Creating new knowledge
- ✓ Responsible information use

Materials

- Student devices or shared screens
- Projector
- Electronic resource list appropriate for grade level
- Topic list appropriate for grade level

Lesson Steps

1. Hook: Why Not Just Google? (5 min)

- Ask age-appropriate questions like: Where do you usually look for information? How do you know if something is true?
- Discuss reliability simply for younger students and more deeply for older students.

2. Live Demonstration (10 min)

Show how to:

- Log in
- Search a topic
- Filter results or reading levels
- Find citation or source information

Adjust the pace and depth for the grade level.

3. Student Practice (10-25 min)

Students search for information connected to a class topic. Options by grade:

- Elementary: Find one fact or image
- Middle School: Find two articles or sources
- High School: Find multiple sources and a citation

Provide a checklist or graphic organizer.

4. Share & Reflect (5-10 min)

Students share what they found and how they searched. Discuss keywords, source quality, and surprises.

5. Exit Ticket

Students submit one of the following depending on grade level:

- A fact they learned
- An article title and database used
- A formatted citation

Extension Ideas

- Compare database results with a web search
- Practice evaluating sources
- Teach advanced search tools
- Build an annotated bibliography
- Explore accessibility tools like read-aloud or translation