

OCLC's FirstSearch

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Each member searched the same words and phrases, mainly “information technology”, “academic achievement”, “learning”, “youth” and “k-12”. The term “k-12” had no relevance in OCLC whereas “youth”, “school” and “education” assisted in narrowing down the sources. “Information Technology” needed to be linked to “Academic Achievement” in order to arrive at relevant sources. Finally, all of these terms were input as a keyword or subject search in some variation or another. The more appropriate sources, however, came from using these terms in keyword search rather than subject search.

Some attributes of the WorldCat.org interface were appreciated compared to the OCLC FirstSearch interface. Specifically, the layout, ability to bookmark the search, and the subset of results listed to the left of the searched results received positive remarks.

However, the database interface can be limiting to an individual with advanced searching skills. Boolean, quotes, and other search techniques were not available to assist refining the searches. If we were to choose, OCLC was the preferred interface for this exercise.

Our perfect search is as follows:

1. Use the “advanced search” tab, input “information technology and academic achievement and school” all keyword.
2. Limit search to book format, English only, and publication date of 2000-2007.
3. This results in 19 sources. Of these sources, the most relevant are:

- Wenglinsky, Harold (2005). *Using technology wisely: the keys to success in schools*. New York: Teachers College Press.
- Kallick, Bena and Wilson James M. (2001). *Information technology for schools: creating practical knowledge to improve student performance*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
- Lance, Keith Curry and Loertscher, David V. (2005). *Powering achievement: school library media programs make a difference: the evidence mounts*. Salt Lake City, UT: Hi Willow Research & Pub.
- Stark, Rae (2002). *The Impact of information and communication technology initiatives in Scottish schools*. Edinburgh: Scottish Executive Education Department.
- Rossler, Yitzhak (2003). *The effects of hypertext in a multimedia environment on the achievements in Judaic studies of elementary and junior high school students*. New York City: Yeshiva University.