

EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY

Chemistry, History, Lions And Tigers And Bears...And The Internet?

(NAPSA)—When researching a homework assignment or report, students may find they need more than just their textbook to complete their work. Students can access a variety of traditional research sources offline—but did you know many library research tools can now be found on the Web? Instead of lugging a heavy, dusty reference book back to a study area, students can simply log on to the Web and access the same research tools online, from the library or from home—virtually anywhere.

The Web has proven invaluable in the way we study, learn and obtain information, and students of all ages need to go no further than the Internet to access credible research from a variety of educational resources. A site like *Yahooligans!*, Yahoo's Web guide for kids (www.yahooligans.com) can be a great place for students to begin their research on the Web. *Yahooligans!* offers students access to reliable reference tools like *The American Heritage Dictionary*, *Roget's Thesaurus*, *Gray's Anatomy*, and *The World Factbook*, the U.S. government's complete geographical handbook.

According to one expert on education, "references on the Web tend to be very reliable and often reflect even more timely information than do textbooks. What's more, Web references are often easier to find and use because of Internet search features."

Traditional offline resources like *Encyclopedia Britannica* also offer online alternatives for students looking for research. *Britannica Online* (www.eb.com) provides students with a rich source of answers to questions spanning the full range of human knowledge, with more than 25,000 alphabetical entries. Topics covered range from anthropology, the arts, business, computers, geography, history and literature to medicine, philosophy, politics, popular culture and zoology—the topics that make up the



Help with homework can come from trusted resources on the Internet.

world we live in today.

For more specific research, try visiting niche sites. For example, students researching animals can find detailed information on hundreds of species of mammals, insects, reptiles, fishes, birds, and amphibians through the *Animals* area on the *Yahooligans!* site (<http://www.yahooligans.com/content/animals/>). The site also features online field guides provided by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and powered by *eNature.com*. The *Ranger Rick Field Guides*, brought to users directly from kid-popular *Ranger Rick*, bring to life information on over 600 animal species from North America, Africa, Asia, Australia and other exotic places.

Need to read Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* over the weekend but can't seem to find your library card? The *Oxford Shakespeare* (<http://www.bartleby.com/70/>) offers free, unlimited access to all of Shakespeare's 37 plays and 154 sonnets, plus anthologies of hundreds of authors.

The Internet is vast, and wading through the information pool can seem like a formidable task. With the examples above, however, you should be well on your way to finding reliable, credible information without ever dusting off a textbook.