
Online Reference Centre Update

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New Resources

The 10 newly licensed resources are now live and accessible through the LearnAlberta.ca Online Reference Centre interface.

Trial Resources

As per the contractual agreement with Alberta Education, the ORC will be trialing 8 new resources from the middle of October 2016 until December 22, 2016. Trial resources will be loaded on the ORC webpage and accessed like any other licensed resource for the duration of the trial. Trial resources include:

BrainPop

Intended Audience: Grades 4-8

Accessible from virtually any device, *BrainPop* provides animated, curricular related content specifically designed to engage and support learners. Embedded movies, quizzes, games, informational text and concept mapping tools are available for all topics. Topics included are Math, Science, Social Studies, English, Technology, Arts and Music, as well as Health.

BrainPop Jr.

Intended Audience: K-3

Access high quality animated, curriculum based content specially designed for younger students in K-3. Movies, quizzes, games and activities are embedded throughout the resource to help develop critical thinking skills and encourage curiosity in a variety of topics including: Science, Health, Reading and Writing, Social Studies, Math, Arts and Technology. Embedded tools like the word wall, discussion, writing and drawing prompts are also included to support a wide range of learning styles.

Core Concepts: Biology

Intended Audience: Grades 7-10

Featuring straightforward navigation, *Core Concepts: Biology* is a content-driven, visually stimulating, media-rich online resource. Interactive activities and timelines, relevant and engaging science experiments, biology flashcards, as well as text-to-speech and text translation support all learners in independently locating authoritative information quickly and easily.

Core Concepts: Chemistry

Intended Audience: Grades 7-10

Access learning simulations, interactive timelines, experiments, chemistry flashcards, text-to-speech and text translation tools to build students' knowledge and understanding of the core concepts of chemistry. Easily navigated, this straightforward interface provides quick access to engaging media-rich online content related to chemistry.

Core Concepts: Periodic Table

Intended Audience: Grades 7-10

Making complex scientific concepts easy to understand, this highly engaging, interactive resource allows for hands-on exploring of the periodic table. Digital flashcards, learning simulations, interactive timelines, text-to-speech and text translation allow any learner to quickly and easily access information to develop their understanding of the periodic table.

Interactive Science

Intended Audience: Grades 9-12

Supporting Biology, Chemistry and Earth Science, this interactive digital resource provides high-quality, media-rich

digital content for high school learners. Powerful visual tools allow students to dive deeper into a concept with 3D cross section imagery. Instead of viewing each individual component and mentally placing them together this resource provides all of the components in one image. The rotate and zoom features allow for further in-depth exploration.

Modern World History Online

Intended Audience: Grades 8-10

Offering a comprehensive look at world history from the mid 15th century to present, *Modern World History Online* provides access to thousands of subject entries, biographies, images, videos, graphs, maps, primary sources and timelines organized into easily accessed topic centers. Embedded read aloud, text translation and permalink tool make this resource accessible to all learners.

ProQuest Research Companion

Intended Audience: Grades 10-12

Helping students accomplish more scholarly research while honing information literacy skills, *ProQuest Research Companion* provides more than 80 short, easy to understand videos organized into nine learning modules focused around the different aspects of the research process. Pre and post assessment questions help to make the experience more interactive, meaningful and memorable for users while providing immediate feedback to the learner about their knowledge and understanding of various information literacy skills.

Training

Three ORC trainers have been contracted for the 2016/2017 school year to help support training requests across the province. The feedback for the new trainers has been extremely positive thus far.

Additional trainers will provide time for the ORC Coordinator to update the current curriculum maps and complete the mapping for grades 7-9.

- From September 9 until October 21, 2016, 12 ORC sessions have been completed.
- ORC trainers completed three of the 12 sessions.

Stats on ORC Support Site

In the month of September the ORC Support Site (www.onlinereferencecentre.ca) had a total of 6441 page views, averaging 258 pages per day with a range of 114-532. Top two pages viewed were Division I Resource Training and Curriculum Mapping for Division II respectively. In addition, the ORC Support Site generated 1379 unique visitors, an average of 55 per day, in the month of September.

Grant-in-Aid Application

The ORC Coordinator is beginning to gather applicable documentation for the 2017/2018 Online Reference Centre Grant-In-Aid. This includes calculating the final usage statistics for the 2015/2016 school year.

ORC Listserv

The ORC listserv is migrating over to an improved message provider that will allow for targeted messaging based on the grade range the individual is working with. Migration will be completed by the end of November 2016.
