



## InfoTrac® K-12 Series

*InfoTrac® Student Edition*

*InfoTrac® Junior Edition*

*InfoTrac® Kids Edition*



# InfoTrac® K-12 Series:

*InfoTrac® Student Edition*  
*InfoTrac® Junior Edition*  
*InfoTrac® Kids Edition*

## *A fun and friendly road to research*

How do you get students to actually like research? Make it easy to locate the information they seek and give them the tools to make sense of what they find. The *InfoTrac K-12 Series* does just that, with user-friendly interfaces, ever-improving general reference content and unlimited access that makes learning—in the classroom, in the library or at home—fun and easy to perform.

*InfoTrac Student Edition* – boasting 480 indexed periodicals (88% of them full-text) and 15 full-text reference books – helps secondary school students find the answers they need using the sources that teachers and librarians prefer.

*InfoTrac Junior Edition* gives junior-high and middle-schoolers the same searching ease, with more than 150 indexed and more than 140 full-text general-interest magazines, thousands of newspaper articles, and a variety of reference books.

Elementary-school students can make their first journey into research with the engaging *InfoTrac Kids Edition*, with its 85 full-text magazines, plus reference books and articles to complement their curriculum and inquiring minds.

### **SEARCH TIP**

When you see the *InfoMark*® icon on your results page, this means that you can bookmark the page for future reference, copy it into an electronic mail message or embed it into a Web page. Because the technology is tied into every Thomson Gale database and *Resource Center*, *InfoMarks* are ideal for creating reading lists, course reserves, current awareness topic sites, links to periodical or newspaper sources, online/distance learning courses, bibliographies, lesson plans and much more!

For more information on how to use *InfoMarks*, click the icon on the results page, or go to: [www.gale.com/InfoMarks](http://www.gale.com/InfoMarks)

### **GOOGLE IMAGE SEARCH**

Thomson Gale has added Google Image Search to the *InfoTrac K-12 Series* databases. When you see the Google logo at the top of a page, you may link to numerous high-quality images related to your search.



If you prefer, this feature may be disabled

### **Take a look at these sample searches:**

#### **INFOTRAC STUDENT EDITION**

##### **Constitutional amendments**

A **Subject Search** for “constitutional amendments” produces numerous documents.

##### **Reference book excerpts**

Articles include:

- A landmark bill in 1786 by Virginia legislature establishing religious freedom (from *The American Reader*)
- An article citing the Magna Carta of 1215 as pivotal to the origins of the U.S. Constitution

##### **Periodicals**

More than 150 articles covering a variety of topics including:

- “Victims’ Rights: Leave the Constitution Alone”
- “Know your Constitution”
- “Immigrants for President: Why the foreign-born should be allowed to compete for the big job”
- “A Stay of Execution: Florida’s Electric Chair and the Eighth Amendment”
- An analysis of the second amendment, “Second Thoughts — What the right to bear arms really means”
- An article on anti-flag burning legislation
- A proposed balanced budget amendment, including a related article on other proposed constitutional amendments

- “Brazil’s historic vote,” a look at congressional approval of a change in the republic’s constitution that would allow governors, legislators and mayors to run for consecutive second terms
- An explanation of the U.S. Bill of Rights
- Proposal of Great Britain’s labor party which includes removing heredity as a basis for seats in the House of Lords

### Subdivisions

Topical subdivisions provide a variety of options for further research, including:

- History
- Influence
- Interpretation and construction
- Laws and regulations
- Political aspects
- Public opinion
- Ratification
- Religious aspects
- Social aspects

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## INFOTRAC JUNIOR EDITION

### Thomas Jefferson

A **Subject Search** for “Thomas Jefferson” produces a variety of results:

#### Encyclopedia entry

Overview from *The Columbia Encyclopedia* – includes information on Jefferson’s early life, presidential influence, and retirement activities.

#### Reference book content

Sources include:

- *Reader’s Companion to American History*
- *World Almanac and Book of Facts*
- *Merriam-Webster’s Biographical Dictionary*

#### Newspapers

Articles include:

- “A look at Thomas Jefferson’s War against the Pirate Kings”
- “Louisiana Purchase Was Once-in-a-Lifetime Bargain”
- “Declaration Is a Fascinating Piece of Government and Literature”

#### Periodicals

Articles include:

- Review of book “Mr. Jefferson’s Lost Cause,” from Washington Times

- “How They Chose Those Words,” about how Jefferson came to be chosen to draft the Declaration of Independence, from Time
- “Splitting Heirs,” about the controversy over Jefferson’s heirs from the family of Sally Hemings, from People

### Subdivisions

Narrow your search by selecting from such subdivided topics as:

- Family
- Military policy
- Political activity
- Quotations
- Records and correspondence

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## INFOTRAC KIDS EDITION

### Snakes

A Subject Guide search of “Snakes” produces informative results aimed at children:

“Snakes” from *The Columbia Encyclopedia*, includes information on snake characteristics, locomotion, types and classifications, plus separate entries for particular breeds of snake.

#### Periodicals

- “Double Trouble?,” about the discovery of a two-headed snake, from Weekly Reader
- “Snakes for Snacks?,” from Skipping Stones
- “The Big Squeeze,” from National Geographic Kids
- “Having a Ball,” from Odyssey
- “Snakes Have Bones,” a project to model a snake’s body, from Boy’s Quest
- “Snakes Are a Real Gas,” about the sounds snakes make, from National Geographic World

Related subjects, including:

- Poisonous snakes
- Pythons
- Sea snakes
- Snakes as pets

On the same page, you may limit your search to specific periodicals, including:

- Animals
- Appleseeds
- Highlights for Children
- Time for Kids



# InfoTrac® K-12 Series Search Tips

## HOW TO USE INFOTRAC STUDENT EDITION, INFOTRAC JUNIOR EDITION AND INFOTRAC KIDS EDITION

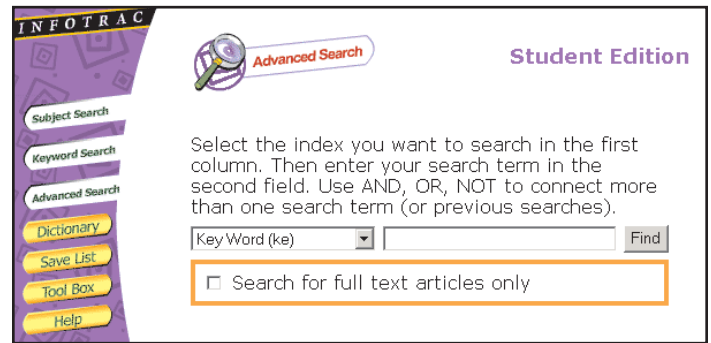
Use your Internet browser to go to the InfoTrac URL. On the home page, you will find three search options:

- For common topics, Subject Search gives you the most results
- Use Keyword Search for less common words, such as proper names
- Advanced Search is best for finding something specific, such as the title of an article or the name of an author

Tip: Read "Help" before you start

## ADVANCED SEARCH

First choose the index you want to search from the first column. Then enter the words you want to search for in the second column. Use and, or, not to connect your words, which can make the search broader (more results) or smaller (fewer results).



## TOOLS

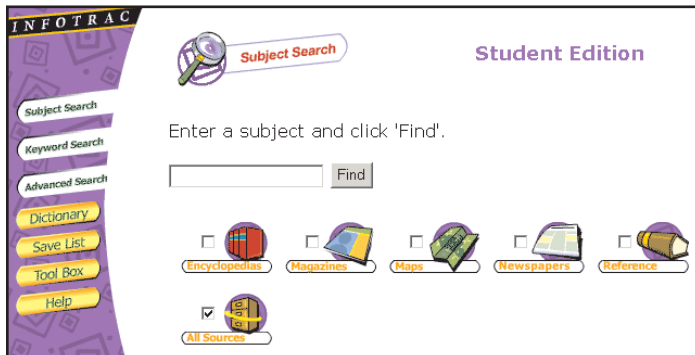
On the home page and during your search, you will find more tools to help you. They include:

- Dictionary
- Google Image Search
- Save List
- Tool Box
- Help

If you need further assistance with InfoTrac K-12 Series, please consult your Library Media Specialist.

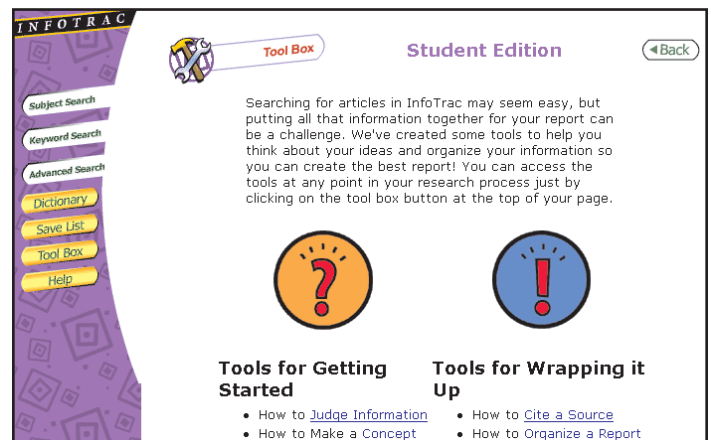
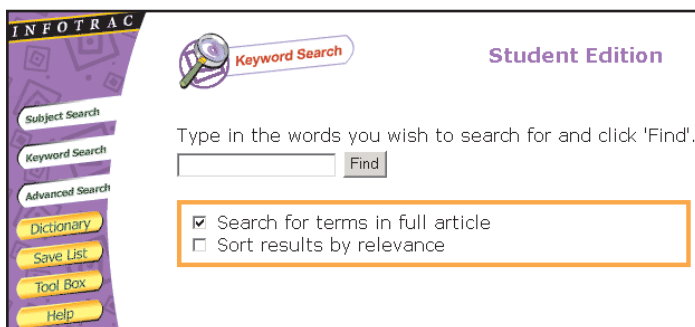
## SUBJECT SEARCH

Enter a subject and click "Find." Tell the search where to look by clicking on one of these boxes: encyclopedias, magazines, maps, newspapers, reference or in all of these.



## KEYWORD SEARCH

Type in the words you want to search for and click "Find." Click on one or both of the two boxes, and you can search for the words in articles only and have your results list the best matches first.



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# How to Use the Tool Box

## INFOTRAC K-12 SERIES SEARCH TIPS

### What do you want to know?

Searching for articles may be easy, but putting all that information together for a report can be a challenge. The Thomson Gale Tool Box is an integral feature of all our K-12 databases and helps students think about their idea and organize information for any paper or research project. They can be accessed at any point in the research process by clicking on the Tool Box icon at the top of each page.



### Tools for Getting Started

- How to Judge Information
- How to Make a Concept Web
- How to Choose a Topic
- How to Write a Topic Sentence
- How to Make an Outline



### Tools for Wrapping It Up

- How to Cite a Source
- How to Organize a Report
- How to Build an Argument
- How to Write a Conclusion
- How to Write a Thesis Statement
- How to Create a Visual Representations of Data (charts, graphs, etc.)
- How to Footnote

All Tool Box topics including a worksheet, suitable for downloading. For example, the topic “How to Cite a Source” discusses the elements of a bibliography as well as when, why and how to give credit to an outside source. Students can then reinforce the information discussed by accessing the worksheet.

**How to Cite a Source**

What kind of information goes into a report? Lots of kinds: facts, ideas, conclusions, quotes, etc. Where does the information come from? Sometimes it comes straight from you. For example, say you do a science experiment, and you write a report about it. The source of the information in your report is the results of your experiment. Since you are the person who did the experiment, the source is you. You don't need to give credit to anyone else.

**Give Credit Where Credit Is Due**

But often, the information comes from something you have read. Whenever you read something and use it in a report, there's a rule you must follow. You have to give credit to the person who wrote the information you're using. This is called "citing the source."

There are several ways to cite a source. Your teacher may have special rules for citing sources. If so, you should follow them. The point behind these rules is simple. When citing a source, always tell the reader at least two things:

- the name of the person who wrote the source
- the title of the source

**An Example**

Let's say you're writing a report on tree frogs. You read Sara Murray-Plummer's U.S. Kids article "fitting in" as part of your research. In the article, you learn that some tree frogs

**When to Cite**  
Whenever you read something that you use in a report.

**Why to Cite**  
To credit the person who wrote the thing you're using in your report.

**How to Cite**  
Provide at least the title of the source and the author's name.

Tips on citing a source ...

**Concept Web**

Making a concept web is a great way to get your research project going. Concept webs help you organize your thoughts and ideas about the topic you're studying. When you make a concept web about your topic, you'll soon be able to find the information you need to write a grade-A report. The picture below shows what a simple concept web looks like:

**Main Topic:**

A very short statement that describes what you're studying. Two or three words are usually all you need. For example, if you're supposed to write a report about the world's tropical rain forests, you could use **Rain Forests** as your main topic.

....creating a concept web....

**How to Write a Thesis Statement**

If you imagine an essay as a beautiful flower, the thesis statement is the seed that gave birth to the flower. A well-written paper literally grows out of its thesis statement. This is because the thesis statement expresses the main idea of your paper. You should put your thesis statement in the introductory paragraph, preferably as the very first sentence. This way, readers of your essay will immediately know:

- The topic of your paper.
- Your core argument concerning the topic.

**Writing a Thesis Statement**

A well-conceived thesis statement has two parts. The first part is the simply the topic of your paper. The second part, called the "comment," is the main idea you want to express about your topic. Here's a schematic representation of a thesis statement:

	Part One	Part Two
<b>Semantic Structure:</b>	Topic	Comment
<b>Grammatical Structure:</b>	Subject	Predicate
<b>Questions to answer:</b>	What's your paper about?	What's your take on this topic?
<b>Example:</b>	Salmon and steelhead populations	will decline unless their spawning habitats are protected.

... and writing a thesis statement are all part of InfoTrac K-12 helpful research tools