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## **M5- Mining for in-depth resources**

### **Transformational Leadership**

#### **1. Definition**

"Style of leadership in which the leader identifies the needed change, creates a vision to guide the change through inspiration, and executes the change with the commitment of the members of the group."

The above definition is freely available online at [BusinessDictionary](#).

#### **2. Scholarly research article**

The following article is available on the database *Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts with Full Text (LISTA)*.

Martin, J. (2016, April). Perceptions of transformational leadership in academic libraries.

*Journal of Library Administration*, (56)3, 266-284. doi:

10.1080/01930826.2015.1105069

#### **3. Biographical information**

The following biographical information on Bernard M. Bass is available at the SJSU King Library on the database *Biography Reference Bank (H.W. Wilson)*.

Biographical information on Bernard M. Bass is freely available at [obituaries.com](#), a source recommended by Cassell and Hiremath (2013, p. 239).

The biographical information provided by the *Biography Reference Bank* is concise and focuses on his places of employment, his influence on leadership and management, and his most notable award. The biographical information included in his obituary is more detailed and personal. Professional accomplishments include the number of written works published; business

consultation, workshops and training; teaching; and pro bono work. The tone of the obituary is more sentimental and favorably biased toward his contributions.

Cassell, K.A. & Hiremath, U. (2013). Answering questions about the lives of people.

In *Reference and information services: An introduction* (Third ed.) (pp. 227-241).

Chicago, IL: Neal-Schuman.

#### **4. E-book**

Burbank (2012) takes inspiration from the various works by Avolio when she states, "There is a passionate yearning for more authentic leaders who can guide and empower followers through this turmoil- leaders who are willing to examine their own lives and internal values, acknowledge their failures, and create a vision that moves followers to meaningful solutions, consistently modeling core values like service, integrity, and compassion" (p. 145).

Burbank, C. (2012). Shapeshifter Leadership: Responding creatively to the challenges of a complex world. In C. S. Pearson (Ed.), *The transforming leader: New approaches to leadership for the twenty-first century* (pp. 140-150). San Francisco, CA: Berrett-Koehler. Retrieved from

<http://site.ebrary.com/libaccess.sjlibrary.org/lib/sjsu/reader.action?docID=10562061>

#### **5. Instrument**

Bass and Avolio are the authors of the Multifactor Leadership Questionnaire, which is an instrument that can be located by the database *Mental Measurements Yearbook with Tests in Print*. The record of this resource indicates that it is published by Consulting Psychologists Press, Inc. The questionnaire aims to measure leadership qualities and to identify effective leaders. This would be an appropriate tool for research on the topic of transformational leadership.

#### **6. Dissertation**

The full text of the dissertation *Spirituality and transformational leadership in education* is available to download as a PDF through ProQuest.

Riaz, O. (2012). *Spirituality and transformational leadership in education* (Doctoral dissertation). Available from ProQuest Dissertations and Theses database. (UMI No. 3541871)

## **M7 Mini Activity -- Search Strategies**

### **1. Searching the ProQuest database, ABI/Inform**

This exercise demonstrates the effectiveness of utilizing simple search strategies. The Advanced Search Command Line menu of the ABI/Inform database was used to search the topic of transformational leadership. Refining the search to "Anywhere except full text-All" with the first dropdown menu yielded over 11,000 results. When the same term was searched using the Subject field code, the list of results was reduced to 372. After limiting these results to peer reviewed results, the list included only 29 works. Selecting the scholarly journals option did not affect this list, which indicates that all 29 peer reviewed sources were published in scholarly journals. The list has now been narrowed down to a reasonable number of sources to explore. Placing quotation marks around "transformational leadership" and choosing the "Anywhere except full text-All" option revealed hits in which the two words appear together, reducing the number of results from over 11,000 to 2,480. Quotation marks, therefore, should be used to search for results that contain a meaningful phrase. Changing the "Anywhere except full text-All" to "Anywhere" increased the results to over 12,000, which is not helpful. Choosing from the dropdown menu and selecting the source type are strategies that refine a search and reduce results to a manageable list of relevant results.

### **2/3. Search terms**

The success of a search is dependent on the terms used. This can be demonstrated by analyzing the results of searching several sources for information on the European storm petrel using varying terminology. Different combinations of the keywords seabird, petrel\*, storm, European, and hydrobates pelagicus were attempted in each source.

The King Library's book catalog is explored in the Advanced Search option by choosing the Book format. The best results were obtained with the keywords storm and petrel\*. Although some of the resulting 13 books focus on non-European birds, the list includes more sources than results obtained by searching European storm petrel\*.

The Oxford Reference database was most effective using the keywords storm petrel, which resulted in 25 hits. Hyphens made no difference and quotation marks around a phrase yielded no results.

The ScienceDirect database yielded over 12,000 results for the keyword seabird, over 8,000 hits for petrel\*, and 300 hits when using either storm petrel, or storm petrel and European as keywords. Hyphens did not affect on the results. Placing quotation marks around the phrase "European storm petrel" reduced the results to 33. The keywords *Hydrobates pelagicus* yielded 94 results, while placing quotation marks around the phrase yielded 92 results. It is not surprising that a science database produced many more results when searching with scientific terms.

Academic Search Complete, a multidisciplinary database, was most effective with the Boolean search for storm petrel\* AND European, which yielded in 25 results. Interestingly, the search term *hydrobates pelagicus* did not produce a list of results that differed significantly from the search terms storm petrel\* AND European. The use of quotation marks did not have a substantial affect on the list of results.

When researching a topic, it is essential to obtain a manageable number of relevant sources. Since databases vary in focus, content, and search capabilities, it is crucial to utilize strategies that produce effective results for each database. The above exercise demonstrates the importance of understanding different search strategies.

#### **4. Archived reference questions**

Yahoo Answers is organized alphabetically into 26 different categories ranging from Beauty & Style, to Computers & Internet, to Social Science. Questions are further tagged by sub-category. Questions on the main page of each category are arranged chronologically, with the latest question appearing first. A new question can be asked by typing it into the search box at the top of the page. It is possible to filter the question by category. For example, a user asking a question about children's nightmares can specify the type of answer required, such as Parenting, Polls & Surveys, or Religion & Spirituality. The types of questions posed on Yahoo Answers seem to include a full range, from technical mathematical questions to hair color preference.

### **5. Contacting Congress**

Although I currently live in Switzerland, my latest US address was in California. I used Google to search for the web page of Barbara Boxer, one of California's senators. I submitted the e-mail form on the Contact page to share my thoughts, selecting Sensible Gun Laws from the drop-down menu.

### **6. Finding Answer and Assessing Authority of Source**

Cassell and Hiremath (2013) recommend establishing authority as a factor in evaluating internet sources. The authoritativeness of the answer provided can be determined by gauging the reputation of the author (p. 277). Results of a Google search of the question "Can you really tell the temperature by listening to the chirping of a cricket?" leads to an answer on the page [Everyday Mysteries](#) (Library of Congress, n.d.). The URL of the Everyday Mysteries web page indicates its sponsorship by the Library of Congress, a trusted and well-regarded organization. Information on this page, therefore, is reliable. The answer, surprisingly, is yes.

### **References**

Cassell, K. A. & Hiremath, U. (2013). When and how to use the internet as a reference tool. In *Reference and information services: An introduction* (Third ed.) (pp. 263-284). Chicago, IL: Neal-Schuman.

Library of Congress (n.d.). Everyday mysteries: Fun science facts from the Library of Congress [Web page]. Retrieved from <https://www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/mysteries/cricket.html>

## M8 - Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, Etc.

### 1. Slang/Regional Terminology

This exercise explores the online search process to discover the origins of the British regional term "wazzock," which is a slang word meaning an annoying person. An online search yields hits for dictionary definitions. Both Oxford Dictionaries and Dictionary.com indicate that the origin of the term is unknown. Oxford Dictionaries places the emergence of the term in the 1970s.

An article in *The Guardian* (Barkham, 2016) traces the first print appearance in the 1970s to Mike Harding, a comic, poet, and radio presenter. Harding explains that the term is used often in the north of England and evolves from the medieval period. He claims that the term wazzock refers to a tool used to fling royal excrement from the castle window. Although *The Guardian* is a respected journal, the explanation given by Harding cannot be considered authoritative, as he is unable to cite any reliable sources.

Results of a Google search for "wazzock origin" leads to the mental\_floss.com web site, where the term is considered a contraction of "wisacre," meaning a know-it-all. Although this is an interesting theory, the web site does not provide citations, and therefore cannot be considered reliable.

One indication that the origin of this term has not yet been determined is an article found on the Oxford English Dictionary (n.d.) website, referring to a 2007 television series. The earliest verifiable usage of the word is placed in 1984, and no explanation is offered about the origins of the word.

The SJSU digital *Oxford English Dictionary* confirms that the origins of the word are still unknown. Since the *Oxford English Dictionary* is a known and reliable source of information, it

can be assumed that no convincing evidence has yet been produced that traces the origins of the word wazzock.

## **2. Dictionaries**

This exercise focuses on the use of specialized reference tools and online search engines. Cassell and Hiremath (2013) describe the purpose of an encyclopedia as providing "succinct, user-friendly information on all areas of cumulative human activity" (p. 73), while dictionaries "attempt to list all the words in a language along with meanings, usage, pronunciation, grammatical provenance, and syllabication" (p. 121).

Electronic databases "provide access to both current and historic periodical articles as well as newspapers, book information, dissertations, conference proceedings, interviews, and much more" (p. 149).

The *Oxford English Dictionary* produced zero results for "paleo-oncology," "paleo oncology," or "bombogenesis." I could find no results in any of the following online sources: *Gale Encyclopedia of Science, Dictionary of Environmental Science and Technology, The Hutchinson Encyclopedia of Science, and The Hutchinson Dictionary of Geography*. Next I looked in the *ScienceDirect* electronic database, which yielded zero results for both terms.

My final search strategy utilized Google Scholar, which came up with 17 results for bombogenesis. The hyphenated search term paleo-oncology produced 54 results, while paleo oncology (without a hyphen) yielded 650 results.

I was very confused and frustrated by my failure with the dictionary, encyclopedia, and database searches. I'm not sure what I've learned from this exercise. Either the terms that I searched were too specific to be included in general sources, my search skills are weak, or I have not understood the concepts required for this exercise. I was moderately reassured by my success

with Google Scholar. The resulting list of scholarly works on the two topics leads me to conclude that even specialized dictionaries and encyclopedias are limited in scope. (I did not find a quote from the textbook to support this conclusion.) This theory does not explain why a specialized database like *ScienceDirect* did not yield any results.

### **3. Books**

The book *Chaotic Synchronization: Applications to Living Systems* by Mosekilde, Maistrenko, and Postnov was searched in several systems. The Bibliothèque Municipale de Vevey catalog contained no results for this title. A search of the OCLC WorldCat indicated that the nearest copy of this book is in the US International University of Africa in Nairobi, Kenya. Prices for this book on Amazon.com range from \$110.77 to \$540.68, not including shipping to Switzerland. Google Books links to World Scientific, where the print book sells for GBP 115.00 and the ebook sells for GBP 91.00. Based on this search, I would recommend that a public patron purchase an ebook from World Scientific.

### **4/5. Online Encyclopedias**

5a. Type of library setting where encyclopedias might be added

- *Encyclopedia of Polymer Science and Technology* is a subject encyclopedia that would be suitable in a university or technical college setting.
- *Music Online: The Garland Encyclopedia of World Music* is a subject specific encyclopedia that focuses on music. Volumes are accompanied by CDs with audio examples. This encyclopedia would be appropriate for a public library, a music or performing arts library, or an academic library.
- *The New Children's Encyclopedia* is a general reference tool for children. It would be a good addition to a school or public library.

5b. Observable evaluation criteria

	<i>Polymer Science and Technology</i>	<i>Garland World Music</i>	<i>New Children's Encyclopedia</i>
<b>Scope</b>	15 volumes cover topics of interest relating to polymer science. Written by experts.	Covers full range of world music throughout history and across cultures.	Covers main topics of elementary school curriculum.
<b>Searchability</b>	Articles are organized alphabetically. Also searchable by topic and title.	Volumes are divided by geographical area, each with an introduction, issues and processes, and classified into sub-regions.	Organized thematically. Also searchable by index.
<b>Age</b>	Aimed at experts and university professors and students of polymer science.	Intended for music scholars, but readable and accessible for all ages.	Designed for ages 6-9.
<b>Value Add-Ons</b>	No bells or whistles.	Accompanying CDs are an attractive feature. Includes drawings, photos, maps, graphs, images and song texts.	Print volume. Color images, photos, fast facts, maps, and graphics appeal to children.
<b>Currency</b>	Updated quarterly with new and revised articles.	Comprehensive historical coverage. Currency is of secondary importance.	Current information at date of publication in 2013.

**6. Amazon.com**

I contacted an acquaintance, who is now a librarian at the University of Sheffield in the UK, and asked her if she uses Amazon.com at work. She said that she frequently uses Amazon.co.uk, the British version of Amazon.com. It is used not only to verify authoritative book information, but also to assess various aspects of books, such as content, reading level, and reviews. She mentioned that Amazon's advanced search features are powerful and useful. She says that although there are other ways to search for information about books, Amazon.co.uk is intuitive, authoritative, and vast in scope.

## Reference

- Barkham, P. (2016, January 19). Wazzock: The perfect insult to throw at Donald Trump. In The Guardian. Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/shortcuts/2016/jan/19/why-wazzock-may-be-ideal-term-abuse-donald-trump>
- Cassell, K.A. & Hiremath, U. (2013). *Reference and information services: An introduction* (Third ed.). Chicago, IL: Neal-Schuman.
- Oxford English Dictionary (n.d.). Balderdash and Piffle. Retrieved from <http://public.oed.com/resources/for-students-and-teachers/balderdash-and-piffle/>

## M9 Mini Activity -- Finding Facts

### 1. Calendar/Events/Dates

This exercise demonstrates different methods of searching for an event on a particular day. With the Advanced Search tool, the ProQuest Historical Newspapers database was used to search *The New York Times* for articles published on 25 September 1962. Although no specific famous event was reported on that day, article titles reflect issues and persons of the era: Kennedy, Hoffa, Castro, Nureyev, Vietnam, West Berlin, racial tensions, Soviet spies, and the space program, for example.

General searches of newspaper archives are challenging. Focusing on a subject or company is only effective for a specific search. Events that occurred on 25 September 1962 would not have actually appeared in the newspaper on that day. Therefore, searching *The New York Times* archives for events occurring on a particular day would involve browsing the issues of the following days. Narrowing down the results to those that are noteworthy can be difficult, unless searching for a specific event. Some events may only be perceived as important or representative of the era in time's perspective. Searching this type of database may be most effective for obtaining a general idea of issues and topics of concern at the time, or when researching a specific event.

September 25 was searched at [On This Day](#), an open source web tool. A list of events that occurred throughout history on this day was displayed. Events in 1962 include nuclear testing by the USSR, sports and arts events, and civil unrest in Macon, Georgia. It is possible to narrow searches to highlights, events, birth and death dates, and weddings and divorces. Searches can also focus on film and television, sports, or music.

Searching On This Day is easy and intuitive. Results are entertaining, but not necessarily useful for scholarly purposes. Since results span the entirety of history, lists of events that happened on any given day are extremely limited, and criteria for inclusion are unclear. Free internet sources may be best utilized for discovering a variety of interesting events that occurred on any given day throughout history.

## **2. Facts about people**

Find a Grave was searched to discover the name of the cemetery and town in California where Maria M. Ramirez (1927-2007) is buried. The "Search 153 million grave records" tool was used by entering the person's name and birth and death dates. Although Ramirez died in Santa Barbara, she is buried in Acacia Memorial Park in Modesto, Stanislaus County, CA. Death certificates may be ordered from the county in which the individual died, not where they are buried. Instructions for obtaining a death certificate for Maria M. Ramirez are found on the [Santa Barbara Clerk-Recorder](#) web page.

## **3. Local special collections vs. online subscription databases or free-access digital archives**

The [Mark Twain Room](#) at the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library contains the original handwritten manuscript of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, special English and foreign language editions of the novel, and other related collectibles.

The [Digital Public Library of America](#) links to several special Mark Twain collections that are in digital format. Searching is intuitive, and results can be narrowed by several criteria. Links to contributing institutions make the search experience convenient. Search results for Mark Twain indicate a collection at the New York Public Library.

The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature at the New York Public Library includes a collection of original Samuel L. Clemens papers, which has been digitized, and can be viewed [online](#).

#### **4. Almanacs- finding facts**

Infoplease was searched for "Nobel prize for literature." A link was provided for finding every winner of the Nobel Prize by the year and the award. Clicking on "[Nobel Prize for Literature](#)" results in a list of winners. Carl Spitteler of Switzerland won in 1919.

#### **5. Car Prices**

Based on the zip code of my latest US address, the [Kelley Blue Book](#) value of my car is \$19,664.

I did not wish to submit my contact information to [Autotrader](#), so I did not find the value of my car according to their calculations. They apparently use the Kelley Blue Book, but Autotrader asked many more detailed questions than the Kelly Blue Book website.

#### **6. Local Social Service Information**

I researched the [Buffalo and Erie County Public Library website](#) to explore what links were offered to local resources for patrons in need of social services.

Online Resource Centers are divided into Career Resources, Kids' Corner, Parents Place, Senior Services, Teacher Links and Teens Space. For patrons who are in a crisis situation, useful links are found on [Parents Place](#) or [Teens Space](#). However, not everybody fits into one of those two categories.

There are also useful links in the [Community Connections](#) subject guide. This page lists sub-categories, with links leading to many community, state, federal, and not-for-profit organizations. Although the information is useful, it is not, in my opinion, intuitively or easily

located on the website. I don't think that a person in crisis, who is perhaps underprivileged, uneducated, or does not speak English well, would necessarily think to look under "Subject Guides" and then "Community Connections." In my opinion, "Subject Guides" sounds more like a student resource for homework. Perhaps the library has determined that people in crisis are more likely to visit the library in person than to search online for help. However, that is not a good reason to hide links to valuable resources in unlikely places.

## M12 Mini Activity -- Law, Health, Business

### 1. Company information

(a) Below is a screenshot of information from Google Finance on Facebook (FB):

[deleted]

(b) Standard and Poor's NetAdvantage offers additional information, such as Estimates & Opinions:

[deleted]

(c) The main advantage to using Google Finance is its convenience and free access. Standard & Poor's NetAdvantage is only available to paid subscribers. The broader range and more depth of information contained in the subscription database may be useful for experts who are looking for specific information.

### 2. Business scenario

(a) Standard & Poor's NetAdvantage has information on dividends of M&T Bank Corp. (MTB) from 1996 to the present. Quotes are available for the past decade.

(b) Yahoo! Finance provides historical data for M&T Bank Corp. from 1991 to the present.

(c) Admittedly, I have no idea what any of this information means. However, it seems to me that the Yahoo! Finance Historical Data option is intuitive and may be a useful resource. I was also interested in the Yahoo! Summary, where the cursor can be moved within the chart for specific information in a visual format.

### 3. Health-related databases

For information about the possible dangers of the Zika virus when traveling to Costa Rica, I would recommend that a patron look at [MedlinePlus.gov](http://MedlinePlus.gov). This is a trustworthy website,

sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' National Institutes of Health. The site provides current information on the Zika virus, as well as practical advice for travelers. I would direct the patron to this resource because the information is current, reliable, practical, and geared toward general users rather than experts. Furthermore, categories for different types of users and topics allow for easier access to relevant information.

#### **4. Government laws/ regulations/ legislation**

SunshineStatutes is a website with information about legislation in the state of Florida. It contains a statute concerning persons who may make an anatomical gift.

#### **5. Statistical abstract of the United States**

(a) FedStats provides a link to the [US Census Bureau](#), which states: " There were 77.1 million people enrolled in school at all levels in October 2015 (1.5 million fewer than in 2010), which was 25.3 percent of the population age 3 and older."

A link to the [Bureau of Economic Analysis](#) includes information on the Gross Domestic Product by Industry: Second Quarter 2016. "According to gross domestic product (GDP) by industry statistics released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, 15 of 22 industry groups contributed to the overall 1.4 percent increase in real GDP in the second quarter."

(b) One type of information provided on banks is located through a link from FedStats to USA.gov. Money and Shopping > Shopping and Consumer Issues > Banking > [Banking Basics](#) leads to basic information on setting up a bank account in the U.S. This page, for instance, describes how to stop payment on a check.

(c) One type of data that would be useful when answering reference questions about the U.S. Congress is found by clicking the USA.gov link from FedStats. The main navigation menu

leads to [How to Contact Your Elected Official](#), which would be a good resource for a patron who would like to contact his senator, for example.

## **6. Psychology**

The [DSM-5](#) states that two diagnostic criteria for Social Anxiety Disorder are (a) a marked fear or anxiety about one or more social situations in which the individual is exposed to possible scrutiny by others, and (b) the individual fears that he or she will act in a way or show anxiety symptoms that will be negatively evaluated. One risk for this disorder is a temperamental trait that includes behavioral inhibition and fear of negative evaluation.

## **M13 Mini Activity**

### **Biographical Information, Government Publications, and Web 2.0**

#### **1. Biographical Database**

Biography.com is a free internet resource for biographic information on thousands of noteworthy people. Information on Chinua Achebe includes basic details about his life, works and achievements, and a photo. The website provides a 3-page printable version of the article.

Biography and Genealogy Master Index is a subscription database that indexes references to millions of notable individuals. A search for Chinua Achebe results in several documents that list sources where Chinua Achebe is cited.

Biography.com seems to be a better resource for a patron who needs a printable general biography of Chinua Achebe and a list of his works. It is an easy and convenient resource with basic information in a printable form. Biography and Genealogy Master Index may be more useful for a patron who needs to conduct deeper research and to locate and evaluate many different sources of biographic information on Chinua Achebe.

#### **2. ERIC Database**

a) A search for reports-research (143) about "libraries" on ERIC via ProQuest for 2014-2016 results in 611 hits.

(b) The Source Types located are scholarly journals, other sources, and reports.

(c) The APA citation tool was used to generate citations for a selected report and article.

It seems to me that the citations are not entirely correct. For example, the first citation contains empty parentheses and no indication about the type of document. The second citation is missing punctuation and contains an inexplicable street address. I am not surprised that the tool is powered by RefWorks, which also generates incomplete and inaccurate citations. This tool may be a good starting point, but is not reliable.

### **3. Current Issues**

ProCon.org is a free internet resource with information on controversial issues. Summaries of hot topics are followed by lists of the main perspectives for and against each issue. Background details are available, as well as famous quotes that support each side of the argument. The site recommends a list of further informative articles and statistics, as well as links to sources to explore for continuing research. The advantage of this site is that it is user-friendly. Each side's viewpoints are presented concisely in a way that is visual and logical. The disadvantage of this website is that major viewpoints are already identified, and the user does not have the responsibility of choosing and evaluating the sources that support a particular perspective.

Opposing Viewpoints in Context is a subscription database for researching current social issues. Topics are introduced by a general summary, which can be expanded for more detailed information. Information on each topic is presented as an amalgamation of opposing viewpoints in various formats, such as essays by experts from relevant fields, articles from academic journals, statistics, audio files, images, videos, websites, and encyclopedia, newspaper and magazine articles. The advantage to this resource is that the user has a wide variety of sources to consider. The user takes on an active role in reviewing what has been written and said about a particular topic, and choosing the best sources for his or her needs.

### **4. Gazetteers and Maps**

Cassell and Hiremath (2013) note that gazetteers contain "information about the location of a particular city, town, river, or mountain" (p. 212). The *Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names Online* is a gazetteer that offers information not easily available using sources such as Google Maps, Google Earth, or MapQuest. For example, a search for the city of Geneva,

Switzerland reveals its **preferred name**, Genève, and its **origin**, a fortified settlement of the Allobrogian Celts.

## **Reference**

Cassell, K.A. & Hiremath, U. (2013). *Reference and information services: An introduction* (Third ed.). Chicago, IL: Neal-Shuman.

## **5. CIA World Factbook and Other Sources for Country Information**

A high school student doing a class project on the current situation in Iran may find helpful information on the CIA's World Factbook. This website is a reliable source of information on many aspects of Iran. Articles on Transnational Issues in Iran have apparently been updated in 2015. These issues include international disputes, refugees and internally displaced persons, human trafficking, and drugs, all of which are topics that would be useful for a high school student's project. However, the student would need to seek more recent sources for an accurate and updated perspective on the current situation.

## **6. Literary Figures**

The Literature Resource Center database provides a variety of information on authors. A search for Maya Angelou reveals that she was an African-American writer of novels and poetry. Additional information includes biographical details, works and achievements, reviews, critical essays, and related multimedia.

**M15 Mini Activity**  
**Reader's Advisory and Sources, Children and Young Adults, and Science**

**1. Answering a Child's Question:** How does a fly land on the ceiling?

The online [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#) article on the fly, or dipteran, answers the question above. A fly is able to position its body and move so that it lands with its feet on the ceiling with the use of its wings on the mesothorax and its halteres, its modified hind wings. These vibrate and act as gyroscopes and control flight.

[Encyclopaedia Britannica Kids](#) may be a better choice for a younger child. The same information on the Diptera is geared toward children.

**2. Common Core Standards**

School librarians need to identify books that support Common Core standards. The [Scholastic](#) website is a resource for locating books according to various criteria. The search functions allow users to narrow searches to nonfiction or literature and by grade. Books are then categorized by topic. A search for nonfiction books for grades 6-8 revealed 6 books on The American Revolution. This would be a useful tool for librarians who are selecting materials that support Common Core standards.

**3. Confused Child's Question**

A sixth-grade student looking for information on "Merry Cloud Bathroom" for a report for African American History Month could be helped by a reference librarian in several ways. In order to determine the correct name, a Google search for "Merry Cloud Bathroom" would be the first step. The first result is a *Biography.com* article on Mary McLeod Bethune, an African American civil rights activist and educator. *Biography.com* would be an appropriate resource for the child's report. The reference librarian might recommend further resources such as *African-American History Online* or *Celebrating Women in American History*.

#### **4. Reader's Advisory**

*IMDb.com* can be used to answer questions about books made into movies. Information on films based on books by Lee Child can be found by searching [IMDb.com](https://www.imdb.com) for Lee Child. *Jack Reacher: Never Go Back* is a 2016 film starring Tom Cruise. Writing credits include Lee Child (book).

#### **5. Child's Science Question**

A student looking for ideas for a science fair or STEM project would find helpful resources in the library. Science in Context is a subscription database that offers information on a wide range of science topics. Included is information regarding assignments and projects. Access is freely available online for library cardholders. Alternatively, students may choose to search a website such as [Science Buddies](https://www.sciencebuddies.org). The site has a section for project ideas, which can be searched by subject. Projects are rated by difficulty, level, and popularity.

Although both resources would be helpful, Science in Context offers some interesting features that are not necessarily available on free websites. Science in Context is updated regularly, and links to encyclopedias, journals, magazines, newspapers, videos, and podcasts. Users can search the database by level, subject, or type of content. On the other hand, free websites are easier to access because they do not require sifting through library website resources. Also, students may find that entering library card details is one step too many.