

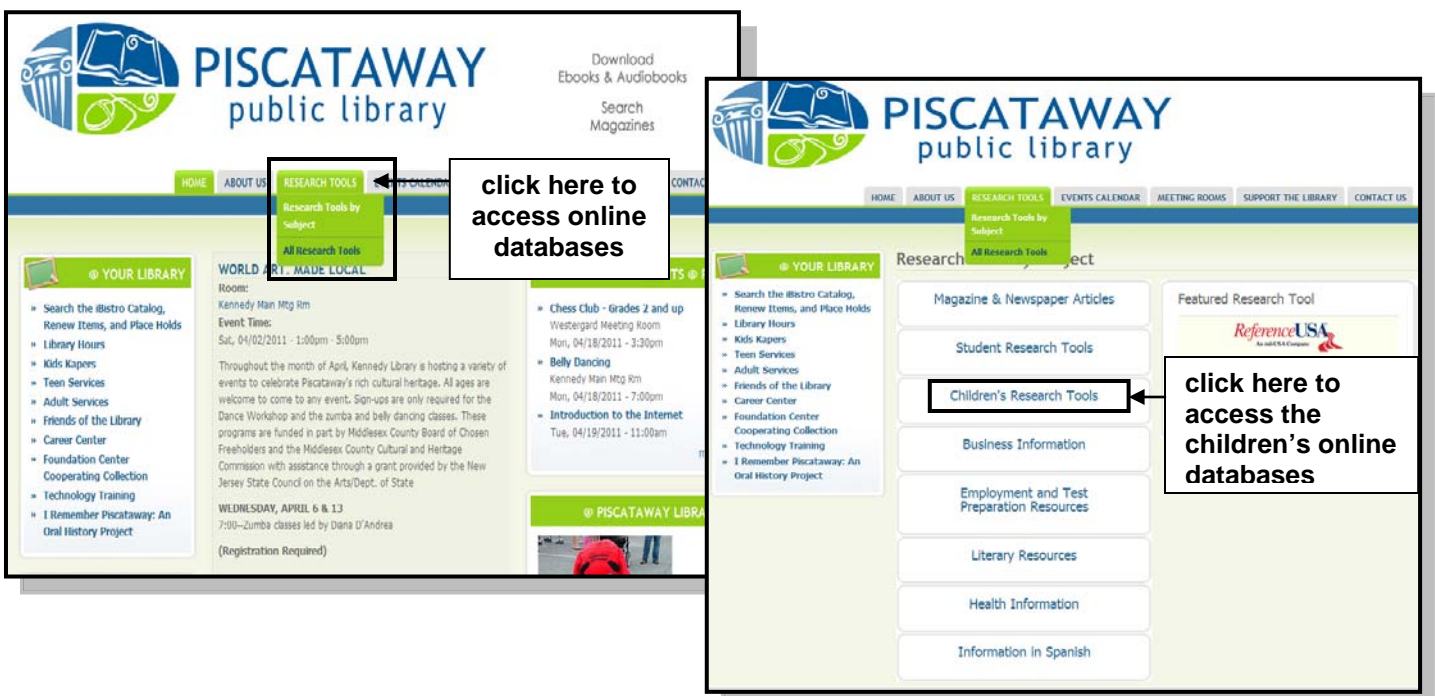
## HOMWORK HELP RESOURCES GUIDE

Piscataway Public Library (PPL) offers a variety of print and electronic resources to help you get information for school projects and homework assignments. **At the Piscataway Public Library's website, <http://www.piscatawaylibrary.org/>, you can...**








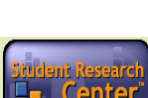
→ **Find a book, a periodical, or an educational DVD:** Use the **LMxAC iBistro Catalog** to search the collections of 27 public libraries and Middlesex County College for non-fiction, educational, and reference materials for school projects and assignments. To access the iBistro Catalog, click on the *first* link listed in the **@YOUR LIBRARY** box located in the upper left corner of PPL's homepage.



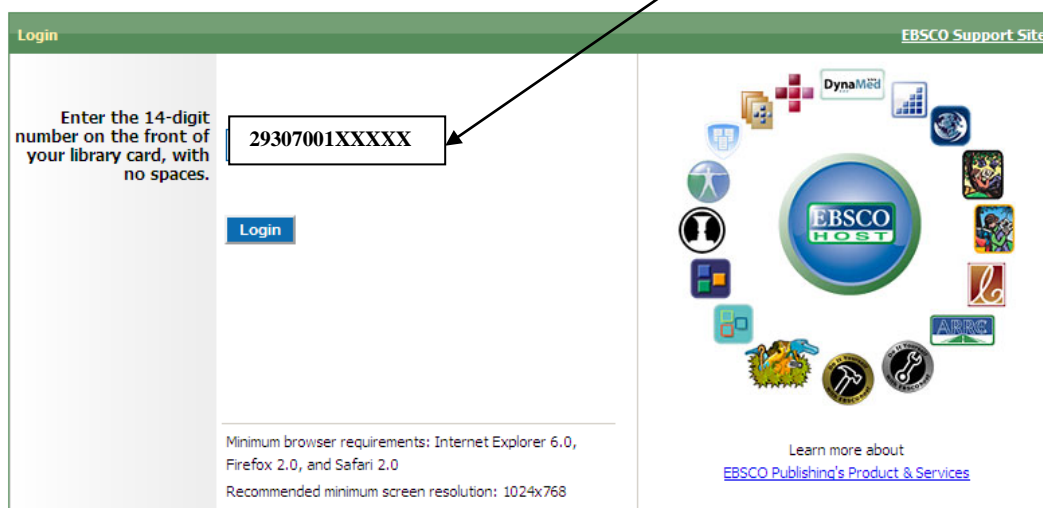
→ **Find information online, using electronic databases designed just for kids:** Use PPL's online databases to find magazine, newspaper or journal articles written about a particular subject. Place your mouse over the **"Research Tools"** tab on PPL's homepage for a drop-down menu to search in databases by subject/audience and alphabetically by title. Click on the **"Children's Research Tools"** link to access any one of seven databases designed specifically for youth in grades K-8.



→ **Find information using PPL's online databases designed for youth in grades K-8:**

	<b>EBSCOhost Kids Search</b>	<b>EBSCOhost Kids Search</b> is designed for youth in grades K-5. Students can search by keyword or by topic, using a basic or detailed search, which enables students to limit their keyword search to a specific field. Search results can be sorted by source or document type -- magazines, reference books, photos, flags, etc. and limited by Lexile Reading Level.
	<b>Novelist K-8</b>	<b>Novelist, K-8</b> contains materials for all K-8 grade levels. Picture books, children's "chapter" books, and young adult titles are searchable by grade or reading level, title, author, subject, series, Dewey range, genre, and by award-winners. Find out what books are popular with kids today.
	<b>Searchasaurus</b>	<b>Searchasaurus</b> offers children an easy-to-use search interface that includes an encyclopedia of animals, magazine searches, photos, maps, and much more. Students can search by keyword or select a topic.
	<b>Funk and Wagnall's New World Encyclopedia</b>	<b>Funk and Wagnall's New World Encyclopedia</b> offers students access to more than 25,000 encyclopedic entries covering a variety of subject areas. Like other EBSCO databases, this one also offers "auto complete search suggestions" to facilitate your search.
	<b>EBSCO Animals</b>	<b>EBSCO Animals</b> provides detailed information on a variety of topics relating to animals. The database consists of indexing, abstracts, images, and full text records describing the nature and habitat of familiar animals
	<b>Middle Search Plus</b>	<b>Middle Search Plus</b> provides full text articles for more than 140 popular, middle school magazines. Reading level indicators (Lexile Rankings) are assigned to all full text articles. Middle Search Plus contains 84,774 biographies, 105,786 primary source documents, and an Image Collection of 400,972 photos, maps, and flags.
	<b>Primary Search</b>	<b>Primary Search</b> provides full text articles for more than 70 popular magazines for elementary school research. Reading level indicators (Lexile Rankings) are assigned to all full text articles, dating to 1990.
	<b>Student Research Center</b> (under Young Adult Resources)	<b>Student Research Center</b> provides full text articles for a variety of topics (English, math, history, science, social studies, arts, and current events). Search by keyword or topic, using a basic or advanced search to find useful homework sources. For Grades 6-12, but results can be limited to an approximate grade level for reading comprehension by limiting search results to a specific Lexile Reading Level, e.g., 200 to 950 - Grade 1 to 5.

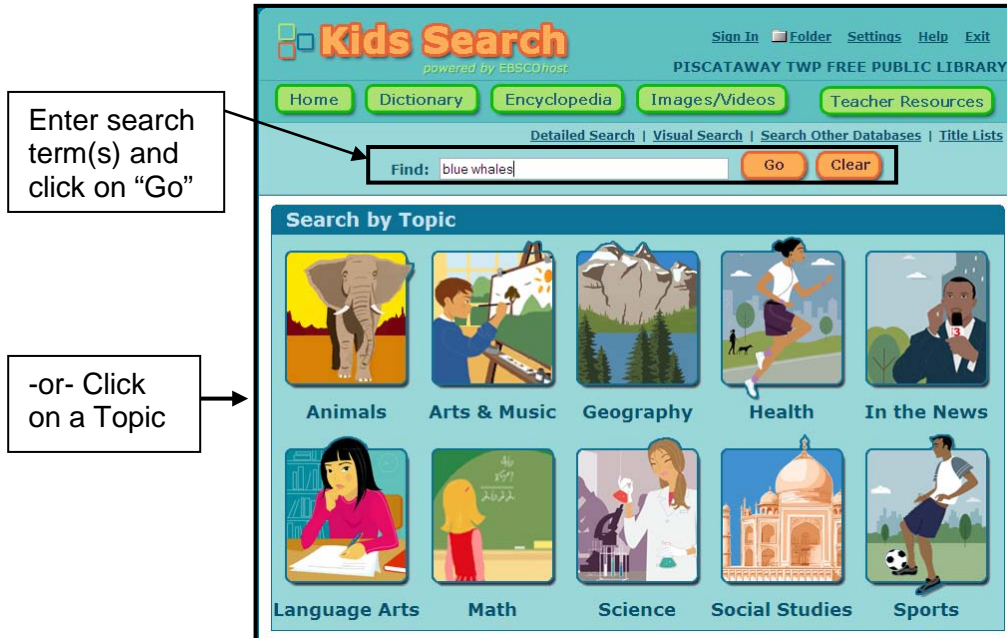
→ **Access the electronic databases by logging in with your library bar code number:**



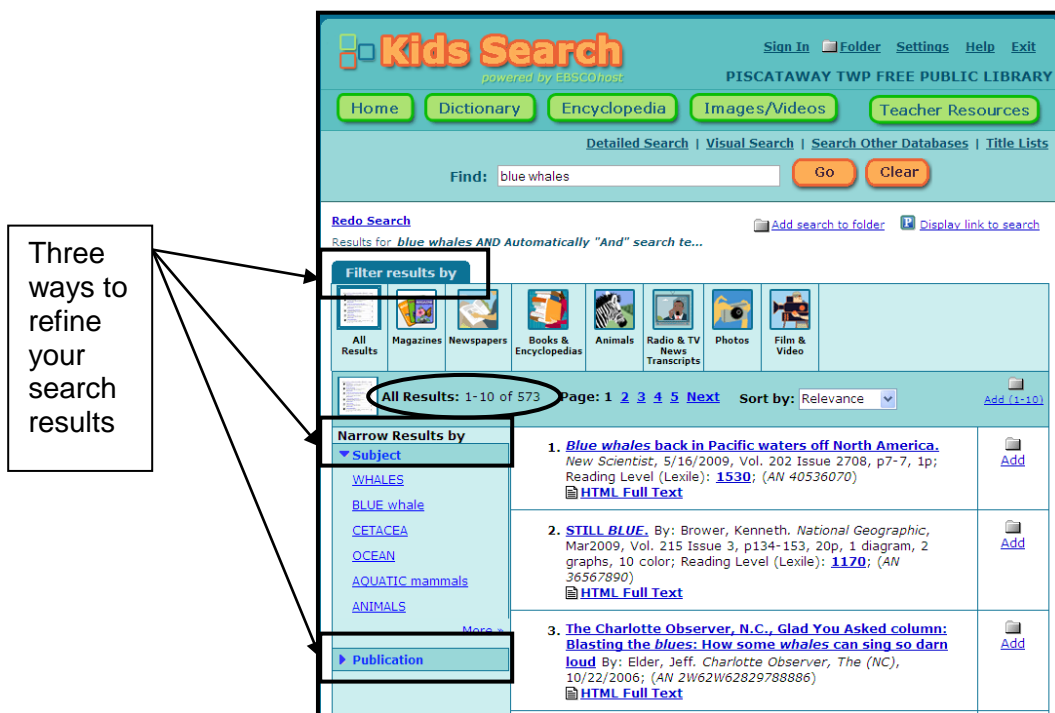
**Important User Information:** Remote access to EBSCO's databases is permitted to patrons of subscribing institutions accessing from remote locations for personal, non-commercial use. However, remote access to EBSCO's databases from non-subscribing institutions is not allowed if the purpose of the use is for commercial gain through cost reduction or avoidance for a non-subscribing institution.

**EBSCOhost Kids Search:** This database is designed especially for children in grades K-8. Since this database combines certain features of Searchasaurus and the more advanced EBSCO Host databases, the following screenshots will serve as an introduction to using the juvenile databases. Click on the [Help](#) link in the top right corner of any webpage for tips on effectively searching the database.

To conduct a basic search in **Kids Search**, enter a term(s) in the **Find: search box** and click on the “Go” button, or click on any one of the Topic images located directly below the **Find: search box**.



Let's try an example. Using the search term “blue whales,” **Kids Search** retrieved 573 results containing the term “blue whales” somewhere in each of the records (see below). Results are filtered and available by source type: Magazines, Newspapers, Books & Encyclopedias, Animals, Radio & TV News Transcripts, Photos, Film & Video. Results can also be narrowed by Subject (heading): WHALES, BLUE WHALES, CETACEA, OCEAN, AQUATIC mammals, ANIMALS –or– by Publication, depending on the selected source type (e.g., Magazines, Newspapers, etc.)



For example, filtering your results by source type “Magazines” will reduce the total number of results to 57 from 573 results. Click on [Publication](#) for a listing of magazine publications.



Clicking on the magazine publication *National Geographic Kids* yields 5 results. Click on the arrow next to the **Sort by:** pull-down menu to sort your results by Date, Source, or Relevance. Click on the [Add](#) (folder) option located in the right column next to each of your search results to keep your results in a temporary folder for printing, emailing, or saving to your desktop or an external storage device. To retrieve the “kept results” added to your folder, click on the **folder icon or folder link** located in the upper right corner.



Need a definition, a basic topical overview, or images/videos of a particular subject, click on the green links to access the **Dictionary** (American Heritage Children’s Dictionary), **Encyclopedia** (links to Funk & Wagnalls New World Encyclopedia Database) or **Images/Videos**. The **Teacher Resources** link provides access to educational literature and resources in *ERIC*, the Education Resource Information Center, and links to state curriculum standards and government education websites.



Use a “**Detailed Search**” to search for term(s) in a specific field (all text, author, title, subject terms, source, abstract, ISSN, or Lexile), or search by topic or document type. You have the option to limit your search results to “full-text” articles (the entire article and not just a brief abstract or summary), publication name, type, and date ranges, as well as a Lexile reading level. You can search other EBSCO host databases such as *Middle Search Plus* and *Primary Search* by clicking on “**Search Other Databases**.”



The “Detailed Search” retrieved four results (two from magazine sources and two from book sources). You could filter your results, or click on each one for details. For more results, click on the link to [Redo Search](#) to change your search terms or click on [Search Other Databases](#) to try other databases.

**Detailed Search** retrieved four results

Filter results by: All Results, Magazines, Books & Encyclopedias

All Results: 1-4 of 4 Page: 1 Sort by: Relevance

1. [WHALES OF THE WORLD](#). Zoobooks, Apr2006, Vol. 23 Issue 7, p7-15, 9p, 51 color; (AV 20660755)
2. [WHALES](#). By: Dalgleish, Sharon. Mighty Mammals. 2003. p14, 2p, 3 color; Reading Level (Lexile): 690; (AV 8588993)  
[HTML Full Text](#)
3. [The Blue Whale, Pygmy Blue Whale, and the Antarctic or True Blue Whale](#). Marine Fisheries Review, 1999, Vol. 61 Issue 1, p38, 6p, 3 bw; Reading Level (Lexile): 1140; (AV 2925854)  
[HTML Full Text](#) [PDF Full Text](#) (1.2MB)
4. [Wonderful Whales!](#) Amazing Mammals: Part II, 2005, p61-62, 2p; Reading Level (Lexile): 860; (AV 28210602)  
[HTML Full Text](#)

All Results: Page: 1

Click on result 3. [The Blue Whale, Pygmy Whale, and the Antarctic or True Blue Whale](#) for details (including the citation, source, [HTML Full Text](#) and [PDF Full Text](#)—two options that link to the full text version of the article). If you like this article, print, email, save a copy, or add it to your folder for later review. You can also click on the link “[Find More Like This](#)” to find similar articles.

**Source:** Use this information to help you cite the article

**Additional options for your article**

**Find More Like This**

Citation [HTML Full Text](#) [PDF Full Text](#) (1.2MB) 3 of 4 [Result List](#) [Redo Search](#)  
[Print](#) [E-mail](#) [Save](#) [Add to folder](#)

**Title:** [The Blue Whale, Pygmy Blue Whale, and the Antarctic or True Blue Whale](#).

**Source:** [Marine Fisheries Review](#); 1999, Vol. 61 Issue 1, p38, 6p, 3 bw

**Document Type:** Article

**Subject Terms:** [BLUE whale](#)  
[WHALES](#)  
[ENDANGERED species](#)

**Abstract:** Discusses the status of three endangered species of *blue whales* as of 1999. Distribution and migration; Current and historical abundance; Exploitation patterns; Life history and ecology; Natural and human-related mortality.

**Lexile:** 1140

**Full Text Word Count:** 4407

**ISSN:** 00901830

**Accession Number:** 2925854

**Persistent link to this record (Permalink):** <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=sch&AN=2925854&site=srck5-live>

**Database:** Science Reference Center

**\*\*Note:** Use the following searching tips (from **Kids Search Help**) to improve your search strategy. All electronic databases have useful help features, although symbols may vary from one database to another. Implementing these searching tips in your search strategy can produce relevant results and save you time. If you need assistance accessing PPL's catalog or electronic resources for a homework assignment or a school project, please ask a librarian for help.

### Searching Tips

Use **Boolean search operators** "and, or and not" to create a very broad or very narrow search. The following table illustrates the operation of Boolean terms:

<b>And</b>	<b>Or</b>	<b>Not</b>
Each result contains all search terms.	Each result contains at least one search term.	Results do not contain the specified terms.
The search <i>heart and lung</i> finds items that contain both heart and lung.	The search <i>heart or lung</i> finds items that contain either heart or items that contain lung.	The search <i>heart not lung</i> finds items that contain heart but do not contain lung.

### Wildcards

The **wildcard** is represented by a question mark ? or a pound sign #. To use the ? wildcard, enter your search terms and replace each unknown character with a ?. *Kids Search* finds all citations of that word with the ? replaced by a letter.

### Truncation

**Truncation** is represented by an asterisk (\*). To use truncation, enter the root of a search term and replace the ending with an \*. *Kids Search* finds all forms of that word.

### **Examples of Wildcards (?) and Truncation (\*) in EBSCOhost Kids Search:**

<b>ne?t</b>	<p>retrieves <i>neat, nest or next</i></p> <p><b>Note:</b> Kids Search does not find <b>net</b> because the wildcard replaces a <b>single</b> character.</p>
<b>comput*</b>	<p>retrieves <i>computer or computing</i></p> <p><b>Note:</b> The Truncation symbol (*) may also be used between words to match any word. For example, <b>a midsummer * dream</b> will return results that contain the exact phrase, <b>a midsummer night's dream</b></p>

### Improving Search Results

Depending on the databases selected and how your library administrator has configured the interface, you may have a thesaurus expander available. If so, try marking the "Also search for related words" expander. EBSCO's thesaurus will find synonyms, alternate spellings and plurals for your search terms. Also, when a phrase is enclosed by double quotations marks, the exact phrase is searched.

### Searching for Singular, Plural, and Possessive Words

When a *singular* word is searched, the *plural* and *possessive* forms of that word will also be searched. However, if the word is enclosed in quotation marks, plural and possessive forms will not be searched. When a *plural* is searched, the search engine does not automatically search for the singular version of the term. If the plural is spelled differently, (e.g. child, children), a search is not expanded unless the "Apply additional terms to query" expander is checked.

Library Catalog	Electronic Databases	Internet Websites
Online catalogs such as LMxAC contain information about items and materials owned by the LMxAC member libraries. The LMxAC catalog does not contain information on individual articles and will not allow you to search for articles on a particular topic.	Indexes contain information about specific articles from books and periodicals and allow users to search for articles and images on a particular topic. Since access is available only by paid subscription, information is not free and therefore must be reviewed by competent and knowledgeable people.	Internet websites are not always reliable or accurate because anyone can host or create a website. When evaluating the credibility of a website, always consider the site's accuracy, authority, currency, purpose, objectivity, and coverage. See <b>Critical Evaluation Information.</b> **

### Homework Help Websites

The following links are some homework help sites that may be useful for completing school projects and assignments.

#### **ipl2 (Kidspace)**

<http://www.ipl.org/div/kidspace/>

#### **Multnomah County Library Homework Center**

<http://www.multcolib.org/homework/>

#### **B.J. Pinchbeck's Homework Helper**

<http://www.bjpinchbeck.com/>

#### **InfoPlease Homework Center**

<http://www.infoplease.com/homework/>

#### **Fact Monster Homework Center**

<http://www.factmonster.com/>

#### **Homeworkspot.com**

<http://www.homeworkspot.com/elementary/>

#### **Discovery Education: Homework Help**

[http://school.discoveryeducation.com/homeworkhelp/homework\\_help\\_home.html](http://school.discoveryeducation.com/homeworkhelp/homework_help_home.html)

#### **Healthy NJ Homework Help Links**

<http://www.healthynj.org/kids/kidsci/homework.htm>

#### **ALA Great Websites for Kids**

[www.ala.org/greatsites/](http://www.ala.org/greatsites/)

#### **KidsClick!**

<http://www.kidsclick.org/>

#### **World Almanac for Kids**

<http://www.worldalmanacforkids.com/>

#### **EyeWitness to History**

<http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/>

#### **Science Bob**

<http://www.sciencebob.com/index.php>

#### **Math Is Fun**

<http://www.mathsisfun.com/>

#### **All Science Fair Projects**

<http://www.all-science-fair-projects.com/>

#### **CIA World Factbook**

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

#### **Ben's Guide to U.S. Government for Kids (K-12)**

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/>

#### **How Stuff Works**

<http://www.howstuffworks.com/>

#### **Scholastic News Online**

<http://tinyurl.com/3ye88d>

#### **FreeRice**

<http://www.freerice.com/>

#### **Carrot Sticks**

<http://www.carrotsticks.com/>

#### **KidsReads**

<http://www.kidsreads.com/>

#### **Database of Award Winning Children's Literature**

<http://www.dawcl.com/>

#### **Merriam-Webster's Word Central**

<http://www.wordcentral.com/>

#### **Internet Picture Dictionary**

<http://www.pdictionary.com/>

#### **EasyBib (Learn how to cite your sources)**

<http://www.easybib.com/>

#### **Finding and Evaluating Web Sites**

<http://www.eduplace.com/kids/usingweb/g6-8.html>

#### **Sweet Search – A Search Engine for Students**

<http://www.sweetsearch.com/>