

LINK LCS Libraries: Reading and Online Resources

By Graeme Boyd, MS/HS Librarian 25 February 2022

At Lincoln Community School we are fortunate to offer a host of modern, online resources which complement our already bursting catalog of hardcopy books, magazines and newspapers.

Aside from free online resources we currently have paid subscriptions to EBSCO Host, Learn360, Britannica School and NoodleTools. Both Learn360 and Noodletools are relatively new subscriptions (which we've ordered within the last 3 months) as is Britannica Image Quest which is a supplement/add-on to the ever popular Britannica Student.

All students (and staff) can access all four of these databases via their school email address utilizing the convenience of Google SSO (Single Sign On) or as it's sometimes known Google SSI (Single Sign In) by one-click sign in excluding all usernames and passwords. Access is 24/7 on and off campus. All Grades from 6-12 have been given brief demonstrations on using these databases effectively from the Librarians during Research lessons in both Middle and High School Libraries.

Part of the usefulness in subscribing to our online resources (listed on the Lincoln Library HUB homepage) is that they are ad-free and offer only verified peer-reviewed content. Unlike the vast uncontrolled world of the World Wide Web they have been checked for suitability of content. The Librarian's aim is to get the student away from instant search results from Google or Youtube where results could offer biased or misinformed opinions. By logging in to paid software the student can create their own personal account which will serve them for all their years at LCS. Using their own account offers further benefits and conveniences to return to their own familiar saved projects, bibliographies, reviews, ideas or notes.

My personal favourite is Learn360, which serves more than 22 million students worldwide. Learn360 provides access to a web-based digital video library comprising thousands of K-12 core-curriculum videos, video clips, newsreels, audio and video speeches, still images, and audio files. With Learn360 teachers can use the database to find content for lesson plans (matched to curriculum standards), to introduce topics or assignments whereas students can use Learn360 independently for research, homework help, or self-directed learning; to enhance projects, reports and group work. Learn360 is now fully integrated with Google Apps for Education (GAFE), a core suite of productivity applications for schools and educational institutions, especially Google Classroom.

In the meantime students and staff can access 24/7 the links to our research databases and resources via the Lincoln Library HUB. By selecting either Middle or High school, students and staff are introduced to a vast number of resources that can expand their scope of online reading resources, including our standard book catalog hosted by Follett Destiny.

Plans on the horizon for improving the MS and HS Libraries include expanding our foreign language, DVD and wellness and mindfulness sections. We would also like to purchase VR

(virtual reality) headsets (wireless Oculus Rift) with accompanying softwares like Tiltbrush or award-winning VR educator apps like InMind, Ocean3D or Universe Sandbox. Watch this space!

If any parent would like support or further advice on using any of these resources please contact Mr. Boyd directly < gboyd@lincoln.edu.gh > who will be happy to advise you.

Lincoln Library HUB <https://library.lincoln.edu.gh>

EBSCO Host <https://www.ebsco.com/products/ebscohost-research-platform>

Learn360 <https://learn360.infobase.com/>

Britannica School <https://school.eb.co.uk>

Noodletools <https://noodletools.com>