

Digital Maine Library: Student Quick-Start Guide

1. How to Log In

- **At School:** You should be logged in automatically! Just go to digitalmainelibrary.org.
- **At Home:** If it asks for a login, follow [these steps](#) to create and use your account at home.

2. The "Sift and Sort" (Finding the Good Stuff)

Don't just scroll through the alphabet! Use the **Audience** and **Subject** filters at the top of the page to find resources meant for you.

- **Pro Tip:** Click the "**Middle School**" tag under Audience to hide the college-level stuff you don't need yet.

3. Top 3 Tools for 7th & 8th Graders

If you aren't sure where to start, try these three "all-star" databases:

- **Explora for Middle Schools:** The best all-in-one search. It has magazines, news, and easy-to-read facts.
- **World Book Student:** Like a super-powered Wikipedia, but actually verified by experts. Great for quick overviews and images.
- **Middle Search Plus:** Perfect for finding articles from magazines like *Science News* and *TIME*.

4. Smart Research Hacks

Once you click into a database, look for these helpful buttons:

- **Cite:** Don't guess on your bibliography! Click "Cite" to get the **MLA** or **APA** citation instantly.
- **Listen:** Most articles have a play button that will read the text out loud to you.
- **Google Drive:** You can save articles directly to your school Google Drive so you never lose them.

Why use DML instead of Google? Google shows you what's *popular*. DML shows you what's *true*. When your teacher asks for "credible sources," this is where you find them.