**GALILEO vs. Google**

*Sometimes you hear, “Isn’t everything available on Google?” or “Why can’t they just use Google?”  Here are some examples that you can use to show why GALILEO is superior for students in K-12.*

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| **Topic** | **GALILEO Content** | **Google Results** |
| *The Things they Carried* by Tim O’Brien  (Literature and Composition standards ELAALRL4) | Literary Reference Center   * Several full-text literary criticism titles and author biographies, including Bloom’s Guides * Over 20 criticism articles in literary journals * Citation generator | * Amazon, Cliff’s Notes, and other companies selling criticism books * Wikipedia article * Student essays and class notes from teachers for specific schools * Reading group guides * NPR transcript of interview with Tim O’Brien * Blog posts * Photo essay of illegally smuggled animals * Excerpt of essay for sale at lotsofessays.com * Other unpublished essays without clear author qualifications |
| Homelessness (Literature and Composition standards ELA9W2, ELA10W2, ELA11W2, ELA12W2, ELA9W3, ELA10W3, ELA11W3, ELA12W3) | SIRS Issues Researcher   * Overview of Homelessness topic * Timeline of topic from 1729 Philadelphia law on deporting poor immigrants to current report on Hate Crimes Against the Homeless (August 19, 2010) * Statistics from authoritative sources, including graphs and charts * Articles editorially selected from variety of periodicals for K-12 curriculum relevance * MyAnalysis tool to guide students through research process on topic * Notes organizer * MLA citation generator | * National Coalition for the Homeless Factsheets last updated July 2009 * News agency articles * Hud.gov website with local assistance references, link to above July 2009 factsheet * Almanac policy issues with facts from 2000 and 1996; links to articles (2000 most recent); and link to free trial for Questia database * Wikipedia article * Links to several aid sites |
| Imperialism in Africa (World History standard SSWH15) | History Reference Center and SIRS Issues Researcher   * Over 200 articles from reputable journals, such as *Current Events* and *Current History* * Over 30 excerpts from reference books, including *Ancient Africa* and *Encyclopedia of World History* * Citation generator | * Essays written by students * Wikipedia article * Tourism sites, including Nude African * Teacher sites with ads, many with no recent updates or author qualifications listed * Link to currenthistory.com where subscription to *Current History* costs $39.95 |

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| **Topic** | **GALILEO Content** | **Google Results** |
| South American Rainforests (Social Studies standard SS6G2) | Britannica and SIRS Discoverer   * Over 100 full-text articles editorially selected from age-appropriate magazines (e.g., *Current Science* and *Faces*) * Encyclopedia articles geared to middle school grades * 20 images and downloadable videos of people, animals, human impact, etc. * MLA and APA citations for encyclopedia articles and media   National Science Digital Library (nsdl.org)   * Editorially-selected links to articles and learning objects | * Link to weeklyreader.com where subscription to *Current Science*  costs $39.95 * Wikipedia article (not written for K-12 audience) * Environmental websites funded through advertising; rare few with known authorship (e.g., rain-tree.com essay written by Raintree Nutrition, which sells herbal products, and rainforest-facts.com with disclaimer “rainforest-facts.com is not to be blamed should there be a mistake”) * Hundreds of tourism sites * Commercial sites for educational products * National Science Digital Library results do not appear within first 10 pages of Google results |
| Wave nature of sound and electromagnetic radiation (Science standard S8P4) | Britannica   * Encyclopedia articles on “light,” “radio,” “sound,” etc. * Short videos showing light polarization, anatomy of the ear, radiation, photoelectric effect, and more * Interactive lesson on Eye and Vision, Color, Refraction, and more   National Science Digital Library (nsdl.org)   * Simulations of various waves * Editorially-selected links to articles and learning objects | * Links to WAV audio files * Wikipedia article (not written for K-12 audience) * Websites by students * ThinkQuest site with basic information on waves * Academic websites for scholarly research (not a K-12 audience) * Amazon and other commercial sites selling books, DVDs, etc. * National Science Digital Library results do not appear within first 10 pages of Google results |
| Data analysis and probability (Mathematics standard M6D1) | Kids Search and SIRS Discoverer   * Full-text access to *DynaMath* from Scholastic, *Math Trek*, and other age- and subject-appropriate magazines * Sample graphs and exercises from K-12 publications, such as *Scholastic Math* and *Social Studies for Kids* * *Analyzing Graphs and Charts* work sheet | * Link to scholastic.com where subscription to *DynaMath* costs $55.92 * Wikipedia article on “probability” * Several academic websites aimed at scholarly study * Amazon and other sites selling books and software * Cuttheknot.org, mathforum.org and other websites with varying degrees of authority and reliability |