



15 Main Street, Suite 102
Watertown, MA 02472
(617) 744-9563

Science Resources Library: Background

Last updated: April 2024

A team of five science educators looked at dozens of websites for pertinent resources. All but one of the five is teaching or has taught K-12 science, and teachers with elementary, middle and high school teaching experience were included. The fifth person also has decades of experience in science education, including developing instructional materials for classrooms.

Because of the team's teaching experience we were especially interested in materials that were teacher-friendly and we began by looking in many popular science teacher journals. We wanted to include as many science disciplines and grade levels as feasible. We found many "ideas" for teachers in science teacher journals and elsewhere but did not include those in the database. We were looking for activities with lesson plans, or videos (e.g. from PBS Learning), or games that could be used in a classroom "as is." Most teachers don't have time to take an "idea" and make it into a quality lesson or unit.

We did not include materials that people need to pay for, with the exception that some articles in K-12 science teacher journals require a subscription. Usually the teacher searching for activities has a subscription, or the school has one, or a public library can provide the article. We aimed to show the diversity of instructional materials that are available, and from a wide variety of sources. Whenever possible we wanted science to be prominent. At the same time, some media literacy activities are appropriate across disciplines, like "what is a filter bubble?" or how should teachers think about the use of Wikipedia. However, we tried to limit the number of media literacy items that don't clearly include science.

Every resource was examined at least twice before the team agreed that it should be included and that the capsule descriptions were accurate. The team reviewed many items that were not included in the database for one reason or another. After the team had spent person-weeks of effort reviewing items, and had exhausted the grant funds, there was so much more in the catalog than any teacher or even any school could use that adding more resources seemed to be a case of diminishing returns.

This database will serve as a good start for any science teacher looking for appropriate resources to help integrate media literacy instruction into the classroom.

Media Literacy Now is leading the grassroots movement to create a public education system that ensures all students learn the 21st-century media literacy skills they need for health, well-being, economic participation, and citizenship.