

An 'EPIC' Resource – Dylan Owen

EPIC Session

EPIC (Electronic Purchasing in Collaboration) is an exciting development for school libraries allowing free access to large collections of electronic resources. The EPIC database was developed to support teaching and learning in New Zealand schools and contains not only thousands of full-text articles from newspapers, journals, magazine and reference publications but also multimedia material.

The workshop **An 'EPIC' resource** was a very popular session at the SLANZA conference. This session was presented by Dylan Owens, Collections Librarian for National Library who provided participants with a very 'hands-on' session. Dylan gave us an overview of EPIC then took participants quickly through most of the databases spending time searching for a specific topic in each database.

The databases we searched were most impressive and they appeared to be quality, authoritative databases. It was evident however, that most of the databases have a strong U.S. focus, and that there is limited New Zealand information. Many of the databases do have an information literacy focus with an option of access to research tools. It was also pleasing to hear that students can access the databases from home as well as from school.

I quickly put all I had learnt at this 'EPIC' session into practice the following week for our Year 13's research assignment on Shakespearean plays. The staff and students using the databases were most impressed with the full-text articles they retrieved, particularly those from the **Literature Resource Centre**. Dylan's workshop session had proved to be extremely useful. We have certainly been pointed in the right direction to help our students with online research.

Kay Greed
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