

World Book Online

Presented by Margaret Charlton and Stuart Bryant

I seized the opportunity at the mini conference to attend the session on World Book Online run by Stuart Bryant and Margaret Charlton. We have it in our library but I have never made the time to sit down and look at it in depth. It is worth doing so!

The database is updated daily and the world events are supported by related World Book articles. Magazine articles are also received daily from Ebsco, providing the “news behind the news.”

A number of features struck me as being particularly useful to secondary school students. Citations are provided for articles, making it a straightforward exercise to record this information when doing NCEA research standards. Articles can be emailed, enabling students to cut and paste at ease but hopefully, more positively, enabling them to use the resources both at home and school. The facility for highlighting key words effectively supports skimming and scanning skills while reading the full text articles.

Of particular interest to busy teachers are the lesson plans provided each month, complete with self-marking quizzes, and the downloadable projects. Websites abound (14,000 of them) and the good thing is that they are “dead ends” – they do not provide access to the Web.

It is possible to have a trial month of World Book Online and I suggest that this is a good way of seeing if it is appropriate for your school. You just have to make the time to have a good look at it!

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