



## Online Resources for Educators

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### *Free and Vetted is Good!*

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**NEW Online Resource:** <http://bit.ly/101mostlyfree>

### Content Resources

[DeweyBrowse.org](http://DeweyBrowse.org) - Need some informational text and have a nonfiction book? Websites are assigned a Dewey number as if they were a library material. Simply match your book to the website.

[Free Reading.net](http://FreeReading.net) - Open source provider of many kinds of free reading resource materials for PreK-Grade 6. Search Decodable Passages or Find Literacy Activities.

[Great Websites for Kids](http://GreatWebsitesforKids.com) - Sponsored by ALA, this site suggests websites on authors, booklists and activities on a variety of topics for kids and those who work with them.

[Library of Congress](http://LibraryofCongress.gov) - The Library of Congress is the nation's oldest federal cultural institution and serves as the research arm of Congress. Search Teachers and choose common core for primary source material.

[NASA](http://NASA.gov) - Enhance the study of science and technology by employing the diverse resources available from NASA Education. These include informational text, video e-Clips, podcasts, NASA television, live space station video, and blogs.

[Newsela](http://Newsela.com) - Free nonfiction texts that are Lexiled and can be adjusted to three levels of difficulty within the article. Anchor standards and quizzes support the piece.

[Read Write Think](http://ReadWriteThink.com) - Search for lesson ideas, web materials, student activities, and accompanying language arts

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*Online Resources change every day. How can I possibly keep up?*

In 1994 there were 100 websites. Today there are billions with more added daily. And then there are apps. It seems impossible to keep up with what's available. Here are a few strategies for staying "in the know."

**Use social media.** Keeping up with librarians and other educators who are using the hot new resources practically gives you staff. Follow groups like ISTE, ALA, and AASL who are looking for resources.

**Read your email.** When you sign up for newsletters make time every day to scan for new websites. Bookmark or pin them for later use.

Look for **curated websites**. Use [my new website](#) to accompany my workshops. I'll be adding sites as I discover them. Search LiveBinders, Symbaloo or Pinterest for resources.

**Take charge of your own PD.** Sign up for webcasts. [School Library Journal](#) frequently offers free webcasts and articles. Go to workshops and seminars. Check out [AASL's annual list of best websites](#). Find and follow technology leaders.

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*Just keep swimming!*

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standards. Choose your lesson and then you can see CCSS.

[Readworks.org](http://Readworks.org) - Lesson plans, activities sheet- everything you need to teach LA standards, including leveled passages with question sets.

[Smithsonian Education](http://Smithsonian Education) - The section for Educators includes a lesson plan area (searchable by CCSS, subject, keyword or grade level) and IdeaLabs, student interactive tutorials that enhance the use of the site.

[Wonderopolis.org](http://Wonderopolis.org) - Wonderopolis®, CCSS correlated lesson plans that encourage students to think and research.

## **Collaboration**

[ASL Lesson Plan Database](http://ASL Lesson Plan Database) - Aligned with 21st Century Learner Standards and the Common Core, these lesson plans are searchable by grade, subject, and degree of collaboration.

[Pinterest](http://Pinterest) - Save websites and ideas all on one page or follow the pins of others- from interactive whiteboard ideas to lesson plans!

[School Library Journal](http://School Library Journal) - The leading print magazine for school and public libraries. Support material on website includes webinars, newsletters and blogs.

## **Digital Resources**

[Bitly.com](http://Bitly.com) - Use bitly to customize your urls, get a QR code, and track your hits.

[Common Core Digital Tools](http://Common Core Digital Tools) - An exhaustive list of 2.0 digital resources to support the teaching of common core curriculum standards.

[Cool Tools for Schools](http://Cool Tools for Schools) - One of the best sites I've found for capturing links to great 2.0 tools- from audio to voting. Now includes best educational apps for mobile devices.

[LiveBinders](http://LiveBinders) - A free service to keep all your files and websites organized online. More space and features are available with an upgraded subscription.

## **Worth the Money**

[Destiny @ SDUSD](http://Destiny @ SDUSD) - Teachers, parents and students can search the library's online catalog for library materials, websites and database resources- all in One Search!

[Junior Library Guild](http://Junior Library Guild) - The collection development and book review service relied upon by thousands of schools and public libraries for 85 years. Offers 16 levels of nonfiction,preK-12+, in addition to excellent fiction levels, now selling ebooks and audiobooks.

- Free Professional development

- [JLG's Booktalks to Go](#) in *School Library Journal's* Extra Helping Newsletter
- JLG's award-winning [LiveBinder JLG's BTG](#)
- [JLG @ Pinterest](#)
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[TeachingBooks.net](#) - A digital portal to thousands of multimedia resources that can enhance and enliven the reading experiences. A subscription service, some parts, like author pronunciation, are free.

[World Book Online](#) - From WB Kids to WB Discover, this daily-maintained paid subscription site provides up-to-date information about a wealth of topics.

## **Get the Most out of Your Databases**

1. Find out your login.
2. Find out your students' logins.
3. Make bookmarkers with sites and passwords for your students.
4. Use QR codes to lead them to the site.
5. Use QR codes near the print materials to guide them to the online materials.
6. Can you make shopping carts or lists for your students?
7. Is there a sales rep or a library staff person who can teach you and your class the bells and whistles of the product?
8. Are there lesson plans available?
9. Does your database offer support for struggling students: audio, video, definitions, etc.?
10. Collaborate with your public library. In hard times, split the cost of the resources. Teach your students to use the public library.

## To Do List: Online Resources for Educators

1. Name six resources you want to investigate.
2. How can you get the word out to your students and teachers?
3. How can you make better use of county, state, or national resources?

### Aha Moment:

### Affirmation Moment:

### Inspiration Moment:



#### About the presenter:

Deborah B. Ford, JLG's Director of Library Outreach, is an award-winning library media specialist and international speaker with almost thirty years of experience as a classroom teacher and librarian in K–12 schools. Traveling across North America, she does workshops, library coaching, and professional development for school and public libraries. Deborah is the author of *JLG's Booktalks to Go* and *Everyday Librarian @ [School Library Journal](#)*. She also maintains an award-winning coordinating online resource at LiveBinders.com. Contact her at [dford@juniorlibraryguild.com](mailto:dford@juniorlibraryguild.com). Follow her on Twitter @jlgdeborahford.