



**SCHOLASTIC  
OFFICE OF  
EDUCATIONAL  
ASSISTANCE**

# Grolier Online®

## From Scholastic Library Publishing Product Overview

**Grolier Online** uses the power of technology to provide an integrated, web-based reference collection that gives students and teachers easy access to important resources for every curricular area. This subscription-based, online reference suite features seven multimedia encyclopedias, four age-appropriate dictionaries, two thesauri, an almanac, and an interactive atlas. It also makes available hundreds of thousands of full-text periodical articles, aggressively updated regional and worldwide news, links to Web sites, and bibliographies. **Grolier Online's** core content consists of these components:

### General databases

- *Encyclopedia Americana*®: In-depth research and worldwide current events for older students and adults (updated quarterly)
- *Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia*™: Quick reference with rich media for middle school and high school students (updated bimonthly)
- *The New Book of Knowledge*®: Reference and current events for elementary school readers and above (updated quarterly)

### Specialty encyclopedias

- *La Nueva Enciclopedia Cumbre*: Complete resources for Spanish speakers and Spanish-language students (updated biannually)
- *The New Book of Popular Science*: In-depth science, plus science in the news (updated biannually)
- *Lands and Peoples*: Up-to-date information for country and state reports for upper elementary and middle school students (updated biannually)
- *America the Beautiful*: State-by-state history and facts for elementary and middle school students (updated biannually)

### Educational Content

**Grolier Online** provides vital reference information for every subject area, including science, social studies, current events, biographies, history, the arts, and multicultural. Inquiry-based, student-centered activities offer students opportunities to develop the knowledge base and thought processes that are needed to meet challenging national curriculum standards. Students learn to use technology as a tool to gather information, inform decisions, and solve problems.

As students access and use the integrated reference materials, they build background knowledge, vocabulary, online research skills, and critical thinking strategies. Students gain experience in interpreting timelines, maps, charts, photos, and illustrations, all of which link directly to encyclopedia articles. Numerous student resources promote individual and collaborative group research, as well as provide interactive learning opportunities. Educational games, puzzles, and quizzes also engage students and address multiple learning styles.

## **Technology Environment**

Students and adults can easily access and navigate through **Grolier Online** references and databases using two age-appropriate home pages, timesaving searches, assistive technology, and remote access.

### **Home Page Options**

The *Grolier Online Passport* home page presents a sophisticated design geared to Grades 5-adult. It provides enhanced search functionalities, in-depth current events taken from wire services such as Associated Press, and access to worldwide news sources. The *Grolier Online Kids* home page, designed for students in Grades 3-5, features a simpler search process and easier navigation. It includes age-appropriate current events taken from *The New Book of Knowledge* “NewScoops.” At any time, users may easily toggle between the two home pages. Both home pages provide one-click links to **Grolier Online’s** encyclopedias, dictionaries, thesauri, maps, teacher materials, and other resources.

### **Search Functionalities**

**Grolier Online** employs enhanced search methodologies that accommodate the skill and interest levels of the user and help ensure successful searching and researching. Its unique simultaneous Global Search capability allows students to research topics across all the available databases at one time, including encyclopedia entries, Web links, periodical articles, news features, and media. Students can search for articles and illustrations by title or full-text. **Grolier Online** evaluates all linked Web sites to ensure that they are authoritative and appropriate to an educational environment. Each Web site has a brief introduction that saves search time. Enhanced search functionality includes search within search, spell checking, a thesaurus, and search queries.

### **ADA-Compliant Databases**

**Grolier Online** offers five references that support assistive technologies for physically disabled students as outlined by the Americans with Disabilities Act—*Encyclopedia Americana*, *Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia*, *The New Book of Knowledge*, *La Nueva Enciclopedia Cumbre*, and *The New Book of Popular Science*. Available supports, which promote equal information access, include:

- Graphic images with text alternatives
- Simplified navigation bars, site map, and positioning of links and input options
- Simplified page movement descriptions and location identifiers
- Text-only views of the same articles seen by users of the graphical edition
- Full pages in lieu of pop-up screens
- Controlled text size, page presentation, and navigation-to-page content
- Adaptive instruction to address variations in learning styles and attention spans

### **Remote Access**

**Grolier Online** supports remote access for those related to the subscribing institution. Unlimited anytime, anywhere Internet access may be arranged for parents, teachers, staff, and others. Students can use the databases to help with homework, and family members can build important information literacy skills individually or alongside their children.

## **Bilingual and Multicultural Support**

**Grolier Online** provides these resources for schools with Spanish-speakers and Spanish-language learners:

- *La Nueva Enciclopedia Cumbre*, a complete Spanish-language, Latin American-based encyclopedia for students and adults that includes more than 18,000 articles, an atlas, current news from Spanish-language press, timelines, special audio features, and other resources
- Spanish-to-English and English-to-Spanish dictionaries
- Special section in *Lands and Peoples* that presents the Mexican states in both Spanish and English, as well as cross-cultural comparisons between two continents, countries, states, or provinces to promote understanding of cultural differences
- *The New Book of Knowledge* “NewsScoops,” which spotlights cultural events and holidays

## **Professional Resources**

The *Grolier Online Passport* home page provides a “For Educators” link to more than 100 lesson plans, projects, activities, discussion questions, ideas for teaching Internet research skills, essay topics, educational Web sites, and other resources. Lessons, organized and searchable by grade or subject, correlate to national curriculum standards set by organizations such as the National Council of Teachers of English and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. A 10-minute online tutorial introduces educators to **Grolier Online** features and the homepage environment.

*GO User’s Guide*, which is published annually, suggests hundreds of ways to integrate **Grolier Online** across the content area in elementary, middle, and high school classrooms, libraries, and computer labs. Educators can find project- and inquiry-based activities that allow students to conduct research for a purpose, think critically, and synthesize information. Activities align to national educational standards in social studies, language arts, science, math, and technology.

*GO News*, which is published twice during the school year, covers timely issues and provides a basis for integrating **Grolier Online** into the curriculum. It equips teachers and media specialists with lesson ideas that emphasize inquiry-based learning. Educators can also find ideas for individual and collaborative projects that help students practice and apply research skills.

*GO Update*, which is e-mailed five times per school year, contains tips to help teachers and media specialists weave **Grolier Online’s** features into the curricula. Teachers can find strategies that help students complete research tasks with ease, efficiency, and success.

Many of the **Grolier Online** encyclopedias contain teacher resources, which can include teacher’s guides, study guides, lesson plans, activity and project ideas, research starters, and/or bibliographies of textbooks.