

The Information Behaviors of Elementary Students and Recommendations to Improve School Library Services

S. Elizabeth Katzmaier suzaneli@buffalo.edu

LIS 508 – Information Users and Uses

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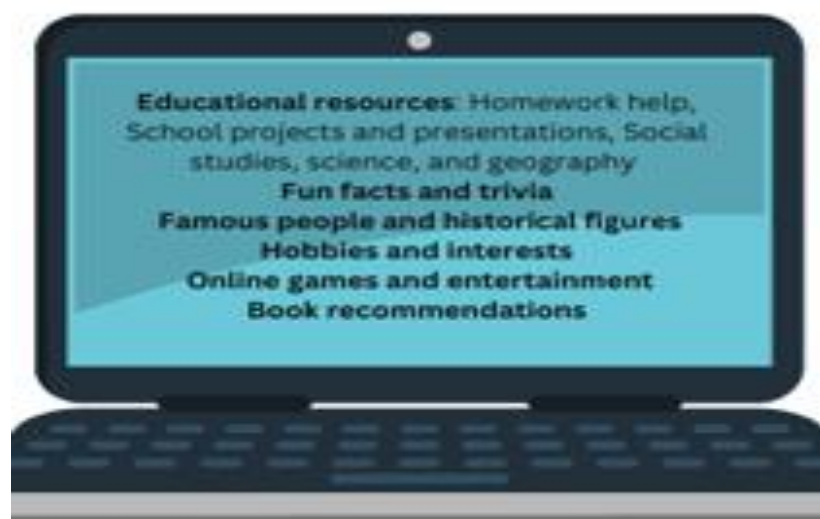


Elementary student's informational behaviors and needs

Our User Group

School aged children ages 5 – 11 in grades Kindergarten – fifth grade.

What type of information are elementary students looking for?



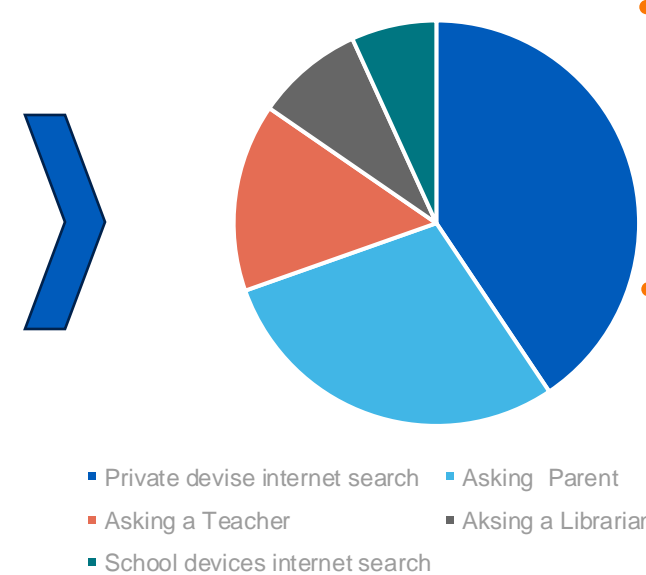
(Gossen, 2015 & Imagine: Katzmaier, 2024)

Where do children look for information?

- The internet via computers or smartphones
- Preferred search engine: Google
 - Preferred sites: YouTube, Wikipedia, Khan Academy
- Parents, Teachers & Friends
- Online public access catalog & databases

(Abdullah & Basar, 2019; Bilas, 2021; Foss et al., 2012; Hsieh & Wu, 2018; Sugihartati, 2019)

K-5 1st choice information source for homework help



(Sugihartati, 2019)

Barriers

- Lack of language and spelling skills, and strategies
- "Convenience searchers" search style
- Preference for visual information like YouTube
- Lack confidence in adults to help
- Selecting sources based on snippets

(Abdullah & Basar, 2019; Bilas, 2021; Foss et al., 2012; Hsieh & Wu, 2015; Shen, 2018; Sugihartati, 2019)

What the research tells us about elementary student's information behaviors

Self- Efficacy

- Autonomy of research topics
- Collaboration with peers
- "Instrumental seekers" style
- Barriers
 - "Executive seekers" search style
 - Frustration level & impatience
- Arrangement/organization of collection

(Crow, 2015; Foss, 2012; Shen, 2018; Taylor et al., 2019)

Information Literacy : Query Formulation & Credible Sources

- Proficiency using devices to access the internet
- Google Provides most useful SERPs for children
 - Two-word queries
 - "Credible searchers" style
- Confident in use of personal devices

(Abdullah & Basar, 2019; Bilas, 2021; Foss et al., 2012; Hsieh & Wu, 2015; Shen, 2018; Sugihartati, 2019)

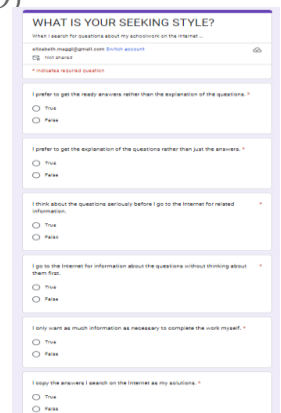
Improvements to Educational Services

Strategies for fostering self-efficacy

- Promote awareness of seeking style through self-evaluation questionnaire & subsequent lessons (Shen, 2018)
 - Organization of Collection (Taylor et al., 2019)



(Kort, 2020)



(Shen, 2018)

Strategies to improve information literacy

- Teach Big 6 & Super 3 research skills to reinforce query formulation & credible sources

BIG 6 & SUPER 3 COMPARISON CHART		
Task Definition	Define	PLAN
Information Seeking Strategies	Infoseek	
Location & Access	Get	DO
Use of Information	Use	
Synthesis	Produce	REVIEW
Evaluation	Gold	

Super 3 created by: Michael B. Eisenberg & Robert E. Berkowitz
Adapted by: Ginann Franklin & Sandra Chow © 2009

(Big6.org)

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