

**“Big6\*: Scaffolding Information Literacy Skills”**  
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The Web site that will be discussed is located at this URL:  
<http://whs.d214.org/results/whslibspecial/researchhelps/bigsixlist.html>

All those who find it useful are welcome to  
put a link to it on their own Web pages.

### **Definition of Information Literacy**

Information literacy is the ability to know when there is a need for information and to be able to identify, locate, evaluate, and effectively use that information to satisfy the information need.

### **Goal of the Web site**

To provide pages that students can go to for help as they work on research projects during times when teachers are not there to help them.

### **Information Literacy Standards**

The Big6 model also covers the NETS-S standards (see chart on Big6 site):  
<http://janetsinfo.com/big6info.htm>

### **Web site design plan**

The Big6\* model was used because it had already been selected for the district and because there is extensive Big6 help available for teachers.

Before the Web site pages were designed, staff members in English, ELL, and Special Education identified what they thought were the biggest problems students encounter during the research process.

### **Scaffolding**

Pages were designed to provide 4 types of scaffolding (based on the work of Michael Hannafin), as described below:

(a) Conceptual scaffolds assist the learner in prioritizing what is important; in identifying key conceptual knowledge related to a.

(b) Metacognitive scaffolds help learners assess what they already know and where their knowledge is deficient. They provide guidance in how to think, often through reminders to reflect.

(c) Procedural scaffolds help learners use resources and clarify requirements.

(d) Strategic scaffolds provide alternative approaches to engaging in a task. They support analysis, planning, strategy, and tactical decisions.

### **At-risk and lower-level students**

The Web site hasn't been active for too long, but so far the pages that have seemed to be the most helpful for the at-risk students have been the color-coded writing forms.

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For more information, visit: <http://www.big6.com>

## **What is covered on the Web site:**

### **Step 1: Task Definition**

1.1 Define the information problem

1.2 Identify Information needed

- Topic selection
- Thesis statements
- Questions for research

### **Step 2: Information Seeking Strategies**

2.1 Determine all possible sources

2.2 Select the best sources

- Choosing sources
- Choosing Internet sites

### **Step 3: Location and Access**

3.1 Locate sources (intellectually and physically)

3.2 Find information within sources

- Materials
- Online – Searching strategies
- Online – Databases
- Online -- Internet

### **Step 4: Use of Information**

4.1 Engage (e.g. read, hear, view, touch)

4.2 Extract relevant information

Notetaking

Paraphrasing & Summarizing

### **Step 5: Synthesis**

5.1 Organize from multiple sources

5.2 Present the information

- Organizing information
- Subject area help
- MLA format
- Plagiarism
- Speeches
- Presentations
- Writing

### **Step 6: Evaluation**

6.1 Judge the product (effectiveness)

6.2 Judge the process (efficiency)

- Rubrics
- Checklists