

# OSLIS, Gale, & LearningExpress



## Background

The Oregon School Library Information System, or OSLIS, is a website found at [www.oslis.org](http://www.oslis.org). The site is designed for K-12 students and educators and has three main elements:

- Information literacy resources, to guide students through the research process.
- Citation Maker, a tool for creating a bibliography or a works cited page in APA or MLA format.
- Access to a group of periodicals databases (which contain articles, images, and multimedia content from encyclopedias, magazines, journals, newspapers, and eBooks) and to LearningExpress Library (a database to help with test preparation, skill building, and computer basics).

OSLIS is a project of the Oregon Association of School Libraries (OASL). The School Library Consultant at the Oregon State Library works with the OSLIS committee and is the primary contact for content and login questions. The Oregon State Library leads the process of selecting statewide database vendors and awards a multi-year contract. Current vendors are Gale and LearningExpress. OSLIS and the database subscriptions are funded by Library Services and Technology Act grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

## OSLIS Features & Navigation Tips

*Start with the Right Skin:* OSLIS has four versions or skins: elementary student, secondary student, elementary educator, and secondary educator. When users click on the most relevant of the four choices on the homepage, they will be redirected to a version that only displays content appropriate for them. Always navigate to the most relevant skin before using OSLIS, and consider bookmarking that skin instead of the OSLIS homepage. Parents can use the same skin their student/s use. As more resources are added to the educator skins, parents acting as teachers might want to access those versions. Use the Switch Site menu in the top left corner to easily change to a different skin.

*Three Main Tabs:* When switching from one of the three major resources to another, click on the appropriate tab at the top left of the page: Learn to Research, Find Information, or Cite My Sources. The two educator pages have an additional tab: Professional Resources.

*Information Literacy Resources:* This section offers guidance through the research process. To begin, first navigate to the most relevant version of OSLIS. Then click on the Learn to Research icon. Users can work their way through the steps or jump in at the point that reflects the current stage in their research. Be sure to access the content in the "Learn to" box for each step. Use the Learn to Research tab and the tabs for each of the research steps, found under the OSLIS logo at the top left, to get back to this resource as necessary. Additionally, there are about 25 information literacy eBooks linked in the main content pages and in the related Resources box. There is also a master list of elementary and secondary titles at the bottom of the Learn to Research pages for educators.

Information literacy eBooks => username: oregon & password: oslis

*Citation Maker:* Citation Maker is a tool for creating a bibliography or a works cited page in APA or MLA format. To access it, first navigate to the most relevant version of OSLIS. Then click on the Cite My Sources icon. Choose the MLA or APA link at the top of the page. (The elementary versions only link to MLA.) Note that you need to enter a number between zero and nine to enter the site. (This helps prevent bots from clogging Citation Maker.) After creating the citations you need, use the Sort feature to arrange them alphabetically, and then use the Save options to copy and save the citations as a document. There are more specific directions on the Citation Maker homepage.

*Subscription Databases (LearningExpress Library):* When users need to hone skills (reading, writing, math), prepare for exams (grade level, college entrance, career), or learn computer applications, LearningExpress Library (LEL) can help. To utilize it for the first time, navigate to the most relevant version of OSLIS. Click on Find Information, then on the LEL icon, and then on the New Users: Register button. Choose your own username and password to create a personal account. Users must remember the username and password they choose. There is not a shared login for accessing *LearningExpress Library*. After registering, log in under Returning Users in order to move tests, courses, and eBooks into your personal folder, which is called My Center. For help, visit <http://www.learningexpresshub.com/productengine/LELIndex.html#/learningexpresslibrary/two/video-guides/welcome>.

*Subscription Databases (Gale):* When users need information for a research assignment, one resource is Gale. This suite of databases contains articles, images, and multimedia content from encyclopedias, magazines, journals, newspapers, eBooks, and more. To utilize them, first navigate to the most relevant version of OSLIS. Then click on the Find Information icon. Choose any of the relevant Gale databases; Kids InfoBits (grades K-5), National Geographic Kids (grades K-8), Research In Context (grades 6-8), Student Resources In Context (grades 9-12), and Opposing Viewpoints (grades 6-12) are a few. Enter the username and password and click on Authenticate. The OSLIS skin that the user started with determines which of the databases are featured, but all users can click on PowerSearch to see a menu of all the Gale databases and search multiple databases at the same time.

Gale => username: homeschooler & password: oslis

The login is the same for all Oregon homeschoolers; feel free to share it with other Oregon homeschooling families and organizations.

To learn more about which Gale databases to use when, scroll to the very bottom of either educator version of the Find Information page and view the document labeled *comparison*: <http://elementary.educator.oslis.org/find-information> or <http://secondary.educator.oslis.org/find-information>.

Also, Gale offers short tutorials for most of their databases. Note that the videos can take a few minutes to load. <http://solutions.cengage.com/gale-training/on-demand-tutorials/>

Access to the subscription databases is restricted to *Oregon residents only*. Please help us honor our contracts with our vendors by not disseminating the Gale and LEL access information and logins to people outside of Oregon.

Note that database usernames and passwords may not be published online. For example, if you write an article for a homeschooling newsletter, a print version may include the Gale login, but an online version should say something like, "For a username and password to access Gale, please contact \_\_\_\_\_," and fill in the blank with the name of the OSLIS contact in your organization or with the information for Jennifer Maurer.