eLibraryUSA

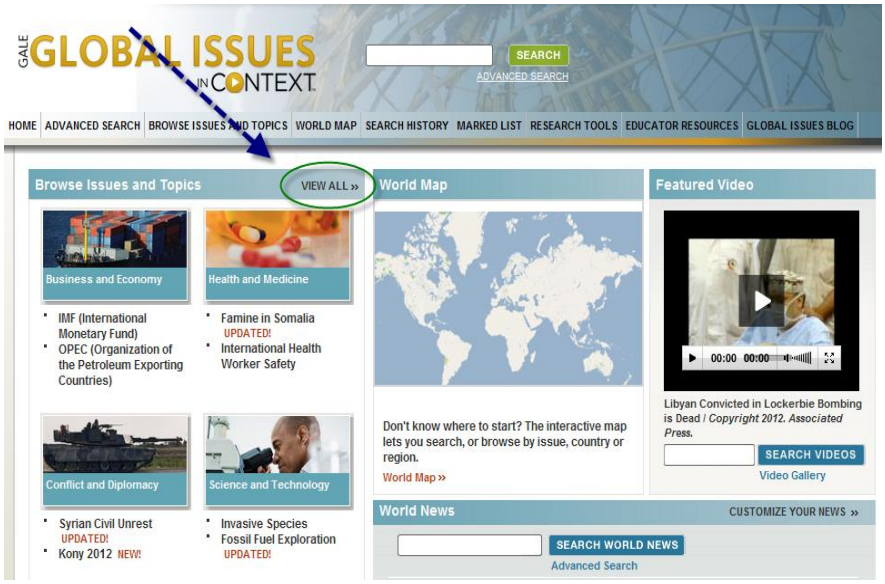
Using eLibraryUSA for Information on Elections

eLibraryUSA can be used to search for information regarding U.S. presidential elections. Below are some of the most useful databases, along with search strategies that will yield relevant results.

Global Issues in Context

Target audience: Researchers searching for up-to-date coverage, those already familiar with U.S. political culture

Content: This database provides a comprehensive overview of presidential elections in the United States, and is also continuously updated and contains recent information.



- By clicking on VIEW ALL, the user can see a list of current issues and choose U.S. Presidential Election 2012.

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- The user is then taken to a portal that contains videos of presidential candidates, podcasts, and links to candidates' websites. There is also a search box that allows the user to search just within the portal. The results include magazines, academic journal articles, newspapers, statistics, radio broadcasts, and video clips.

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CQ Researcher Online

Target Audience: users who are more unfamiliar with the American political system and need a good overview; English-language-learners

Content: Short 12,000-word reports written by journalists; users can browse reports by topic; useful pro/con articles on current issues

- If users click on Browse Reports, then By Topic, U.S. Presidency, and Campaigns and Elections, they will find a list of reports going back to 2000. Keep in mind these are listed chronologically, with the newest first. This is not a comprehensive or continuously updated source, but some of the newer reports give great overviews for beginners, for example, Presidential Election.

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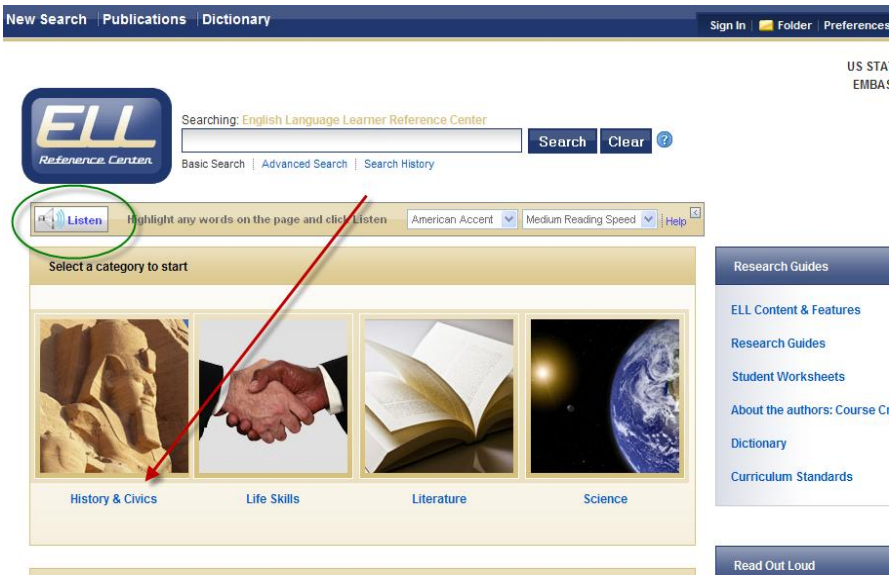
ELL Reference Center

Target Audience: English-language-learners

Content: Easy-to-read articles on a variety of topics related to everyday life and citizenship in the U.S.

- At the top of the page, users can click Listen to hear the page read aloud. They can choose from American, Australian, and British accents, as well as fast, medium, and slow reading speeds.
- Click on History & Civics, then U.S. Civics, to be taken to a list of topics.



- Particularly relevant are Political Parties, Presidency, Primary and General Elections, and Voting and the Electoral College.

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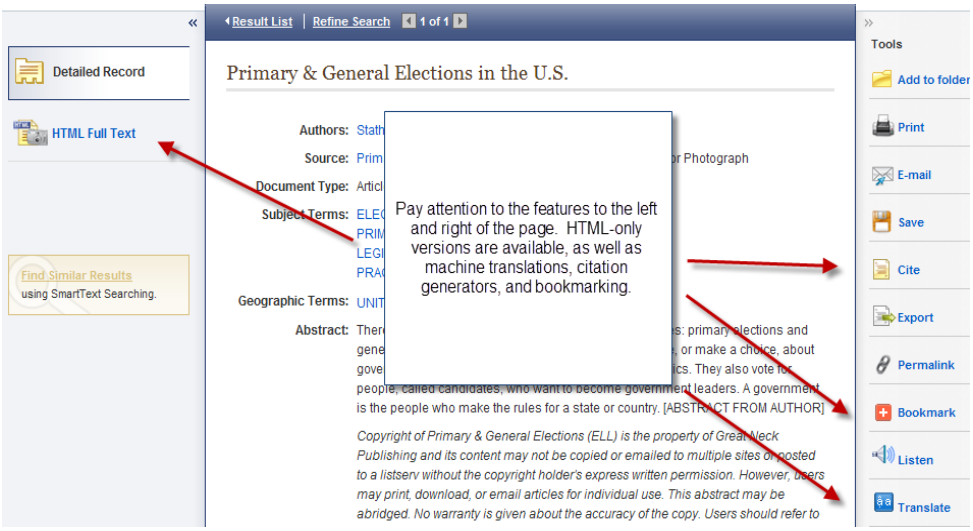
- Pay attention to the features to the left and right of the page. HTML-only versions are available, as well as machine translations, citation generators, and bookmarking.



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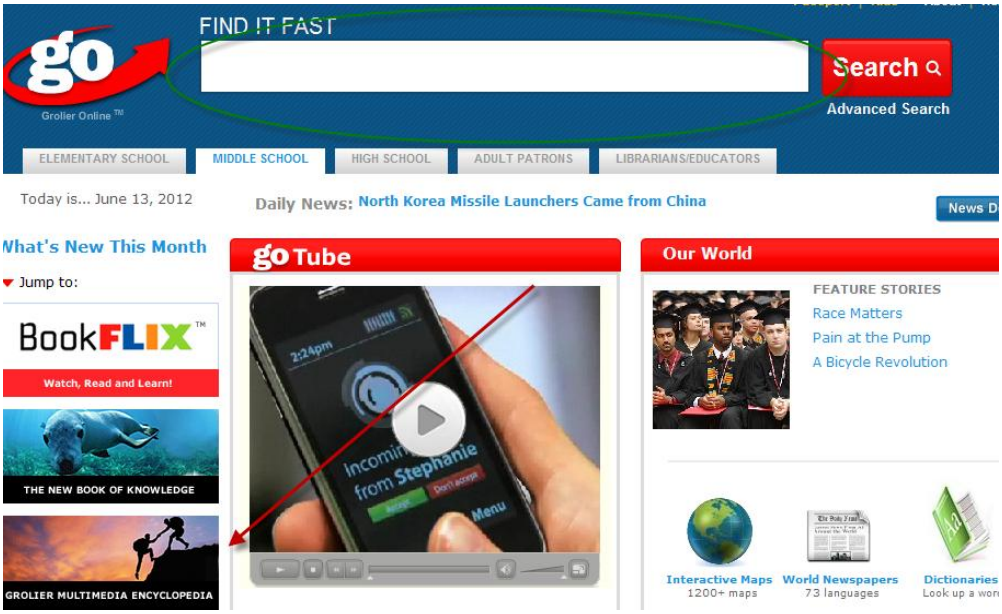
Grolier Online

Target Audience: Children ages 7 and up

Content: Over 120,000 articles from 9 different online children's encyclopedias, including a Spanish-language resource; articles on the election process at various reading levels

- Children can use the search box or search one of 9 databases located on the left.



- A simple search for "elections" gives the user comprehensive coverage of the U.S. elections systems, and four different reading levels are included in the results. Be sure to pay attention to the different types of content being shown by looking at the bar across the top of the results. Users can also choose which reading levels they would like to be shown.

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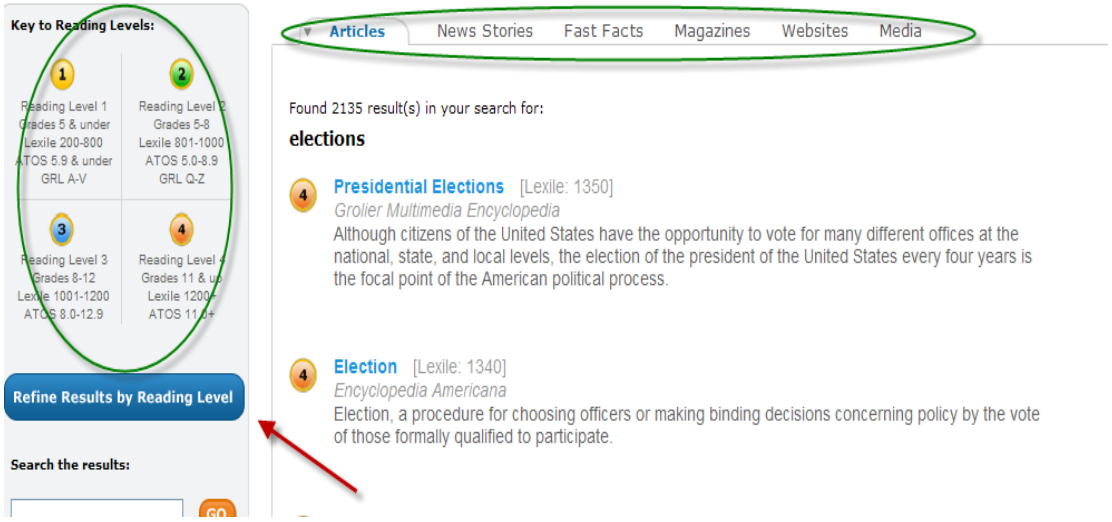
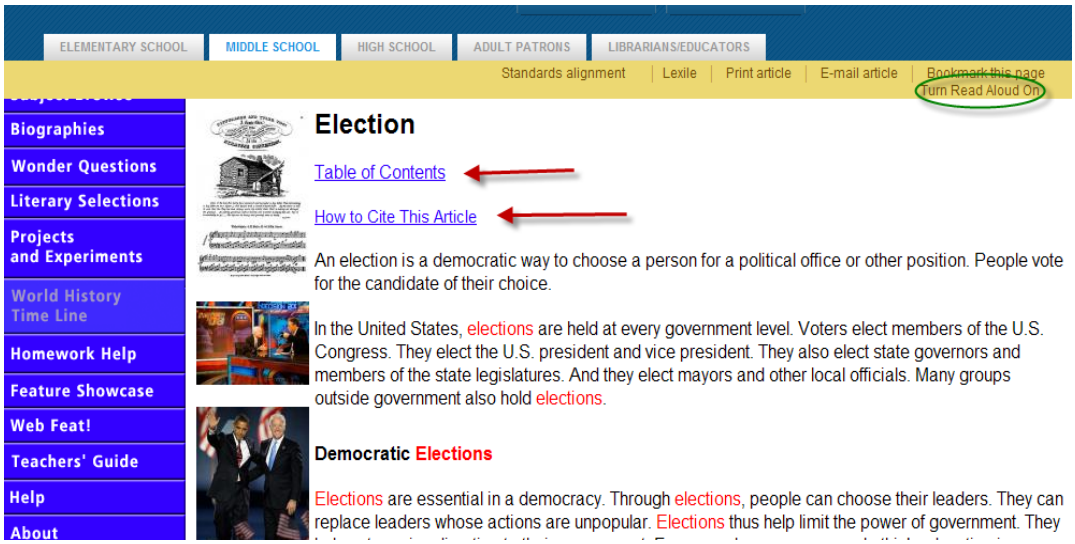


- Here is an article at reading level 1 (grade 5 and below). It is located in <u>The New Book of Knowledge</u> database. Users are given citation examples and there is a read-aloud option as well.



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Additional Resources on eLibraryUSA

The following two areas cover elections as they were used in January and August for our thematic calendar. Several resources inside and outside eLibraryUSA can be found here.

January 2012: Democracy and Civil Society: U.S. Elections

http://elibraryusa.state.gov/jan_theme.html

August 2012: Democracy and Civil Society: U.S. Elections – Conventions

http://elibraryusa.state.gov/aug_theme.html

November 2012: Democracy and Civil Society: U.S. Elections

http://elibraryusa.state.gov/nov_theme.html

January 2013: Democracy and Civil Society: Peaceful Transitions in Power

http://elibraryusa.state.gov/2013/jan_theme.html

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