

## INSPIRING STUDENTS

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Is your library or media center Inspired? Of course, singing the praises of Inspire and its offerings in this article is like preaching to the choir. Neither school media specialists nor academic or public librarians need convincing about its educational, technological or economical value. As professionals we are convinced, so how do we Inspire our students and patrons? As with any other technology, Inspire's success depends on key factors. First, the technology must be available to provide the users access to and successful retrieval of information. Nothing is more frustrating to users than to offer a resource that your current technology does not support. Second, just like any other resource, Inspire must meet a user's "need." Most importantly, users remember success.

Inspire provides avenues for a variety of information literacy skills.

- Inspire's homepage offers an excellent starting point for research.
- "How To Cite" link provides documentation guidelines and examples.
- Navigation experience enables users to search other complicated databases and sites.
- Full-text articles and sources supplement resources that small libraries cannot afford in their budgets.
- Optional interfaces offer users navigation and search alternatives.

Educating teachers and students at Linton-Stockton Junior and Senior High Schools to "Inspire" their projects has been an ongoing process. At first the high school media center offered only one computer with

Internet access. On an individual basis, students used the one station and learned about Inspire as their research or projects demanded, most frequently those for health, psychology, social studies, and AP English. Eventually technology grant funds added additional computers to the high school and junior high media centers and each classroom. Thanks to the LSSC computer network, every student and teacher has access to technology. The Internet is available on a daily basis in the computer labs at the junior and senior high schools, in both media centers, and in every classroom. With trouble-free Internet access, logging into Inspire is simple...just provide the address. Several methods are employed at the LSSC media centers to publicize Inspire.

- Bookmark the site to the Favorites folder.
- Provide the URL address on project hand-outs.
- Send an Inspire link to teachers via email.
- Add the Inspire homepage link on the library or school home web page.
- Use the projector to teach a group its navigation and links.
- Publish a "how-to" article in the school newsletters and community newspapers.
- Make a brief presentation to faculty during in-service sessions.
- Offer workshops for teachers.

Inspire has evolved into an integral resource in the LSSC media centers. Try some of these strategies with your next research lesson. Your community of users will be "singing" Inspire's praises.