**Welcome to the Solvay High School Library Learning Commons!**

**Staff**: Ms. St. Laurent, Librarian

Ms. Mather, Library Aide

**Hours**: 7:30-2:45 Tuesday-Thursday, 7:30-2:15 Mondays + Fridays.

**Contact Info**:

[kstlaurent@solvayschools.org](mailto:kstlaurent@solvayschools.org) (Ms. St. Laurent’s email)

Library phone: 315-468-2551 ext 2012

Follow Solvay High School Library Learning Commons

on Twitter: @solvayHSLLC

**Library Website**: shsllc.weebly.com

1. Subscription Databases – Current events, Pro/Con, History, Online Encyclopedias, Global Studies, Science, and much more!
2. MLA Citation – How to create a Works Cited list in MLA format
3. Destiny library catalog – Search for a book in any of the school libraries in Solvay. Find reliable, accurate websites using WebPath Express.
4. New Books and Recommendations: I love to hear recommendations from our students and to share my recommendations for good reading!
5. Website Links: Links to accurate, current and relevant websites in the various subject areas: Social Studies, Science, English, Health, Math, World Language, Art, Music and more…
6. E-Books and Free Digital Libraries – for recreational reading and research

**Library Collection**: Our fiction & non-fiction books and our magazines can be borrowed for two weeks. You may bring the book back for renewal if you need it longer. Solvay is networked with other schools in the region so practically any book can be brought in via Interlibrary Loan.

**iStaff**: A group of student leaders assists with the day to day operation of the library, as well as creates displays, develops programs, provides technical support and provides vision for the library program. Interested students should see Mrs. S.

**Visiting the Library**: To visit the library during study hall, students must sign up online prior to 7:15am. Teachers may issue paper passes for academic work even if the deadline is missed. Students may also use the library during tenth period Tuesday through Thursday.

**Library Rules:**

***Our library is a Learning Commons, which means that it is not a traditional silent library!***

***The library is an academic facility, but we understand that learning in the 21st century requires collaboration, technology and space for creativity.***

***Students are permitted to use their***

***digital devices in the library.***

***Conversations that do not disrupt the learning of others using the library are allowed.***

***We simply ask that students that enter the library do so with an attitude of respect for the facility and for other learners.***

**Computer Policy:** Computer use in the Library Learning Commons is governed by the Acceptable Use agreement signed by all students. Inappropriate use of district technology resources will result in consequences as outlined in the student handbook.

Steps for Effective Searching

Ms. St. Laurent

1. **Develop strong keywords:** 
   1. Create a list of synonyms for your search term.
   2. Are there broader or narrower terms you should try? (eg., leopard gecko / lizard / reptile)
   3. Try searching not only for content topics, but for concepts.
   4. Try proper nouns that are related to your topic as keywords.
   5. If your keyword has more than one meaning, you might need to combine search terms to eliminate irrelevant results.
2. **Choose the best tool for the job:**
   1. BOCES has many resources for finding text resources. Being familiar with a variety of them will help you decide where to start.
   2. Know what you’re looking for (articles, lesson plans, primary sources, level of rigor etc)
3. **Decide how to approach your search:**
   1. Advanced search – Allows you to set specific parameters for your search; great when you are looking for resources on a very specific topic
   2. Browse – Useful for exploring the breadth of content available in a resource, or if it is difficult to generate search terms on a particular topic
   3. You may need to try your search both ways.
   4. Some databases have already been aligned to the Common Core; if the resource has a “search by standard” option, give it a try!
4. **Evaluate your search results:**
   1. Mine them for other potential search terms – continue to build your list of synonyms as you try a few different resources
   2. Look for toolbars that allow you to add limiters to your search after viewing results – if you get too many irrelevant results this can filter some of them out
   3. Search is an iterative process – evaluate, refine and try again!

Search can be time-consuming. Expect to try several search terms a few different ways. The more you do it the more intuitive it will become!

**Library Website**: shsllc.weebly.com

**Media Connect Website**: http://mediaconnectlogin.cnyric.org/

Username: SOHSstudent

Password: Student

**Overdrive Ebooks**: ocmboces.lib.overdrive.com

Download the Overdrive app, add Solvay High School as your library, log in with your solvayapps login.

Database descriptions:

**ABC-CLIO American History**: More than 16,000 primary and secondary sources, including overview essays, biographies, government and court documents, photos, maps, audio/video clips, statistics, and more. Nearly 3,300 biographies of famous political and military figures as well as fascinating people from across American society, including Hank Aaron, Andrew Carnegie, Robert Redford, and Jonas Salk

**ABC-CLIO American Government:** Contains more than 13,000 primary and secondary sources, including 2,500 documents, 4,000 images, 250 maps, and 250 audio/video recordings. Presents more than 2,500 biographies, including portraits of important historical and current government figures such as the Founding Fathers, U.S. presidents, and Supreme Court justices, as well as a continually updated roster of key federal bureaucrats, state governors, and members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. Current events coverage provides trustworthy, unbiased information

**ABC-CLIO Issues**: This database provides students with authoritative historical context, diverse expert perspectives, and carefully selected primary and secondary sources. Issues offers the complete historical background and contemporary status of each issue and also provides supporting facts, figures, and timelines

**ABC-CLIO World History: Ancient and Medieval Eras**: Covers early human history around the globe—from prehistoric times to the beginnings of the Renaissance. Contains nearly 8,500 primary and secondary sources, including selections from the Code of Hammurabi, the Edict of Milan, and Marcus Aurelius's The Meditations; and more than 1,500 biographies of important figures such as Alexander the Great, Confucius, William the Conqueror, and Eleanor of Aquitaine

**ABC-CLIO World History: The Modern Era**: Covers a broad range of topics in depth—the evolution of modern Europe since the Renaissance; concurrent developments in Asia, Africa, and the Islamic world; the global impact of the Industrial Revolution; and the last 100 years of conflicts and international cooperation.

**LitFinder:** Gale’s core repository of full-text literature, LitFinderspans history and geography

to deliver an extensive, ever-growing selection of online poems, short stories, essays, speeches and plays.These works represent more than 80,000 authors, 660 nationalities and virtually every time period.

**NoodleTools**

Online tools for note-taking, outlining, citation, document archiving/annotation, and collaborative research and writing.

**NewsBank:** Provides access to full-text articles published in 187 newspapers from around the country. This includes obituaries and death notices, and some news magazine coverage.

**Gale Databases:** A large, cross-searchable collection of full-text periodical databases, including General OneFile, the Gale Virtual Reference Library, the Career Information Center and InfoTrac Newsstand.

**Opposing Viewpoints:** Collection of content and curriculum-focused tools that help students explore issues from all perspectives include pro/con viewpoint essays, topic overviews, biographies of social activists and reformers, court-case overviews and statistical tables, charts and graphs.

**Proquest:** A large general topic collection of periodicals including magazines, journals, newspapers and ebooks.

**Student Resources in Context:** Covers all core subjects from Science to Literature to History, organized into topic portals

**Teen Health and Wellness:** Provides middle and high school students with diseases, drugs, alcohol, nutrition and mental health information.