

INSPIRE Data Bases

As school starts back up for the fall, there is one resource that everyone should be aware of. INSPIRE was launched several years ago as a statewide initiative, and has proven valuable to students from elementary school through college. INSPIRE gives any resident of Indiana access to thousands of magazine and journal articles over the internet.

INSPIRE's strength is the ability to search for information by keywords. A high school student doing a research report on Chinese population policies can search for those specific keywords and retrieve articles written by professionals and published in major journals, magazines and newspapers. This is a much better alternative to typing a search into Google and assuming that the results are worthwhile. Most articles in INSPIRE are in full color and can be printed or emailed reviewed later. The citations are done the same way as the paper magazines. They are the same article from the same source by the same author, they are just presented in a more accessible format.

For those that don't need INSPIRE's help with research papers, it's still worth its weight in gold. For starters, INSPIRE has every review from Consumer Reports from 1991 through the current issue. It also contains every article of Sports Illustrated from 1992, Time from 1990, and several thousand more titles. If there is a trade journal or hobbyist magazine that you are interested in following, try it on INSPIRE, and you may be able to save yourself the subscription fees.

The internet address, www.in.gov/library/inspire, has recently been changed from the easier www.inspire.net, which still works. To make a complicated issue seem simple, INSPIRE is paid for through a combination of state taxes and grants, and once those costs are diffused over the entire state, it's both economical and very effective. We could not afford a fraction of the offerings that we have through INSPIRE if we had to pay for the subscriptions on our own. It's already paid for, and it's available anywhere that has an internet connection. Take the time to look at it, or come into the library and we'll be happy to give you a quick tour.

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