RILINK

www.rilink.org

Rhode Island Library Information Network for Kids
c/o East Bay Educational Collaborative
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What is RILINK ?

RILINK is a cooperative effort by Rhode Island school libraries to share their resources through an interactive web site. Students and teachers at RILINK member schools use the site to find information, browse their own library's resources, and request books or other items from other member libraries. Currently, 151 school libraries in 27 school districts are working together, sharing their books, audiovisual materials and expertise to provide better service to their 76,000 students and teachers. RILINK serves over 53% of Rhode Island public school students.

Through RILINK and its online web-based union catalog, students and teachers have access to more than 1,000,000 books and audiovisual items and more than 60,000 subject-based web links that are K-12 appropriate, chosen for their relevance to curriculum subjects. Through the statewide library network, they also have access to the books and other materials in Rhode Island public and academic libraries. If what is needed can't be found in Rhode Island, the statewide library network (LORI Clearinghouse at OLIS) will forward their requests throughout the entire library world, through the OCLC international catalog and interlibrary loan system. This means that

literally the entire world is open to students and teachers at RILINK schools, even to those students who cannot get to their local public libraries and must rely on whatever they can get through their school library.

RILINK members also receive:

★ On-site training and support
★ Professional development workshops, plus
★ Discounts for online database subscriptions from Thompson Gale, ProQuest and EBSCO

RILINK knows its Destiny…

Destiny is Follett's web-based library automation software. RILINK is offering a shared Destiny system for Rhode Island school libraries, which we call RICAT. When a school library joins our RICAT/Destiny system, all that is needed locally is good access to the Internet through PCs or MACs with web browser software. Librarians, library staff, teachers, students, and parents have access to the school's library collection anytime, anywhere they have access to the web.

With Destiny software no local server or software requires maintenance or backup. Students can have access to library resources from home without having to open the district network to outside traffic. System hardware and software main-tenance, backups, and training are all provided by RILINK. Software upgrades are done at the central site and are available immediately to all users.

Check it out at www.ricat.net . Each member library can have its own web page with links to local school pages as well as Internet resources and online subscriptions. Access to administrative functions is provided by password. Each library can set up its own protocols and change them at any time, as needed. It's all done through the web. When adding books and other items to the catalog, librarians have access to millions of catalog records, which are downloaded directly into the system when selected.

Most entries include content annotations as well as interest and reading levels. The software supports searches by reading level for a variety of reading programs. If an item is not already in the RICAT database, library staff can bring in records from a number of other authoritative sources, including the Library of Congress and the National Library of Canada. New books can be available to students and teachers almost immediately with full subject access to each title.

Searches in RICAT can also link to digital resources, such as streaming video from Discovery Education and Ebooks. Searches will find information in online subscription databases, including those available free to all Rhode Islanders through AskRI.org. Your tax dollars at work!

With Web Path Express, searching in the catalog also brings up an annotated list of web sites related to the topic. Each site listed indicates grade levels for browsing and comprehension. Many of the sites also include lesson plans for teachers. Clicking on the link for a site brings up that site in a new window.

What does it cost?

RILINK annual dues are just $1.00 per student (with the entire district billed on one invoice). The minimum per school is $300 per year, and the maximum for individual schools is $1,500 per year. Dues cover local support and training, administration and technical support provided by the East Bay Educational Collaborative, Internet communications through RINET, plus software and equipment maintenance for the servers and other central site equipment.

The initial software license, including all of the first year costs for Destiny, is $3,740 through RILINK. After the first year, annual costs for Follett/Destiny are approximately $700 per site, per year. Some of the annual subscription options available to enhance the district's investment in the school library are:

Web Path Express	**Links to thousands of curriculum-based, authoritative sites on the Web, all K-12 educator-evaluated, checked regularly for availability.**	$345
Accelerated Reader	Students, teachers and parents can easily find AR levels and quiz information for the books in your library. The Enterprise version of AR provides updates automatically, whenever new information is added by Renaissance Learning.	$225
TitlePeek	Displays the book cover and varied content such as title profile, table of contents, brief summary, author notes, first chapter or excerpt, published reviews and more.	$122
State Standards	Aligns your school library resources and WebPath Express links to Rhode Island Standards, both Grade Level and Grade Span Expectations.	$345
Fountas and Pinnell ***new***	Find reading levels for books in your collection, making it easier to implement the Guided Reading approach in classrooms. $149 per site annually after the first year.	$199

New: **Destiny and RICAT are fully integrated with your library's Follett Ebook Shelf** – no additional login needed to access your Ebooks. Ebooks are available as soon as they are purchased, and automatically appear in the library's RICAT catalog with no need to upload MARC records or usernames and passwords on the FollettShelf.   *updated June 2012*

The classroom: Now available anywhere, anytime.