ABC-CLIO’s Online History Databases Support Social Studies Instruction
at Cypress Bay High School in Broward County, Florida

CHALLENGE

Scott Selvidge is an 11th Grade Honors History Teacher at Cypress Bay High School, the largest school in Broward County, Florida. He was faced with the challenge of providing his students with engaging, informative, up-to-date resources to support his classroom instruction. Not being a proponent of lecturing, and knowing that 21st-century students prefer a technology component to their studies, Selvidge sought an alternative to traditional textbooks.

SOLUTION

Selvidge has used the ABC-CLIO databases for the past five years in lieu of textbooks. Says Selvidge, “I find a lot of the tools very helpful, especially the research list; I can go in ahead of time and create a research list of links to events and people to provide my students with more concise learning material.”

The ABC-CLIO Advantage

Selvidge further notes, “This is what sets ABC-CLIO apart from other resources, vendors, and popular search engines:

• Databases are constantly being updated and expanded to provide new links and resources to use in teaching a subject
• Teachers can create links to specific subject materials ahead of time for students
• Supplemental text, images, and media files are available
• Information is authoritative, unbiased, verifiable, and documented
• Each database is specific to a subject, filtering out irrelevant information and resources you’d get from general search engines
• The databases are easy to navigate
• More current and up-to-date than textbooks
• Students can ‘surf’ safely without getting into dangerous sites
• Great customer service response, usually less than 24 hours”

What Colleagues and Students Are Reporting

Selvidge has heard positive feedback about ABC-CLIO databases from his fellow educators at Cypress Bay, even from those who previously took a more standard, lecture-oriented approach to teaching a subject.

Among students, he has observed: “Using ABC-CLIO databases allows them to utilize technology which they find engaging and motivating, and puts a gleam in their eyes! And, they like not having to carry heavy textbooks around anymore.”
Quick Facts

Cypress Bay High School
- Earned a gold medal in U.S. News's 2016 national ranking of Best High Schools
- 1 of 62 high schools in Broward County Public Schools
- Approximately 4,500 students enrolled
- High school students have a three-year social studies requirement:
  - World History (freshman)
  - American History (junior)
  - Government (senior)

ABC-CLIO Databases Used:
- American History
- American Government
- World History: Ancient and Medieval Eras
- World History: The Modern Era
- World Geography