Rockwood Summit High School Meets Diverse Student and Teacher Needs Using ABC-CLIO Databases

SITUATION
Located in suburban St. Louis, Rockwood Summit High School is a part of the fourth largest district in Missouri and is dedicated to continuously improving academic performance in every aspect. As part of the district and its schools’ mission to empower students to command their own futures, Rockwood Summit High School strives to provide high-quality educational programs that enable students to meet their personal, academic, and career goals.

Challenge: Find Versatile Resources
Leadership at Rockwood Summit High School identified the need for authoritative, comprehensive online resources that meet a wide range of student needs and that may be used across grade levels and curricula.

SOLUTION
ABC-CLIO’s databases are easy-to-use and always up to date. The online databases have offered Rockwood Summit High School’s students and staff access to dynamic and rich content that has enhanced curriculum, improved achievement, and increased engagement across grade and skill levels.

“We discovered our first ABC-CLIO database through a partnership with Mackin. When I secured a trial … last year and sent the link to my social studies department, the government teachers were the first ones to e-mail me back to say that they wanted me to purchase a subscription,” explains librarian Margaret Sullivan. “Not only do they appreciate the lesson ideas, they love the charts, graphs, and other visual organizers that illustrate important concepts in a way that students can easily understand.”

Aligned to many of Rockwood Summit High School’s major textbooks, ABC-CLIO’s relevant and current online resources are used by history, government, and English language arts teachers to supplement texts and support lessons. Two of the school’s government teachers have adopted the databases as their core text.

“The ABC-CLIO databases are not only meeting the diverse needs of students, they are also addressing the needs of many Rockwood Summit High School teachers,” says Sullivan. “At the end of every unit, my American history teachers assign students a project, and the American History, Pop Culture, and African American Experience databases are used by students to complete the project.”
Challenge: Extend Remote Access

In order to provide students with a wide variety of reputable and relevant online resources for research, assignments, and class projects, Rockwood Summit High School wanted to continue to expand student and teacher access to online educational content, on and off campus.

SOLUTION

ABC-CLIO’s award-winning online databases allowed Rockwood Summit High School’s students, teachers, and parents to use high-quality online resources in the classroom, library, and at home. By adding such comprehensive databases to its online resources, the high school is now able to offer its entire learning community anytime, anywhere access to in-depth and relevant resources that help teachers engage students, build teacher and student technology fluency, foster collaboration, and promote independent learning. “ABC-CLIO’s online databases are a great resource for researching an assigned topic, supporting an argument, writing a paper, and prepping for discussions and debates,” says Sullivan. “And now … our students are able to utilize the databases at home for homework, projects, and independent learning outside of school.”

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—Margaret Sullivan, Librarian

ENHANCING CRITICAL THINKING AND ANALYSIS

The use of ABC-CLIO’s online resources is helping Rockwood Summit High School’s students to develop a deeper understanding of analysis and critical thinking. Providing wide-ranging materials and resources needed to help students to support their arguments, the online databases have become a tool not only for research but also for fulfilling the school’s goal of helping students to build information literacy and critical technology skills to ensure success in today’s highly competitive global economy.

THE FUTURE

Due to the popularity of and demand for these resources, Rockwood has recently added four additional databases to their original six, and their social studies teachers “could not be more delighted,” says Sullivan. They will be using them in more of their courses, including an upcoming class on war and conflict. “Although the class doesn’t run until next semester, we are very eager to see how the teachers use the databases to support curriculum and improve student learning.” In line with a strategy of careful guidance and resource suggestions, Sullivan says her next step is to work with individual teachers to set up their own account for developing database teaching notes and resource lists specific to each class.

EVALUATING SUCCESS

Rockwood Summit High School’s students, teachers, and staff are pleased with how the databases are being used to meet a wide range of needs, build students’ 21st-century skills, expand remote access, and provide engaging content that really speaks to a diverse group of students. Helping them to meet their goal of providing meaningful and challenging curriculum that connects all students to learning while honoring their differences, ABC-CLIO’s databases have become highly valued by teachers, students, and parents. Teachers continue to request additional databases and resources and other schools within the district are following suit and looking into subscribing to ABC-CLIO’s social studies and humanities databases.
Quick Facts

**Rockwood Summit High School**
- **Opened in 1993**
- **Approximately 1300 students enrolled**
- **16:1 student-to-teacher ratio**

**Primary Objective:** “Working together to create opportunities for students to thrive”

**ABC-CLIO Databases Used:**
- **American History**
- **American Government**
- **World History: Ancient and Medieval Eras**
- **World History: The Modern Era**
- **Daily Life through History**
- **Pop Culture Universe: Icons, Idols, Ideas**
- **World Geography: Understanding a Changing World**
- **The African American Experience: The American Mosaic**
- **World at War: Understanding Conflict and Society**
- **World Religions: Belief, Culture, and Controversy**

**DISTRICT LEADER**
**Margaret Sullivan**
National Board Certified Teacher, Rockwood Summit High School
Fenton, MO