

More resources to support your teaching available on Scoilnet



Licensed content on Scoilnet adds to the choice for teachers

In the last school year, almost 650,000 clicks were made on resources in the Scoilnet database. This represented a considerable growth on the previous year and is in keeping with what we see as increasing engagement with the portal by teachers at both primary and post-primary level. While the resource database now contains around 21,000 individual resources (about 1,500 were added last year) tagged to the specifics of the Irish curriculum, the provision of such resources is only one way that the portal strives to meet the requirement of delivering digital content to teachers and learners.

A very important part of the provision of digital learning material is provided through licensed content. Such content is not accessible through the resource database via the site search or curriculum dropdowns but is flagged through other pages on the portal.



The online encyclopaedia is the flagship of the licensed content. Promoted as the place to go for fast, reliable information for homework, reports or just the odd lingering question, *World Book* has material for every level of learner from pre-primary to secondary and beyond. As part of the licensing arrangement with Scoilnet access to the service is open anywhere in the Republic of Ireland – authenticated via the IP address of the user.

Over the summer *World Book* released a

re-design for the early learning section with its short bursts of content to support micro-learning while the kids' section has an updated search engine to give more relevant returns to users. A further enhancement in the last year, which was met with great approval, was the introduction of multiple options for voice-over text. Users of the student or advanced sections have options of hearing the text read in male or female voices with accents from North America, Britain (including Welsh and Scottish) and Indian English. There are no plans as yet, though, to introduce an Irish accent!



If your pupils ever want to see how newspapers reported the major events of world history they need to go no further than the newspaper archives that are available through Scoilnet. The portal has access to two separate services – the *Irish Times* online archive and the *Irish Newspaper Archive*, which contains over 60 national and regional titles dating back to the mid-nineteenth century. Both archives are free to view in schools through the school's broadband network but home access to the *Irish Newspaper Archive* is coming very shortly – accessed via Scoilnet accounts.



For over 12 years schools and teachers

have access to a full range of *OSi* maps through the Scoilnet maps initiative. Large scale maps, aerial photography, and historic maps are available along with a suite of tools to bring them to life in class. Pupils can compare maps, look at elevation profiles, flood plains, historic monuments, population density, and changes. With so much emphasis on 'locality' in the curriculum, Scoilnet maps are incredibly useful. Several lesson activities and suggestions also accompany the maps to make it easy to use.



The *Dictionary* is considered to be the most comprehensive and authoritative biographical reference work for Ireland and outlines the careers at home and overseas of prominent men and women born in Ireland, north and south. The entries are written by experts in the field and, while it might not be aimed at primary pupils, it should be of interest to most teachers. Access is restricted to the school's broadband network.

All the licensed content on Scoilnet is available at a single point <http://bit.ly/scoilnettools>.

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