

ABC-CLIO Online Solutions integrated into curriculum helps drive 100% college acceptance for girls in Hutchison School

1:1, Global Perspectives, Rigorous Academic Environment Powers Student Performance

SITUATION

Hutchison School is one of the largest girls' schools in the country. With a heavy emphasis on college prep, they have a thriving AP curriculum as well as honors and advanced classes. In order to maintain a leading edge curriculum, Hutchison follows a Technology-Infused 1-to-1 Computer Program philosophy, coupled with an infusion of a global perspective throughout all studies. For instance, even the American history course is presented from a global perspective; beginning in 6th grade, history courses are entitled "global studies."

Additionally, the school has always aligned their literature courses with history, and literature teachers require appropriate resources for this approach.

The challenge is to infuse 21st century learning tools to maintain and enhance Hutchinson's rigorous focus on academic achievement and 100% college acceptance rate.

SOLUTION

The ABC-CLIO Digital Solutions databases are the perfect answer to meet these challenges.

Teaching strategies incorporate key topics, which are broken down into "mini-lessons" for their classes. Students narrow their search categories using the "Eras" feature of the databases. The "Analyze" sections are favorite places to start when students are asked to choose their own research topics. Students utilize the suggested topics for further study, along with the additional resources. The databases also provide excellent resources and tools for collaboration, which is highly emphasized at Hutchison.

Literature studies are aligned with history throughout all grade levels. Ms. Billings notes that the ABC-CLIO databases are "perfect" for such a curriculum. The literature teachers use the databases frequently, especially for British literature. For example, the 9th grade research paper is a combined history and English project. Students select a novel, short story, or poem and then use ABC-CLIO and other history resources to explain

QUICK FACTS

Hutchison School

Mission: Dedicated to academic excellence and to the parallel development of the mind, body, and spirit.

- One of the largest girls' schools in the country, located in Memphis, Tennessee
- 900 total students in preK- Grade 12

• Curriculum focus:

- A strong emphasis on college prep, AP program.
- A strong technology-infused curriculum with a 1-to-1 laptop program
- Literature taught in alignment with history
- Integrating a global perspective throughout the curriculum is a recent schoolwide initiative

• Databases used:

- *American History*
- *World Geography*
- *World History: The Modern Era*
- *World History: Ancient and Medieval Eras*
- ABC-CLIO eBooks

a particular historical context for the poem. [For curriculum examples, see Page 3].

The librarian schedules class discussions on the first day of every class project, and ABC-CLIO databases are the first resources introduced.

Ms. Billings creates a project page using the Visual Search feature in Destiny, the school's online catalog. Thus, students can easily link to ABC-CLIO and other resources from this project page. Each student then creates a research folder on her laptop, along with a Word document where she will paste citations as she gathers sources.

In this introductory class, students practice by selecting a research topic and finding a resource in ABC-CLIO databases. They download these initial background articles into their new research folders, and they copy and paste the citation and file it in the research folder. Thus, they have set up their first resources for their research projects, along with a method for keeping track of their citations, which come already formatted in ABC-CLIO results. Both *World History* databases are used heavily beginning in 7th grade, when geography and ancient history are taught. Thus, students quickly take to using these databases as their first resource out of habit.

Once the students are shown this tool, they are excited about how its easy and useful it is. The content

is categorized in topics that fit well with the curriculum.

ABC-CLIO Digital Solutions provide the context as well as the depth, thus becoming the defacto resource for their research. Moreover, since the Hutchison School is a 1:1 technology centric institution, students have access to the databases anytime, anywhere, 24 x 7.

"ABC-CLIO ... gives you concise, but comprehensive information."
(Lee Billings)



SCHOOL LEADER

Lee Billings

Librarian, Hutchison School
1740 Ridgeway Road
Memphis, TN 38119
(901) 762-6671

Enhancing Critical Thinking and Analysis

Once the students are introduced to the ABC-CLIO database features, the students gravitate toward the databases, and minimal additional support or

"Teachers often use the databases on a projection screen in class because they are so visually appealing...with a helpful home page, interface, and navigation."

encouragement is needed from the librarian. From *Exploring an Era*, to *Analyze*, to *Investigate*, to *Doing More*, to the use of high quality illustrations, students find enough depth, but not too much text. The regularly updated content is important. She loves the fact that ABC-CLIO updates the database content regularly and provides hundreds of links to additional resources – not only do the links provide more depth, but she also believes it is important that the pages are not static.

She notes that the databases put topics in context, thus becoming excellent tools for inquiry based learning.

Hutchison School emphasizes student collaboration. She notes that the tools for printing to a PDF, noting an MLA citation, and sending information to the student's e-mail, are utilized constantly throughout the group projects.

Technology and their One-to-One Laptop Program are key elements in Hutchison's plan: "With technology, learning becomes more contextual, authentic, project-based, differentiated, collaborative, and addresses all learning styles. The One-to-One Laptop Program enables Hutchison students to develop 21st century skills and competencies.

Thus, ABC-CLIO Online Solutions are a perfect fit for Hutchison's leading edge educational strategy for high quality scholastics through 21st Century skills and technological tools.

EVALUATING SUCCESS

Hutchison School is recognized for consistently sending 100% of their graduates to college, based on their high quality, advanced curriculum. This has been maintained through steady teacher and student demand and usage of ABC-CLIO databases over the past 8 years for all students from grades 7 and up.

Both students and teachers recognize the high quality content and amazing learning tools in ABC-CLIO Digital Solutions that enhance critical thinking skills, thus enabling these students to excel in school and life. As Ms. Billings says, "What more could you want?"

EXAMPLES OF ABC-CLIO ONLINE SOLUTIONS ACROSS THE CURRICULUM – HUTCHISON SCHOOL

At Hutchison School, literature studies are aligned with history throughout all grade levels. For example, the 9th grade research paper is a combined history and English project. Students select a novel, short story, or poem and then use ABC-CLIO and other history resources to explain a particular historical context for the poem.

Here are just a few examples:

- Students have selected Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, and they have used ABC-CLIO's *World History: The Modern Era* to research English Regency topics such as courtship and marriage, politics, and social classes.
- A student might elaborate on the implications of the Maritime Revolution in the works of a few Renaissance poets or research working conditions in factories as described by Dickens in *Hard Times*.
- British Literature students research Victorian England in conjunction with their study of Elizabeth Gaskell's *North and South*. They write research papers that combine historical information gathered in ABC-CLIO's *World History: The Modern Era* with critical

resources from books and literary criticism databases.

- World Literature students use ABC-CLIO history resources to understand the geography and history in Gabriel Garcia-Marquez' *One Hundred Years of Solitude*.

The screenshot shows the 'Our Programs' page on the Hutchison School website. The 'Technology' section highlights the 'One-to-One Laptop Program' and lists its benefits, such as enhancing communication and collaborative learning, and providing access to school-owned software like Adobe CS4, Autodesk, and various music and graphic design programs.

The screenshot shows the 'About Hutchison' page on the Hutchison School website. It provides information about the school's location, founding in 1902, mission statement, and accreditation. It also lists the school's enrollment, student-to-faculty ratio, and graduation rates.