

INFOhio provides educational impact

Students at Ebon C. Hill Intermediate School in Bethel are benefiting from something that is supported by a growing body of research: Libraries boost student achievement. At the mention of the word "library," most people think of a room full of books. But today's students are learning that in their world, libraries can come in electronic form as well. The Information Network for Ohio Schools (INFOhio) provides a virtual library for Ohio students in grades kindergarten through 12 that is targeted at connecting educational resources with the power of information technology. Available to all Ohio students, along with their teachers and parents, this online library handled more than 23-million requests for information last year.



ZOOM
Abby Ratcliff and Carson Colonel at Ebon C. Hill Intermediate School in Bethel work on their research projects.

When students log on to the INFOhio Web site (www.infohio.org), they see a menu of databases and services to assist them with research, homework and personal information needs. Some of these resources include online encyclopedias, databases with current magazine articles, and a collection of searchable photographs. There is even a free service called "Homework Now," where students and parents can connect for live help with all types of homework needs. These resources are password protected, but parents and students can easily obtain the passwords from their school libraries.

Fifth-graders at Hill Intermediate School recently used INFOhio resources to complete research projects that meet the Ohio Academic Content Standards for language arts and library/media skills. Using the Britannica Online Encyclopedia and American National Biography databases from INFOhio, they found information about people who have impacted American history.

One student, Christina Ludwick, said, "I think it's very useful. I found a lot of information about Neil Armstrong."

Jason Lee said, "I could find lots of information for reports."

Using the skills gained through this project, these students will be able to locate and access information to help them in their education and in their lives.