Where’s iCONN on Your Web Site? Making iCONN Easier To Find

Does your library’s home page have a link to iCONN? Can your patrons find it easily?

We provide four ways to access iCONN databases – use any one or a combination on your library’s home page to connect your patrons to iCONN:

1. Use an iCONN button or text link to connect users to the iCONN landing page (see Figure 1) at http://www.iconn.org. From there, you can either search all articles at once using “Find Articles,” or search the entire statewide library catalog using “Find Books, DVDs and more in CT Libraries.” If outside the library, you will first need to login using your public library or college library card number. The iCONN button with instructions on how to configure it is at http://www.cslib.org/iconnsitemap/staff/iconndesktop.aspx.

For example, see Waterford Public Library’s homepage at http://www.waterfordpubliclibrary.org.

2. Use the same iCONN button or text link to link to the appropriate iCONN resources page (see Figure 2), which gives a description of each database and allows you to search databases one-at-a-time using each database’s native search interface.

- Resources for Middle School libraries: http://rqst-agent.auto-graphics.com/homepages/customerwide/ClassicMiddleSchool.asp

Figure 1: iCONN landing page

Figure 2: iCONN Resources for the Public page
Use database-specific icons or text links to link directly to individual iCONN resources such as Gale Virtual Reference Library, HeritageQuest for public libraries, PsycINFO for college libraries, Kids InfoBits for elementary schools, etc. The links can be interfiled with locally-licensed databases, arranged either by subject or in an A-Z list. Individual iCONN database links for each library type may be found at: http://www.cslib.org/iconnsitemap/staff/urltable.aspx.

Database vendors Gale Cengage, EBSCO and ProQuest can generate database icons with library authentication built in. We suggest you use the iCONN button in addition to the individual database buttons.

For example, see Chippens Hill Middle School, Bristol (buttons for iCONN and several Gale databases) http://www.bristol.k12.ct.us/page.cfm?p=434.

We ask that you add a small iCONN icon (see examples below) to brand the iCONN resources in your lists of databases.

Small iCONN icons

For example, see Smith Library, Eastern CT State University (iCONN icon next to databases in A-Z database list) http://www.easternct.edu/smithlibrary/databases/index.htm. Small icons can be obtained at http://www.cslib.org/iconnsitemap/staff/BrandingLinks.aspx. For assistance, contact Eric Hansen at Eric.A.Hansen@ct.gov or 860-704-2224.

Add a search-all-at-once iCONN Find Articles widget that will launch searches into PowerSearch from your library home page. For instructions on how to accomplish this, see “iCONN Widgets” in the footer of our landing page at: http://www.iconn.org.

For example, see Westport Public Library (iCONN search widget in Research/Databases) http://www.westportlibrary.org/research/databases

Note: The options listed above are not mutually exclusive. You can maintain a link to the iCONN landing page, a link to the iCONN resources page, and links to specific databases.

Why provide links to iCONN?

The state provides iCONN at no charge to all residents, schools and libraries.

It provides a wealth of online resources available 24/7 with a statewide value estimated at over $35 million per year, which translates to an average annual cost savings of $15,060 per school, or $47,276 per public library, or $92,073 per academic library.

Your patrons will appreciate the information. It’s their tax dollars at work.

Are you getting the iCONN login screen in the library?

If you access iCONN from inside the library using any of the methods above, and you get a login screen instead, your library’s IP address may not be registered in iCONN or may have changed. Please contact Eric Hansen at 860-704-2224 or Eric.A.Hansen@ct.gov, or contact the iCONN office at 860-704-2220 or 888-256-1222 (toll free in CT).