

CASE STUDY

ENHANCING YOUR LIBRARY'S DIGITAL RESOURCES: **EMPOWERING STUDENTS**

Why a school in Hong Kong chose Gale Reference Complete:
Schools Edition-Ultimate to support its IB students

Annie Tam

About:

Annie Tam is the Head/Teacher Librarian of the Secondary School of The Independent Schools Foundation Academy (ISF) in Hong Kong. Her main responsibilities are for managing the English collections and overseeing the overall administration of the library.



The Resource:

As an International Baccalaureate school, The Independent Schools Foundation Academy (ISF) in Hong Kong was searching for a suite of digital resources to support the curriculum. As the school's librarian, Annie Tam, notes 'Since we are an IB school, our Middle Years Programme and Diploma Programme students need databases to support their learning of different subjects.'

After close consideration, Annie decided *Gale Reference Complete: Schools Edition – Ultimate* answered this need. *Gale Reference Complete* neatly fitted into the library's overall acquisition strategies and aims by being as Annie says 'comprehensive in the different subjects' coverage' to address the needs of the IB curriculum from literature to science.

Comprehensive subject coverage

From Annie's perspective, when selecting resources, what distinguished the package from other subscription offerings in the market was its broad subject coverage. As Annie comments, ' *Gale Reference Complete* is more comprehensive while the other databases are more subject specific'. *Gale Reference Complete* compared favourably to the more narrow, subject specific focus of other vendor databases and this was a driving factor in the library's decision to subscribe. As a result, the school now has access to a suite of resources which includes not only books, maps, images and videos from the *National Geographic Virtual Library* to enhance student's understanding of the natural world, people and cultures but also the curriculum-aligned *Gale In Context* series which aids student's awareness of global issues and deepens their understanding of science, the environment and history to improve their grades.

However, when identifying content within *Gale Reference Complete* that was of most value to her teachers and students, Annie was struck particularly by the sciences and humanities-related content offered by the package.

These resources include *Gale Literature Resource Center* with its full-text critical and literary analysis and *Gale Interactive*, an interactive visual tool with 3D models that students understand complex topics in biology, chemistry, human anatomy, and earth/space science.

Accurate, up-to-date content

When probed about how *Gale Reference Complete* supports students' learning, Annie responded with 'by providing (students) with updated and comprehensive resources'. Annie believes that *Gale Reference Complete* can help improve the quality of student learning, not just by its subject coverage but by providing students in an era of misinformation with up-to-date content from authoritative, trusted sources in periodical resources like *Gale OneFile* which link students through to *Gale eBooks* for further context around a topic.

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Superior search technology

Apart from the wealth of content offered by *Gale Reference Complete*, Annie was attracted to the technology of the platforms and their intuitive user-friendly features for teacher and students. The tools allow students to easily search, save and share content and they have access to powerful visual tools like Topic Finder which helps them start their research when they are unsure of which search path to choose for an assignment.

Developing digital skills

Above all, Annie believes *Gale Reference Complete* will help her students prepare for their next steps at university. As she says, ‘It will sharpen their research and study skills which will equip them for further study’, empowering them with the information literacy tools they need to critically analyse and interpret online sources, paving the way for better student grades.

About Gale Reference Complete: Schools Edition – Ultimate

Gale Reference Complete: Schools Edition – Ultimate provides subscription access to the largest package of primary and secondary sources available to schools today. Empowering users from primary to secondary, *Gale Reference Complete* offers high quality, authoritative and unique content to improve student engagement, encourage collaboration, and foster critical thinking at an affordable price to suit the needs of the school library budget. Resources include: *Gale Interactive*, *National Geographic Virtual Library*, *Gale In Context*, *Gale Literary Sources*, *Gale OneFile*, *Kids InfoBits* and *Gale eBooks*.

Contact your local rep for more information
gale.com/intl/trial/gale-reference-complete

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