

# New tool enhances the use of educational databases in Milford Exempted Village School District

Ohio district uses *Gale In Context: For Educators* to help teachers and students find, organize, and share content quickly and easily

Located in the northeast suburbs of Cincinnati, Milford Exempted Village School District serves approximately 6,600 students and is consistently ranked among the best school systems in Ohio based on graduation rates, state test scores, and college-readiness indicators.

Melissa Chandler has been a library media specialist at Milford for the past 20 years. Chandler says that the district's leadership has always prioritized equipping their educators with high-quality digital tools and technology. "When I first came here, the internet was still a relatively new resource in education, but Milford had already invested in three *Gale In Context* education databases, and over the past 20 years we have added several more."

## Digital curriculum enhances teaching and learning

*Gale In Context* digital curriculum provides K-12 educators the opportunity to personalize instruction with an electronic library of age-appropriate, standards-aligned nonfiction content in a variety of topic areas while offering students equitable access to resources that enhance information literacy, critical thinking, and more.

Chandler says that a new tool from Gale has enabled the district's educators to get even more out of the eight *Gale In Context* resources the district currently uses. "Our curriculum director and I had just learned about *Gale In Context: For*

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*Educators* when the COVID-19 school shutdowns first occurred in the spring of 2020, and we thought that it would be a great resource to help our teachers with their online learning and instruction."

## Getting the most out of databases

Building on the foundation of *Gale In Context* student databases, *Gale In Context: For Educators* combines quality, curriculum-aligned multimedia content with related lesson plans and instructional tools. *For Educators* enables teachers to find and personalize digital content sets, plan learning activities that work well for remote or in-person learning environments, and ensure equity of access for all students. These benefits are further realized by education leaders in Gale's new insights brief, *6 Best Practices to Use Educational Databases*.

"*For Educators* is like a learning management system for the eight *Gale In Context* databases that we are already subscribed to. For example, if I'm interested in the civil rights movement, I can search for that and access content about that topic from any Gale database. That content can then be organized into folders and uploaded into our learning management system, and teachers can

share it with their students or colleagues. Our teachers are enjoying it because it's a simple and easy way to organize and use content quickly."

Chandler says that implementing *Gale In Context: For Educators* is another example of Milford's priorities and educational values. "As a district, we heavily emphasize the development of research skills and the importance of media literacy and finding good sources of information. I feel fortunate to work in a district that has invested in quality digital tools, including Gale's databases."

## A successful partnership

Overall, Chandler says that the district has been very pleased with Gale, and they have been a true partner. "I've worked with Gale for 20 years, and they are outstanding. Their products are top of the line, and they are always updating their content. Some databases can be overwhelming and difficult to use, but Gale's products make it effortless to find information, and our students find them very easy to use. I think Gale's databases have given our students an advantage when it comes to developing research skills and preparing for the college level and their next step in life."

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