Content Management on the Internet
a look at K-12 schools access to resources

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(Abstract)

The Internet presents a new phenomenon to educators and students in the K-12 environment. It’s ease of use and ready access to material provides an overwhelming resource for use in the K-12 classroom. This study looked at content management of Internet resources in the K-12 school environment. Content management is defined as the methods of organizing access to the information available on the Internet allowing the teacher to effectively use resources in a classroom setting. Teachers have managed the material, or content, that they present to students for over a decade. Now that resources available on the Internet are also open to K-12 students, teachers must be aware of the need to manage Internet content, just as they would do for any other content being used in their classroom.

This study looked at middle school students in 6th and 7th grades. An experimental design was used to determine if K-12 access to Internet resources provides a higher degree of results when students are presented with managed resources, or when students have open access to Internet resources.

Analysis of the results of the study show that there is a significant difference in both the amount and the quality of material that was identified by the group with managed access to Internet content.
Dedication

To my parents
Richard and Ione

and

to my family
Cindy, Shara, and JJ
Acknowledgements

This document is due in no small part to the people who have passed through my life. … to the members of my committee: Dr. Norm Dodl, Dr. John Burton, Dr. Glen Holmes, Dr. Jerry Niles and Dr. Tom Head. … to the participants of this study who will remain nameless but invaluable. … and to Cindy, whose support over the years has brought me to this time and place.

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