SIRS Knowledge Source, a ProQuest database, was founded for the adult or more advanced researcher to promote critical thinking about controversial social issues. Consisting of four subdivisions (Researcher, Government Reporter, Renaissance, and WebSelect), it provides thousands of full-text articles related to social, scientific, historic, economic, cultural, political and global issues. Patrons have the option to e-mail citations, sources, full-text articles and pictures.

> Computer commands, field names and mouse actions are in *Italics*.
> Text that you must type is within single quote marks (' ').

Go to: **RCPL** (**http://www.myrcpl.com**)
Click: ***Research and Learning***
Click: ***Research Tools***
Click: ***DISCUS Databases or News and Magazines (or View All Databases Alphabetically)***
Scroll to: ***SIRS Knowledge Source***
Click: ***Inside the Library* OR *Home Access***

1. Which social issues are receiving the most coverage right now?
   ❑ To the right of the *Comprehensive Search Portal* screen is a box called *Your Top Ten - Pro vs.Con Leading Issues*. Each of the *Top Ten* is represented by a clickable icon.
   ❑ At the bottom right of the *Top Ten* box is the link for *More Issues*. This displays a list of nearly 100 currently debated social issues, each a link to more information.

2. I'm writing a paper on the paranormal, but that topic is not among those on the *Leading Issues* list or the expanded (*More Issues*) list.
   ❑ At the *Comprehensive Search Portal*, type 'paranormal' in the *Search* box. The radio button may be left at the default (*Subject Headings*) option or placed next to *Keyword / Natural Language*.
   ❑ Click the *Search* button.
   ❑ The *Quick Search Results Screen* will display bibliographic information, article summaries, and display options for full-text and PDF.
   ❑ On the left side of the screen, these returns are numbered and sub-categorized as *Newspapers, Magazines,* and *Government Documents.,* Under *Click a Subject to Search* are related subject headings (tags).

3. I would like to see a longer list of topics used by SIRS.
   ❑ At the *Quick Search* page (accessed by clicking the *Quick Search* tab at the top of the screen), click *Topic Browse*.
   ❑ This will display the first page of topics subcategorized as *SIRS Researcher* and *SIRS Government Reporter*. Each list can be expanded by clicking *More.…*

4. I'm a teacher and would like to see some specific suggestions for topics and the most efficient way to research those topics.
   ❑ At the *Comprehensive Search Portal* (accessed by clicking *Home*), click the tab for *Database Features*. This will expand the subdivisions: *SIRS Researcher* and *SIRS Government Reporter.*

- ❑ Under each of these subdivisions are links for *Curriculum Pathfinders*. Clicking these *Curriculum Pathfinders* will display tabs for *Math, Science, Social Studies, Language Arts*, *Fine Arts* and *Health*.
- ❑ Moving the mouse across each tab displays *Research Ideas* for each.

5. How can I apply SIRS to educational standards of my state?
- ❑ Click *Educators' Resources* at the top of the *Comprehensive Search Portal.*
- ❑ When the *Educators' Resources* page appears, scroll down to the *SIRS Resources Correlated to Standards* (under *Educator's Guides and Student Handouts*) and click it. This displays the *State and National Standards* page.
- ❑ At *State and National Standards* are two drop-down menus: one for *Select State or Province* and one for *Select Subject.* Select a state and then use the *Select a Subject* menu before clicking *Go.* This displays an outline of subject standards for the selected state.

6. I need maps of the world for a geography class.
- ❑ At the *Comprehensive Search Portal (Quick Search)* page, click the tab for *Database Features*.
- ❑ When the two *SIRS* subdivisions appear, click *Maps of the World* found under the *SIRS Researcher* column.
- ❑ When the *Maps of the World* screen appears, it will have links for the *U.S., Canada, Nations, Regions, U.S. Historical, World Historical*, and *Outline.* All have printable PDF versions available.