

## **Reference Quest**

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## Part 1: Database Searches

Answer: Lucifer the hippopotamus is an honorary resident of Florida. More information about Lucifer may be found in an article from the Tampa Bay Times titled “America’s Oldest Hippo, Confronts His Age in Homosassa Springs - In the Wild, an Ancient Hippopotamus Might Make His 50<sup>th</sup> Year. Lu turned 59 in January.”

I initiated research by using the Find It! At USF Libraries by searching: “honorary Florida resident” AND animal. An article titled “Happy birthday to Lou” was linked to NewsBank, but clicking to see the full text led to a sort of homepage. Upon viewing Similar Results under the detailed record, I was confronted with the same issue, but noticed most results were also in NewsBank. Then, I searched for NewsBank in the USF databases and found Access World News hosted NewsBank articles. At Access World News, I aimed to find the initial article of interest so I did an advanced search: “happy birthday to lou” [headline] AND Florida [all text]. I found the short article proved Lou was made an honorary Florida resident by former Governor Lawton Chiles in 1992, but it revealed no other details. I referred back to the USF Similar Results page to find another article and searched: “Lucifer” AND “hippo” [headline] AND Florida [all text] to find an article that disclosed the desired information.

### **5. I can’t remember the title of a book that was written that pokes fun at Margaret Mitchell’s *Gone with the Wind*. Can you help me find it and tell me if it’s still available?**

Answer: *The Wind Done Gone* by Alice Randall is available to check out at the USF Library in Tampa.

I initiated the search on WorldCat, searching everything with: “gone with the wind” parody. My answer is the first result and the USF Tampa library appears on the list of nearby libraries that hold a copy of the book. I would ask the patron to read the summary to make sure it was familiar and is indeed the book they are seeking.

### **7. Sometime in the last couple of years the U.S. post office released stamps that had snowflakes on them. I read an article about them in a small local newspaper when I was traveling. What I really want to know is where the snowflakes were photographed.**

Answer: The snowflakes were photographed at Caltech in Pasadena, California, by physicist Kenneth Libbrecht.

I first wanted to know the potential photographer of the stamps and the variety of snowflake stamps issued by the USPS. With high hopes, I simply Googled: USPS stamp archive. “Stamp Collecting - Social Responsibility - USPS” was the first result, so I started there. In a hyper-linked list of questions, I clicked “Are there more stamp resources online?” to be led to a section where USPSstamps.com could not be reached and the National Postal Museum page was not found. However, I continued to the Collections page from the National Postal Museum site and did a search for “snowflake.” Here I found stamps of snowflakes

from 2006, photographed by physicist Kenneth Libbrecht in Pasadena, CA. I would ask the patron if they would like to know a more specific location within Pasadena. If so:

I moved my search to the USF Libraries databases, with physics in mind, and searched in Academic Search Premier for: “kenneth libbrecht” AND “snowflakes” [both all text]. A cover story from *New Scientist* titled “Designer Snowflakes” is the first result. Using the Full Text Finder, I chose to view the article in Gale Academic OneFile Select and found Caltech to be the institution where the snowflakes were photographed.

## Part 2: Reference Questions

### 2. I’m worried about allowing my child to have foods with aspartame. How much of it is safe to eat on a regular basis?

Answer: The Institute of Medicine maintains an acceptable daily intake (ADI) of aspartame is 50mg per kilogram of body weight. (1 kilogram is about 2.2 pounds)

To find the answer, I started with USF Library databases and searched for those about “health.” I decided to use the Gale Health and Wellness database and proceeded to search “aspartame” AND “safety.” I selected the most current reference article and used ctrl+f to highlight the appearances of “aspartame” (since the document was more broadly about artificial sweeteners). Fortunately, under the Precautions heading, aspartame was used as the example regarding acceptable daily intake and indicated 50mg/kg a day.

The information may be verified by checking the Food and Drug Administration website. Using a web browser to go to [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov), a simple search for “aspartame” provides recommended results, with the first addressing aspartame and artificial sweeteners. A chart expressing the acceptable daily allowances reflects 50mg/kg. In the chart, the regulatory status of aspartame may be viewed and one can see it was last updated April 1, 2019.

Frey, R. J., PhD. (2019). Artificial sweeteners. In D. S. Hiam (Ed.), *The Gale Encyclopedia of Diets* (3rd ed., Vol. 1, pp. 92-97). Gale.

[https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX2491000031/HWRC?u=fl\\_program&sid=HWRC&xid=bb40ff07](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX2491000031/HWRC?u=fl_program&sid=HWRC&xid=bb40ff07)

U.S. Food and Drug Administration. (2018, February 8). *Additional information about high-intensity sweeteners permitted for use in food in the United States*.

<https://www.fda.gov/food/food-additives-petitions/additional-information-about-high-intensity-sweeteners-permitted-use-food-united-states>

### 8. I heard this in passing and would like to find the complete text and the author: “We look to the sky and with outstretched fingers touch the face of God.”

Answer: “High Flight” by John Gillespie Magee is likely the poem you are looking for. It can be found in *A Way of Knowing, a Collection of Poems for Boys* at both St. Pete and Tampa USF libraries.

I attempted to find this quote on bartleby.com/100 by way of the concordance index; I looked for “look to the sky,” “outstretched fingers,” and “face of God” but failed to find a match. So, I turned to Google and searched for the full quotation (in quotes) and saw the first

result was a Yahoo Answer page for the exact quote. The Yahoo answer explained Ronald Reagan said it during a TV broadcast in response to the Challenger disaster, and that it was also a reference to “High Flight” by John Gillespie Magee.

To verify this answer, I decided to search for Reagan’s national address. On the USF Library homepage, I searched the databases for “broadcast” and chose to use NexisUni. From there I entered in the search bar: “challenger” AND “Reagan” AND “broadcast.” The fourth result, “Flashback: Reagan's Challenger Disaster Speech Remains A Hopeful Message 30 Years On,” provided a link to NASA’s full text of the national address where a similar, but not exact, quote of “waved goodbye and ‘slipped the surly bonds of earth’ to ‘touch the face of God’” ended the broadcast; the web blog post also noted the reference to Magee’s poem and that he was also a pilot in World War II.

Though the poem was misquoted because it was heard in passing and Magee’s occupation as a pilot supports the word choice of the quote, I decided “High Flight” was likely the poem the user is looking for. A search in the USF Library Catalog for AU: Magee, John Gillespie yielded no results, so I switched to search field to Keyword and found the first result was a collection of poetry and listed in its contents is “High Flight” by Magee.

McDonald, G.D. (Ed.). (1959). *A way of knowing, a collection of poems for boys*. Crowell.

Reagan, R.W. (1986, January 28). Explosion of the space shuttle *Challenger* address to the nation. <https://history.nasa.gov/reagan12886.html>

Rusty. (2016, January 28). Flashback: Reagan's Challenger disaster speech remains a hopeful message 30 years on. *The Mental Recession*.  
<https://advance-lexis-com.ezproxy.lib.usf.edu/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HYJ-G7M1-F03R-N09X-00000-00&context=1516831>

Yahoo! Answers. <https://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=1006040206077>

**10. What is the history of the Hotel Spokane? It was located in Spokane, WA [Washington USA] many years ago. When was it built? What happened to it? Are there pictures available?**

Answer: Where a mid-constructed three-story warehouse stood lifeless, the Hotel Spokane built up the edifice to a five-story hotel in 1889; its renown restaurant, the Silver Grill, opened in 1903. It had electric lights and was the second hotel in the country to install telephones in its rooms. After Christmas dinner in 1961, the Hotel Spokane was demolished to begin construction of the Ridpath Motor Inn. There are pictures of the Hotel and the Silver Grill available for viewing in the Charles Libby Collection of the Eastern Washington Historical Society’s digital archives.

I started on Google with: "hotel spokane" WA history. After a few results of the Davenport Hotel was an article from the Spokesman-Review titled “Then and Now: Hotel Spokane and Clarence Taylor.” On that page, a large black and white photograph of the hotel reveals it came from the Libby Collection of the Eastern Washington Historical Society. The article mentions the hotel took over a building that had survived a 1889 fire and boasted an impressive restaurant, the Silver Grill. I noted the Spokesman-Review was established in 1883 and might have a historical archive. A left navigation bar indicates archives are available, but without a subscription the full text of the articles can not be viewed at newspapers.com.

I opened another browser window and Google searched Eastern Washington Historical Society to satisfy the image query. The first result in the search led to its Collections page, but unfortunately a search for “hotel spokane” from that page was fruitless. I selected the Archives from the left navigation bar and proceeded to view the Digital Archives Collection. The Libby Collection contained around 30,000 photographs, no quick browse there, so I searched the collection for “hotel spokane” and got nothing. I soon realized the search tool did not like quotation marks or modifiers. Without quotation marks, however, was a plentiful amount of results, but not *just* for the Hotel Spokane. Using ctrl+f, I could easily find relevant pictures on the page. Searching “silver grill” yielded a positive search of relevant photographs.

Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture. (n.d). *Charles Libby collection*.

<https://ferrisarchives.northwestmuseum.org/Collection/View/1>

Tinsley, J. (2016, February 29). Then and now: Hotel Spokane and Clarence Taylor. *The Spokesman-Review*.

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2016/feb/29/then-and-now-hotel-spokane/>