



netTrekker

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Emerging Technology

General Purpose of netTrekker

- netTrekker is a school friendly search engine
- It can be linked to districts LMS or Google Classroom
- Students can use this tool as a safe search engine (all resources are picked by teachers)
- Teachers use the search function to find:
 - Resources for Elementary, Middle, and High School
 - Resources for students to use
 - State Common Core aligned resources
 - Images and Videos that are school appropriate
 - Resources that can be translated and/or read aloud
 - Resources based on lessons, lexile levels, plans, people, standards

Technology Vision Gwinnett County Schools

- Gwinnett County School is working to integrate technology into classrooms throughout the district.
- Lisa Watkins the Director of School Technology for Gwinnett County Public Schools states that Gwinnett County Schools wants to:
 - Have a "comprehensive integration of technology to *promote excellence* and support transformation throughout the organization (Watkins, 2018)"
 - "create promote, and sustain a dynamic, *digital-age learning* culture that provides a *rigorous, relevant, and engaging* education for all students (Watkins, 2018)"
 - Have teachers integrate technology and digital resources to *enhance student learning* (Watkins, 2018)

Technology Vision Gwinnett County Schools- Using netTrekker

- *Promoting excellence:* netTrekker is a way to integrate technology in a safe way- Students can search on the site without fear of inappropriate content
- *Digital Age Learning:* Students can search their own content or teachers can provide resources through the site.
- *Rigor:* Students/teachers can choose specific reading levels, grade levels, and languages based on the level of his/her students

Technology Vision Gwinnett County Schools- Using netTrekker

- *Relevant*: Teachers can search based on standards/Common Core that is specific to their state. They can also search specific topics, people, images, or videos.
- *Engaging*: Students can find engaging content that is actually relevant to what they are studying and they can work at their own pace.
- *Enhance Student Learning*: Students will have information catered exactly to what they are learning in class.

Description and Access

- netTrekker can be used for students Kindergarten to 12th Grade.
- There is a button/category to search for elementary, middle, and high school
- Teachers and Students need a log in created by the county or school to access resources on netTrekker
- NetTrekker is accessible to all students and teachers:
 - Search by grade level
 - Provides a dictionary with pictures- when you highlight words
 - Will translate resources to other languages
 - Provides a read-aloud features
 - You can search resources by Lexile level

Equipment needed for netTrekker

- netTrekker is easily accessible through a WEB BROWSER! That is all you need!
- Students can use a computer or device
- Students who have accommodations and would like to use the read aloud function would need headphones

Technical Support

- netTrekker is made by Knavation.
- The company has technical support search area for any issues
- This page has:
 - Introduction information
 - Tips for getting started
 - How to register and log in
 - A Step-by-step guide
 - A how-to on different learners
 - How to integrate to a LMS
 - Mobile Device Information
 - Troubleshooting
 - Contact netTrekker Information section

The screenshot displays a grid of technical support articles on the netTrekker website. The articles are organized into several categories, each with a list of specific topics and a 'View all' link. The categories include:

- Welcome to netTrekker (5 Articles)**: About Knavation, Introduction to netTrekker, Recommended Environment, View all.
- Tips for Getting Started (7 Articles)**: New Users, Interactive Orientation Guide, Quick Reference Guide, View all.
- Your netTrekker Account (9 Articles)**: How Do I Register for a netTrekker Account?, How Do I Login to netTrekker?, Access Options, View all.
- The Content Collection (12 Articles)**: What is a Resource?, What are OERs?, How Do I Suggest Resources to Knavation?, View all.
- netTrekker Step-by-Step (29 Articles)**: My Portfolio (5 Articles), Browsing for Resources (3 Articles), Advanced Searching (7 Articles), Standards (2 Articles), Searching for Resources (12 Articles).
- netTrekker in Classrooms (14 Articles)**: netTrekker in a LOR/LAS (5 Articles), netTrekker in an Assessment System (2 Articles), Integrations, Literacy Supports for All Learners, Supporting Your ELL Population, View all.
- netTrekker Through a LMS (8 Articles)**: netTrekker and the Canvas LMS, netTrekker and the Schoology LMS, Google Single Sign On and Google Classroom, View all.
- netTrekker on Mobile Device (3 Articles)**: netTrekker on Your iOS Device, Literacy Support Tools on Mobile Devices, LMS Apps and netTrekker, View all.
- Troubleshooting (3 Articles)**: How Do I Clear My Browser Cache?, My School Filter is Blocking a Resource, I Am Getting a Cookie Error Message, View all.
- Contact netTrekker (6 Articles)**: Frequently Asked Questions (5 Articles), Submit a Support Request, View all.

Technical Support

PHONE NUMBER

855.KNOVATE
513.731.4090

FAX NUMBER

866.886.3409
513.731.1710

MAILING ADDRESS

Knovation 3600 Park 42 Drive, Suite 125A
Cincinnati, OH 45241-2131

- Knovation also has contact information listed on the website:
<https://www.knovationlearning.com/contact-us/>
- The company also provided videos to help teachers, administrators, and students.
<https://www.knovationlearning.com/school-solutions/nettrekker/>

Integration with Learning Management Systems

- [netTrekker Integrates with Canvas](#)
- [netTrekker Integrates with Schoology](#)
- [Share netTrekker Resources to Google Classroom](#)

[View all LMS Integrations with netTrekker](#)

netTrekker for Teachers

- [How Teachers Navigate netTrekker](#)
- [How Teachers Effectively Search for Resources](#)
- [How Teachers Explore Topics, Standards, or Themes in icurio](#)
- [How Teachers Save and Share Resources with Students](#)

netTrekker for Students

- [How Students Navigate netTrekker](#)
- [How Students browse resources](#)
- [How Students find what they need](#)
- [How Students find resources shared by their teacher](#)

Limitations

- All students would have to have a device with internet access to use netTrekker for research at home and at school
- While netTrekker is great for safe searches they would have to comply with the technology rules of Gwinnett County Public Schools due to the fact that every student would need a log in

Cost

- netTrekker has an annual subscription fee per student with an account
- This amount is only given once requested by a school or district administrator and depends on the amount of students

Potential Funding

- Gwinnett County Public Schools as well as each school in the county has funds specified for technology- the school or system would have to deem netTrekker worth providing funds
- Teachers could write a grant proposal from an outside source or from the foundation – for example Collins Hill High School has a grant funding program every year
- Teachers/administrators could also use an outside funding source like [DonorsChoose.Org](https://www.donorschoose.org)

How will we use this technology?

Teachers

- Search for classroom resources based on specific search criteria (grade level, reading level, key words)
- Find appropriate lesson plans
- Find images and videos related to content
- Search for content related to Common Core Standards for a specific state
- Provide resources for students through a LMS or Google Classroom
- Find appropriate assessments
- Find differentiated resources
- Save resources in their portfolio for future use

Students

- Search for resources about a specific topic that they are studying in class
- Search for images and videos for projects or assignments
- Access resources provided by teacher for projects or assignments
- Use functions to help them succeed- dictionary feature, read aloud feature, and translate feature
- Save resources in their portfolio for future use

Does this technology meet standards?

- Since netTrekker is a search engine it helps teachers and students meet standards in all areas.
- Students and Teachers can find content in any and all areas to help learn or supplement learning about a topic
- Students are using the technology to research topics related to all content
- This technology also helps integrate technology into the learning environment

Specific Learning Goals

netTrekker Relates to many Specific Learning Goals the following shows the 4 most prominent:

- PBL- Students can use this search engine during PBL to help them find relevant information on a specific topic. This will help students learn more about a topic in a safe way without the teacher giving them all of the information
- Collaborative Learning – Students can work alone to find information as well as with a group to research a topic or find pictures or videos without finding inappropriate content
- Higher Order Thinking- Students will use higher order thinking when using netTrekker because they will research their own information and categorize the information that they find in a variety of ways.

Teachers can also use netTrekker to create specific learning plans through the portfolio feature and assign the information to specific students.

Differentiation

- netTrekker can be used in many ways for differentiation as well:
 - Read aloud feature (resources have a button for read aloud)
 - Translate feature (translate highlighted content into another language)
 - Dictionary with pictures (highlight words for a definition and a picture)
 - Teacher can provide a specific resource on different levels for different students
 - Remediation or extension using resources
 - Students can use this technology at home so they can study using materials from this search engine (provided by teacher or searched)

Communication and Collaboration

Due to the fact that this tool is a search engine students can use netTrekker to search topics, find pictures and videos, and find information about people to use to collaborate and communicate the information that they find with students in their classroom, school, community or world

For example: Students could learn about another country using netTrekker- they could research (or teacher could provide resources) information on their level about that country, find famous people from that country, look at pictures and videos related to their history or current events and then video chat with a buddy from that country. They would be able to work with that buddy and be knowledgeable about their customs and practices.

Effectiveness of netTrekker

Memphis City Schools thoughts on netTrekker

- This tool gets rid of the fear of internet safety- Has only educator selected sites for students to use
- Easy to use
- Helps integrate technology into curriculum
- It is relevant and reliable
- Provides less results for students to sift through- Spend more time learning than searching (THE Journal, 2004)
- Correlates to state standards for ease of use
- Not just for students but teachers can find lesson plans

Effectiveness of netTrekker

ISTE- International Society for Technology in Education also makes a reference to netTrekker in their article titled: "Making the Case for Educational Technology to Teachers" as a way to find curriculum related websites to meet standards

Since ISTE is a widely known technology in education resource center the fact that they are endorsing netTrekker shows its effectiveness in schools.

http://www.iste.org/docs/templates-starter-kits/make_case_to_teachers

Implementation Plan

- Teachers would need to be trained on the initial idea of netTrekker
- Schools could use collaborative planning time to show teachers the uses of this technology by using the video tutorials from the netTrekker site.
- Schools in Gwinnett County have in house training classes taught by teachers- Teachers that catch on quickly (or pilot teachers) to this tool could teach a class on netTrekker's uses for teachers who need extra support
- Due to ease of use of netTrekker this could all be done at the local school level

Reflection

- In my undergraduate time at Kennesaw State I used netTrekker for all of my school related content needs. I thought of using it as my emerging technology project because Gwinnett County Schools does not have a subscription and I would love to continue to use it.
- I loved this tool in the past and I feel like it would be great tool for the county to look into and get more information on pricing so that teachers and students have an easy way to find content related resources.

Reflection

- By doing this project I learned how to look more deeply into technology and evaluate its usefulness. I also looked into a few other similar tools and evaluated their similarities and differences. This taught me to be very selective and look into all of the aspects of the site before deciding it would be a good tool to use.
- This improved and strengthened my professional practice because I not only was able to learn about a new tool but I learned how much work needs to be done to try to get others to be knowledgeable about a product. When pitching a tool to a school administrator you need to know all of the facts and details to support your claim of why this tool should be used. It improved my knowledge of how search engines work and specifically how useful a good search engine can be for students if it shows safe and reliable resources.

Resources

(2004). *K-12 Search Engine Enriches the Teaching and Learning Process of Memphis City Schools*. THE Journal. Retrieved from <https://thejournal.com/Articles/2004/05/01/K12-Search-Engine-Enriches-the-Teaching-and-Learning-Process-of-Memphis-City-Schools.aspx>

ISTE. *Making the Case for Educational Technology to Teachers*. ISTE. Retrieved from http://www.iste.org/docs/templates-starter-kits/make_case_to_teachers

Knovation. (2018) *netTrekker: Active Learning Resources*. Knovation Learning: Making Learning Personal. Retrieved from <https://www.knovationlearning.com/school-solutions/nettrekker/>

Watkins, Lisa (2018). *School Technology*. Gwinnett County Public Schools. Retrieved from <https://publish.gwinnett.k12.ga.us/gcps/myhome/public/about/imt/content/depts/ess/school-technology>