

# INFOhio Digital Resources for the 21<sup>st</sup>-Century

## ***Additional funding required to provide statewide access to SIRS Discoverer FY10: \$298,085***

SIRS Discoverer delivers 21<sup>st</sup> century resources that support creativity and innovation during a time when information, media and technical literacies are key to preparing Ohio's learners for higher education and workplace-readiness.

**By providing state-funded access to SIRS Discoverer for all Ohio students and their teachers, INFOhio is supporting essential student learning.**

Universal access to online resources is critical to education because it **levels the playing field** for all Ohio students regardless of school size, location or fiscal resources. INFOhio has provided equitable access to a set of digital resources since 1994—making information equally available to all students and teachers, whether in their schools or at home with Internet access.

## **Cost Benefits & Bottom Line**

All Ohio schools including 1.8 million K-12 students, students in charter or private schools, and home-schooled students would continue access based upon the \$298,085 state level subscription price. In this scenario, access is not dependent on local funding, size or wealth of the district, or location of the school.

- INFOhio Statewide Price: **\$ 298,085** (\$0.17/FTE)
- Building Level Pricing: **\$1,286,575** if all schools purchase (\$0.71/FTE)
- District Level Pricing: **\$810,000** if all districts purchase (\$0.45/FTE)

INFOhio's 2009-10 budget does not include the \$298,085 required to provide equitable statewide access to SIRS Discoverer. This means that after close to a decade, SIRS will no longer be available to all schools. Beginning this September, only schools that can afford to pay SIRS with local funds will be able to use it.

**INFOhio is searching for a sponsor of SIRS Discoverer so that the State of Ohio can continue serving the online information needs of all Ohio's K-12 school population.**

### **ACCESS SIRS DISCOVERER**

<http://www.infohio.org/ER/secure/SIRS.asp>

Username: think

Password: infohio



## **WHY SIRS?**

SIRS Discoverer is the only INFOhio-supported digital media resource that directly serves K-8 educational levels. Additionally, its content is appropriate for use in high school research and as a tool for differentiating instruction.

**Supports effective instruction** through access to standards-aligned digital resources selected by highly-qualified teachers and information specialists in a filtered, secure research environment

**Integrates 21st century skills** through access to media-rich content—such as images, simulations, and websites—delivered via kid-friendly online technology

**Supports differentiated instruction** through access to reading levels and Lexiles, multimedia, and other tools that support children's multiple learning needs and styles

**Encourages student learning and understanding** via technology through access to high-interest, highly-engaging information resources for both school and personal interest

**Develops critical thinking and real-world problem solving** using varied content from around the world that give students the chance to assess and apply the best information for their needs

