

In the December 2005/January 2006 issue of the *Connected Newsletter*, I wrote an article about [Answers.com](#) when it was introduced officially to the educational sector at the NECC convention in Philadelphia. It has grown tremendously since then with many new features and enhancements.

Answers.com is a free information site that includes over four million topics. The database is comprised of 180 trusted titles from prestigious reference publishers in conjunction with its own patented database technology. The search results are viewed on a comprehensive fact-finding page of reference content for students.

Take a Test Run

Answers.com is not a search engine. It displays detailed information on your topic located on one easy-to-read page. To view the outstanding content, spend five minutes and type some of the following words or phrases into the search box: *Los Angeles, History of Apple, World War II, Rosa Parks, quadratic equation, electricity, Harry Potter, and hip-hop*. This is an ideal tool for educators and students and is a great asset to retrieve reference information on computers in classrooms, technology labs, and library media centers.

Optional Enhancements

1-Click Answer™ for PC—For schools that want access to information without using the Answers.com Web site, this download has three valuable time-saving tools to help you get instant answers to your questions. The tools are:

- **Alt+Click**—Point to any word or phrase on your screen, hold the Alt key and click with your mouse to get a pop-up screen with an answer. It works on the Internet or even in a Word document.
- **AnswerBar**—This is a retractable button that sits on the side of your screen. By clicking on the arrow button, the AnswerBar pops up with a search box.
- **IE Toolbar**—This adds functionality to your browser.

tinyurl.com/9y4w7

1-Click Answer™ for Mac—The Answers Widget gives you answers on the dashboard and provides additional information by clicking on a word.

tinyurl.com/2chdof

What Has Changed?

Jay Bailey, Director of Marketing at Answers.com, has kept in contact with me since the inception of the product. I've been amazed with changes and enhancements over the past two years. Jay mentioned seven significant innovations.

1. Wiki Answers.com

This new section takes the best of both worlds by enhancing the traditional use of wikis. Not only can people add and edit information, but it provides an alternate way of getting information by asking a specific question.

wiki.answers.com

FAQs on How to Contribute

tinyurl.com/349nm

2. Find as You Type

This new type of technology is incorporated into the search box and allows users to clarify and focus queries with a list of topic suggestions in a drop-down list.

3. Additional Content

Answers.com has increased its list of search items within the past two years from two million to four million, including a large selection from Oxford University Press (over 20 titles). In addition, almost half of the content on Answers.com is not available on any other non-subscription site.

4. AnswerBoxes

Give your students and staff access to Answers.com by placing a customized search box on your school or class home page.

tinyurl.com/2dt34w

5. AnswerTips

You can enrich your site to search the Answers.com database. Your students can double-click on any word on your teacher page and find more information.

tinyurl.com/27j6kt

6. Writing Challenge

Your students can win prizes for submitting a creative composition that contains a set of 10 words and phrases posted by Answers.com.

tinyurl.com/25ku9h

7. Acquired Dictionary.com

Answers.com recently purchased dictionary.com, which includes thesaurus.com and reference.com.

Valuable Educational Support Links

- **Answers.com Teacher Toolkit**—Here is additional information to support the product in your classroom.
teachers.answers.com
- **Answers.com Librarian Lowdown**—This is a great support page for librarians.
librarians.answers.com
- **Free Poster Center**—Here are free worksheets and posters to download.
tinyurl.com/28w85s
- **Educator Newsletter**—Sign up for a newsletter that will give you various ideas on how to use Answers.com in your classroom.
tinyurl.com/2x69zg
- **Demos**—Enjoy a great 5-minute movie for teachers called *Answers.com—A Very Quick Tour*.
tinyurl.com/youe4a
- **Movie for Students**—Share this wonderful movie entitled *Mission Possible: Successful Online Research* with your students.
www.tinyurl.com/2y8kz2

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