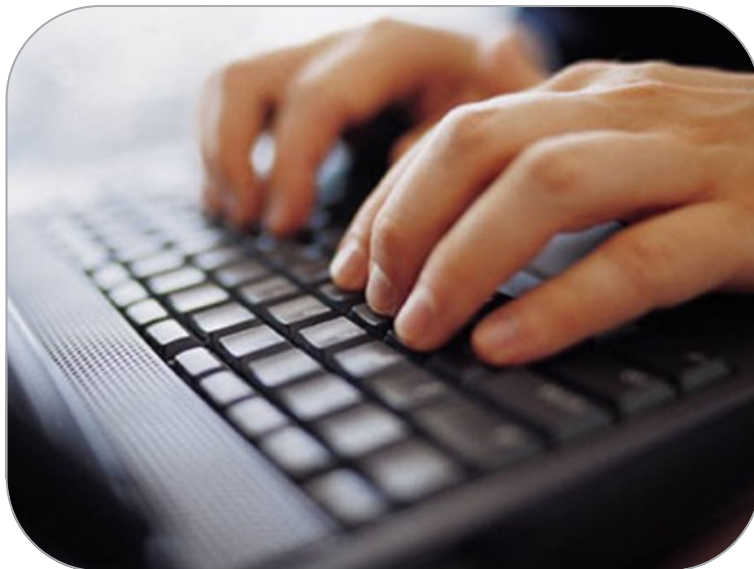


ask us now

www.askusnow.info

Your Students' Information Gateway

K-12 and Homeschool



Maryland AskUsNow! is a statewide library chat service. **It's available 24/7.** We provide answers to questions, offer research guidance, and supply help finding information online.

AskUsNow! is a free service and can be used anonymously, with or without a library card.

How Can You Help My Students?

Students can access AskUsNow! to find quality information and resources concerning:

- How to do research
- Group projects
- Homework questions
- Citation resources
- History and science fairs
- STEM projects
- Reading recommendations

With Whom Am I Chatting?

You're chatting with librarians across Maryland. During times that we're busy or not online, you may also chat with a librarian from another state (or even another country).

What About Privacy?

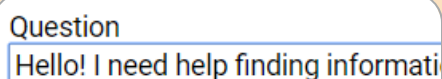
We respect privacy. You may log in anonymously—no name needed! We encourage you to add an email address if you want a copy of what you learned during the chat.



How Does AskUsNow! Work?

1. Ask a question.

To get started, go to www.askusnow.info, or find our chat box on your local library's website. We're here 24/7 to help!

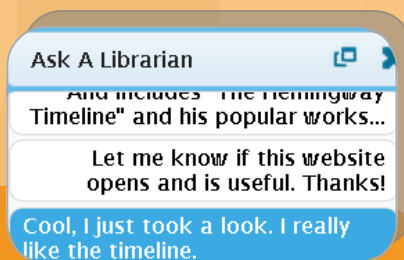
A screenshot of a chat input box with a light blue border and a white background. The text "Question" is at the top, and "Hello! I need help finding informati" is entered in the main area.

Question
Hello! I need help finding informati

2. Have a conversation.


The librarian may ask for more information about your question. As they search, they will tell you about where they are looking and why they are choosing certain resources.

You're encouraged to review resources as the librarian sends them.



3. Save your information.

You found great information together—fabulous! If you have not entered your email address, you can do so at the end of the chat. You may also choose to supply your email address to the librarian for more research help after the chat has ended. You'll receive a copy of your chat session, including any links the librarian shared.

A screenshot of the chat footer area, showing a search icon, a star icon, the text "AskALibrarian", and "Library Question [Question #".

☆ AskALibrarian Library Question [Question #

How We'll Help

- **We teach students how to do research**, or provide resources that will help them understand how to do research better.
- Chat librarians **locate quality and trustworthy sources** from around the Internet and from library-specific resources. (We may even use a print book now and then.)
- If students are in a rush or have a complex question, **we may offer to follow up with more resources by email**. Teachers are welcome to supply their own email address in lieu of a student's.
- **We'll help students in a safe online space**. We may ask students for more information about the assignment, but not about themselves. They can anonymously receive a transcript of their session by entering their email address after the chat has ended.
- **We're ready to help your students on assignments and projects**. Contact us for more information!

Help Us to Help You!

- We know time is fleeting. **Students should be ready to chat for 15-20 minutes**. This will give us time to thoroughly help.
- Encourage students to **have a clear question ready**. We may ask for more information - such as their grade and if they have a library card - to help us find the best information and resources.
- **Pair up students**. This leads to quicker response times.
- **Students can save their chat or get additional help after the chat has ended** by supplying an email address.



Great Questions We've Answered

Hi, I am trying to find out what kind of animal I can keep with my terrapin that will help me control algae blooms.

Hi, I am trying to find articles regarding the city life in Damascus throughout history. Can you help me?

Hi! I'm a seventh grade student working on a research paper. I was wondering if you could help me find some sources. I am researching Queen Elizabeth II and her reign.

Hi! I'm doing a project on mental illness and was wondering if you could find me a book that describes different mental illnesses?

How are watermelons genetically modified?

Can you help me pull up some articles on how teens are affected by advertising?

Is a website with .info a reliable source?

I am trying to find industry average financial information for the movie theater industry.

I am doing a research project about the flaws in medieval medicine and I have been having trouble finding primary sources.

**ask us
now**

Ready to Chat? Need More Info?

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Maryland AskUsNow!
443-984-4955
maryland.askusnow@gmail.com

Sara Stephenson
Virtual Services Coordinator
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www.askusnow.info

