

### **Why SurfWax Scholar?**

The Internet plays an increasingly important role in student and teacher lives. But proper use of the Internet's vast resources requires new tools for composing searches, searching, discerning results, and applying, sharing, and citing content. SurfWax Scholar delivers these new tools to help schools meet the challenges of the Internet.

### **What is SurfWax Scholar?**

SurfWax Scholar is a totally new Web-based process that helps both students and teachers harness the Internet for research, collaboration, and communication. Scholar reinforces appropriate research and planning skills while delivering effective content and knowledge. Scholar is easily customized to a school's curriculum.

### **How SurfWax Scholar benefits Your School?**

SurfWax Scholar delivers an all-in-one, comprehensive process for effective research and communication between students, staff, and parents.

- One-step searching of hundreds of thousands of safe, "targeted" Internet sites
- Saving and sharing of search results and files to secure, personal "digital lockers"
- Automatic plagiarism checking
- Provides instructional resources from the Web aligned to Standards (Jan '03)
- Effective collaboration between teachers, students, classes, groups, or projects
- Consistent process promotes good research habits for all students
- Integrates technology with classroom curriculum and promotes information literacy
- Provides secure, intra-district and intra-school messaging/email (Jan '03)
- Convenient access from any browser; anytime, anywhere; no downloads, no disks
- Saves IT costs: 100% Web-based, no downloads, nothing to install or maintain
- Easy method for creating student Portfolios.

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## **SurfWax Scholar – an exciting, new tool for Web-based research and information exchange**

Scholar is like no other single product or service on the market. It combines essential search and sharing capabilities into one integrated process. It is 100% Web-based and available anywhere and at anytime; there is nothing to download, maintain, or install, and it is based on technology ranked as a “Top Choice” by SearchEngineWatch 2002.

### **Scholar integrates three essential services for students and staff:**

#### **1—Targeted Multi-Source Searching**

Scholar combines search results from many different educational search sources — all at the same time and all de-duplicated into one sorted list. These results are content-specific pages and documents, not links. This saves a great deal of time. For example, while there are many worthwhile directories and lists of links on the Internet, a user has to go to and review each one separately. But Scholar can search through all these same lists and directories in one single step. Scholar accesses HTML, Word docs, PDFs, and numerous other documents all within the same interface, thus further saving time since the user does not have to open MSWord or Acrobat, etc.

Scholar Search Results contain information specific to the search. For example, when a student uses Scholar to search for information on President Grant, Scholar retrieves results from targeted sources such as: HistorySourcebook, HistoryCentral, AmericanHistDocs, AmericaAtWar, AmericanExperience ArmyMilitaryHistory, WhitehousePres, HistoryForKids, USAHistory, DouglassSpeeches, AboutAmerHistory, USCivilWarCenter, EarlyAmerica, HistoryChannel (and many more). These sources represent thousands of pages of qualified USHistory content. In the above example, Scholar returns just those pages dealing with Ulysses S. Grant or President Grant.

A “source” is any site or database that can be searched or crawled, be it on the Web or within a school’s or district’s own LAN. SurfWax accesses thousands of “searchable” sources from the Web — these come from major, qualified educational sites, programs, and content providers. Search sources can be easily added and changed by school staff.

#### **2—Saving and Sharing search results and local documents to digital lockers**

Searching the Web is quite often a “grab-and-go” effort which does not necessarily reinforce good research habits. Research involves finding and making the best use of information: reviewing, comparing, discerning, and selecting. For this reason, SurfWax Scholar helps the user summarize and compare results, discern between type of results, and save results (documents and files) for future use or for sharing.

Sharing of documents and files has a wide variety of uses, from homework research, to project-based collaboration, to posting a class syllabus for easy access by all students, to teacher-to-teacher exchange of ideas, to announcing school policies, to intra-district information exchange. Scholar supports the saving, sharing, and retrieving of all major file types (e.g., MS Works, Word, PowerPoint, Excel, etc).

#### **3—Plagiarism control to reinforce proper research habits**

The Internet is increasingly becoming a source of information used by students in doing their research and writing their papers. SurfWax Scholar offers an effective and extremely easy-to-use process for checking students’ work. Teachers simply create a folder (within Scholar’s interface) into which students can submit their work. In the background and without any effort by the teacher, Plagiarism Guard™ compares the student’s work to sources on the Web and flags student documents that warrant a closer look by the teacher. Online tutorials are provided to help students develop better research and citation skills.

## Scholar sample – Targeted Searching with Integrated Results

A student is looking for information on President Grant. She selects the History topic, then the US History sub-topic, then enters “Ulysses Grant” and presses Enter. Scholar searches hundreds of sites specific to US History and returns results in one, easy-to-read integrated list. The student can get a summary of any of the results. In this example, she summarizes (SiteSnaps™) an article on Grant’s inauguration and saves it to her InfoCubby folder.

The screenshot shows the SurfWax search interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for various subjects: Arts, Foreign Languages, Health and Life Skills, History, Language Arts, Math, Reference, Science, Social Sciences, Technology, and Vocational. The 'History' tab is selected. Below the tabs, there is a search bar with 'Ulysses Grant' entered. The search results are displayed in a list on the left, with the top result being 'USA: Grant 2nd inaugural'. On the right side, there is a detailed view of the selected result, including an 'Author Summary', 'Matched in Context', and 'Key Points'.

## Scholar sample – Saving and Sharing information

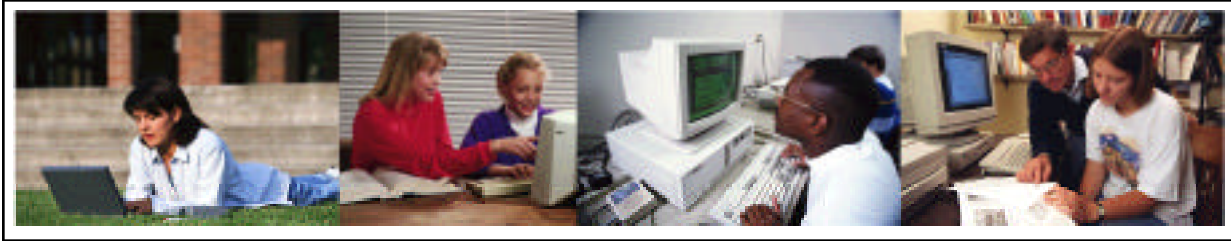
The student continues her research – she has collected documents in several folders, including a folder her teacher set up for a class project on President Grant. The teacher folder is a secure homework submission folder (title Red) that appears in the each student’s InfoCubby and into which students submit their work.

The screenshot shows the 'My InfoCubby' interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: My InfoCubby, My Preferences, My Account, Instructions, Tutorial, and Help. The 'My InfoCubby' tab is selected. Below the tabs, there is a search bar with 'Ulysses Grant' entered. The main area displays a list of folders and documents. The folders include 'General Grant', 'Jefferson Papers', 'Library', 'President Grant', and 'Submission Folder'. The 'President Grant' folder is expanded, showing a list of documents related to Ulysses S. Grant. On the right side, there is a 'My InfoCubby™ Quick Reference' section with two tables: 'InfoCubby Folder Options' and 'Document Options'.

InfoCubby Folder Options	
	Open / Close an InfoCubby folder
	This InfoCubby folder is owned by you and not shared with any groups.
	This InfoCubby folder is owned by you and shared with another group or groups.
	This InfoCubby folder is owned by someone else but has been shared with a group to which you belong.
RN	Rename the InfoCubby folder
AN	Annotate (add comments about) the InfoCubby folder
MV	Move all documents from that InfoCubby folder to another InfoCubby folder
	Send/Share the InfoCubby folder with other users.
	Permanently remove the InfoCubby folder (and its documents).

Document Options	
	Click to view the SiteSnap of the current document/page.
	The "c" indicates that the document is Cached in its original form.
	Click to see the document/page in a new window.
MR	Open the most recent version in a new window (only for Web documents you have Cached).
RN	Rename the document.
AN	Annotate (add comments to) the document.
MV	Move the document to another existing InfoCubby folder.



## What educators and students are saying about SurfWax Scholar

*"SurfWax Scholar gives educators the confidence to send their students to use the Internet. It provides an environment where students and teachers can share and evaluate information, promoting virtual collaboration in a way not otherwise available. This easy-to-use tool improves the way research is conducted."*

**–Colin Quinton, Middle/High School Technology Coordinator**

*"Given the need for collaboration across departments and our department's writing plan for grades 9-12, Scholar will be an invaluable research tool for both teachers and students."*

**–Wendy Porter, High School Social Studies Department Chair**

*"Despite all the talk about the educational value of the Internet, the truth is that 99% of websites offer little educational value. It's remarkably hard to find the remaining 1%, let alone appropriate sources for a given assignment, particularly for students who are new to Web research. SurfWax Scholar has allowed me to assign research projects to my high school classes, secure that SurfWax will quickly channel them to worthwhile sources and help them organize their work. And SurfWax helps me to detect attempts at plagiarism!"*

**–Javier Ergueta, High School teacher**

*"SurfWax is great for group projects. My students have been able to share files easily with each other as they create their projects. The plagiarism check keeps them honest."*

**–Royce Peterson, High School English teacher**

*"[after using SurfWax Scholar at school], my whole family now uses SurfWax as its Number One search engine." –Peter H, student*

## SurfWax Scholar – easily customized, safe, relevant

SurfWax Scholar uses three levels of content filtering to minimize access to porn, hate, and inappropriate content. A school or district has complete control of content through a separate password-protected, graphical Administrator interface that can be used to add and change search Topics and Sources, users/privileges, and to access user reports and statistics.

## SurfWax Scholar – cost-effective, ready-to-use

To start using SurfWax Scholar all you need is Web access and a list of staff/student names to import. Telephone support and extensive online tutorials are available along with on-site training. Scholar runs 24x7 from our secure ASP servers; it is *completely* Web-based requiring *no* installation of software or hardware. Scholar is flexible; staff can change filters, search sources, user information, and control plagiarism.

Visit our web site at <http://scholar.surfWax.com> for an Overview, our on-line Tutorial, or to request our **free** over-the-telephone 15-minute Demo. Please call or email SurfWax for a quote customized to your school's or district's curriculum, students, and teachers.