

Corporate and Classroom Conflict: The Role of Research Databases in Sexualizing America's Children

Replacing hardcover encyclopedias of years past, online research databases are an educational staple for today's students. Whether students attend public, private, or homeschools, they likely have accessed research databases to supplement classroom instruction.

In addition to schools, public libraries also offer vendor-sourced databases. Renaming them "homework databases," libraries market such databases to school children as convenient resources for homework assignments.

Unfortunately, research and homework databases can be gateways for pornography and other harmful content to reach children without parental knowledge or oversight (Figure 1). Over the last several years, reports of obscene content easily accessed through these programs have reverberated [all over the country](#).

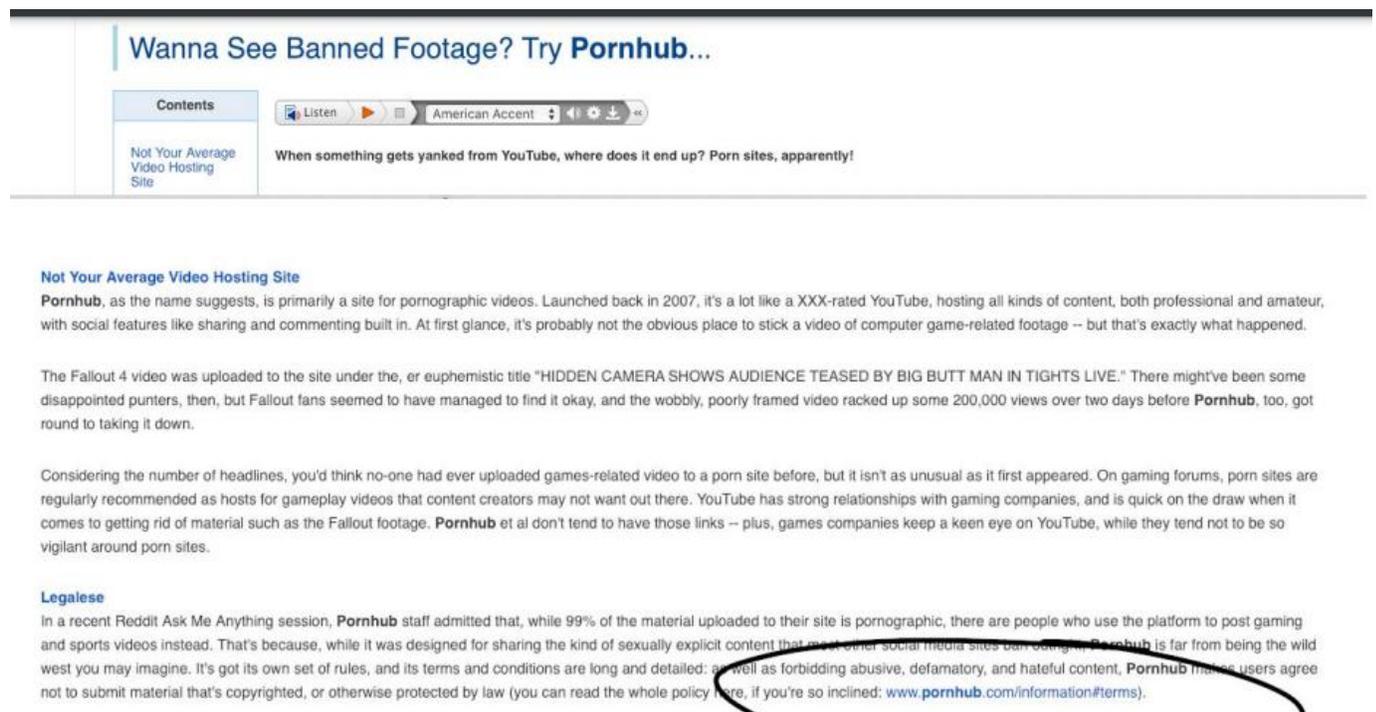


Figure 1: Screenshot from a state tax sponsored collection of EBSCO databases made widely available to K-12 students. The article, "Wanna See Banned Footage..." contained embedded live hyperlinks to Pornhub. Only one click was needed for children to be inundated with images of hard-core pornography. For more information see the Dirty Dozen List put out by the [National Center on Sexual Exploitation](#).

News stories from [Colorado](#) and [Virginia](#) raised eyebrows as parents found links to pornographic movies and explicit articles about sex when exploring these databases. The entire

state of [Utah shut down its student database portals](#) for over a month while demanding an extensive and ultimately [inadequate](#) “clean-up” from commercial suppliers.

In response to growing parental concern, other states such as [Texas](#) and [Ohio](#) have pursued incremental clean-ups and [legislative remedies](#). In Colorado, several large districts [cancelled](#) one popular database system, EBSCO, altogether for student use. The [National Center on Sexual Exploitation](#) took the extraordinary step of naming EBSCO to its “Dirty Dozen” list as a “major contributor to sexual exploitation.”

Whether children are vulnerable to harmful content in accessing online homework databases seems no longer a question. Rather, parents should ask how quickly and how often their children will be exposed to obscene media under the guise of enhanced learning support.

Corporate Conflicts of Interest?

A small handful of global companies dominate the national and international homework database market. EBSCO and Gale are two of the most popular K-12 vendors represented in U.S. schools and libraries.

Gale is part of Cengage Learning Holdings II, Inc., an education technology company that [“serves over 65 million students and 55,000 institutions globally.”](#) Cengage brands include Milady, National Geographic Learning, and Nelson. Gale, the research platform arm of Cengage, generated \$204.7 million in total adjusted revenue for 2022 (an increase of 9.9% from the prior fiscal year). EBSCO, a private company founded by Elton B. Stephans and his wife in 1944, originally sold magazines to the U.S Armed Forces. In 2021, [Forbes](#) ranked EBSCO 157th in its America’s Largest Private Companies List with three billion dollars in annual revenue and 5,000 employees.

To maintain these hundred-million-dollar revenues, vendors like EBSCO and Gale solicit publishers and advertisers with promises of wide exposure and market expansion, luring publishers with prospects of [increasing web traffic from targeted audiences and boosting subscriptions](#). Database vendors then collect and package media to sell to various consumer audiences, which include K-12 schools and libraries. Database vendors make claims of [sophisticated software and manual content curation](#) by subject experts to ensure the right media gets to the right audience.



Figure 2: Billing itself as “[The Natural Partner](#),” EBSCO may be talking out of both sides of its corporate mouth by promising scholastic, age-appropriate content to schools while also promising market expansion to its publishing and advertising partners. Are both possible without compromising student safety?

This is not a passive process. For example, EBSCO entices schools to license their software by boasting partnerships with “over 12,000 publishers worldwide.” EBSCO then tells publishers that it can provide a captive audience of 100,000 libraries worldwide (Figure 2). The more publishers a research database company can attract, the more attractive the research database becomes to schools and libraries. The more schools that license with a database vendor, the more captive customers these database vendors can provide to publishers.

To maintain this expanding circular relationship, research database vendors like EBSCO and [Gale](#) must satisfy school customers while also servicing the needs of their publishing/advertising partners. When successful in balancing these needs, database companies reap hundreds of millions in annual profit.

Adult Entertainment Industry Finds Captive School Audience

The publisher-database vendor-school relationship might be good news for the adult entertainment industry: what better opportunity to collect new pornography consumers through a captive audience of K-12 and college students operating behind an electronic curtain in the name of education?

Because the research databases are curated proprietary entities, integral content is shielded from significant internet filtering by school subscribers. Furthermore, third party hyperlinks

potentially identified by school filters become live once that database is accessed off site. This loophole may allow adult venues to advertise via the publisher links on the research databases.

For example, a child can search for “toys” on a research database in school. This search may lead to articles about sex toys that the school cannot filter. Searches on “sex ed” have led to graphic descriptions of torture sex and even hot links to hard core porn sites. A search for “halfway house” in an EBSCO database for high school use resulted in the return of an article entitled, “Abuse Porn: Reading Reactions to Boys Halfway House” published in the journal, [Sexuality and Culture](#). This article featured obscene text and hyperlinks to hard core porn websites (Figure 3).

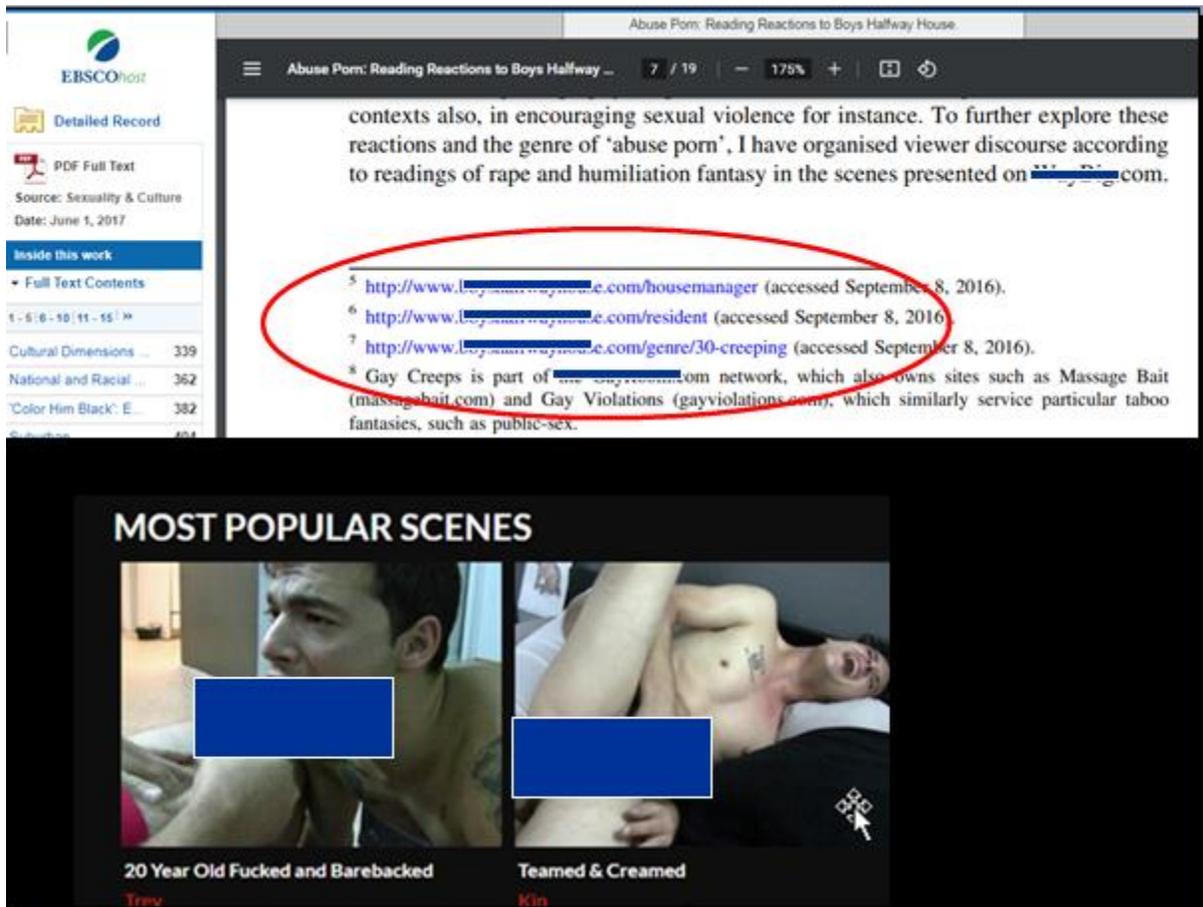


Figure 3: A peer reviewed article, “Abuse Porn...” floated to the top of an innocent search on “halfway house,” from a state taxpayer sponsored collection of “High School” EBSCO databases. The figure depicts the title of the article alongside an image captured from one of the pornography websites hyperlinked in the article. Urls and images have been obscured for this report as a courtesy to readers.

Imagine your child researching the history behind classic Biblical stories, instead finding shows about sexual bondage and discipline. Using a Gale High School database collection at a local library and entering the search term “Adam and Eve,” your child may quickly encounter graphic advertisements for sex paraphernalia from the company Adam & Eve via an embedded hyperlink (Figure 4).

The screenshot shows a search result in the Gale database. At the top, it says "GALE IN CONTEXT High School". Below that is a search bar with "Search..." and a magnifying glass icon. To the right of the search bar are icons for "Cite", "Send To...", "Download", and "Print". Below the search bar, it says "Advanced Search > Results > News > Document". The main title of the document is "Adam & Eve Celebrates 50 Years of Satisfaction. Guaranteed." Below the title, there are three icons: a pencil icon for "Date: Aug. 31, 2021", a document icon for "From: PR Newswire Publisher: PR Newswire Association LLC", and an information icon for "Document Type: Article Length: 616 words Content Level: (Level 5) Lexile Measure: 1630L". Below this information, there is a paragraph of text: "About Adam & Eve Adam & Eve is the nation's leading and most trusted internet adult retailer, having served more than 15 million customers through its website and catalog. With its longstanding 'sex positive' stance, Adam & Eve products have been delivering excitement to bedrooms and enticing lovers for 50 years. Adam & Eve sells only the highest quality products for individuals and couples looking to engage in a consensual and sex positive experience. Find out more at www.adamandeve.com." The URL is circled in red. Below the text is a large advertisement for "New To Bondage Play? Toys Perfect For First-Timers" with a "Shop Now" button. The advertisement features a photograph of a person in a bondage harness.

Figure 4: Couched as news in a K-12 GALE database, this press release by Cision /PR NewsWire for the Adam and Eve sex shop quickly pops up in a search on “Adam and Eve”. The figure depicts the live hyperlinks embedded into the article alongside a screenshot from the Adam and Eve website. Curious children can easily access the sex shop in a single click from the GALE database press release.

The popularity of the “research database” in schools and colleges worldwide creates an enticing marketplace for recruiting millions of potential consumers. Because the adult entertainment industry has access through publishers on these research databases, [middle school students were able to find live sex cam weblinks after searching for information on “bullying.”](#) Access to adult novels, escort sites, dating apps (even fetish and “threesome” apps), and sex paraphernalia shops by school children have all been reported through use of these databases.

Are schools complicit?

To avoid public outrage and parental pressure, schools will hide this material, locking databases behind “single sign-on” portals (website use that requires a Student ID) that are difficult for parents to access. A growing alphabet soup of school software can keep prying parents at bay. Parents may recognize some of the more popular names such as Follet, Clever, MackinVia, and Schoology, which require students to sign-in before the content is revealed.

Citing “security,” vendors such as EBSCO may encourage or even mandate that generic passwords be changed every 6 to 12 months. More alarming are the partnerships forming between schools and public libraries to share database (and other) collections. These convenient arrangements give schools plausible deniability, as schools tell worried parents they do not have any databases. The school website only contains innocent links to public libraries. The American Library Association (ALA) has taken the bold step of producing a [toolkit](#) to inform strategies for encouraging such partnerships, which often lead children to adult content.

The image shows a screenshot of an EBSCO database search interface. At the top, the search bar contains the text "MAS Ultra - School Edition" and "Choose Databases", both of which are circled in red. Below the search bar, the search results are displayed for the article "TO ALL THE GAY MEN I'VE LOVED BEF". The authors are listed as "RING, TRUDY" and the source is "Advocate: Jan/Feb 2022, Issue 11". The word "Advocate" in the source is circled in red. Below the search results, there is a collage of images from the magazine "Advocate". The collage includes a man in a leather harness, a man in a mask, a man with "GROPE ME" written on his chest, and a man in a mask and harness. The word "ADVOCATE" is circled in red with an arrow pointing to the source link.

Figure 5: Excerpt from an EBSCO database established in a K-12 homework portal. Live hyperlinks drive traffic to the online magazine, Advocate, where kids will find a photo line-up of fully nude or semi-nude men with bulging underwear and leather clad bondage gear. In what world is this “scholastic”?

Some school officials claim links to third party porn sites embedded into databases such as Pornhub are no cause for concern because on-site school internet filters will block the links. This disingenuous argument ignores that obscene content for minors (Figure 5) may be shielded as integral database content. Furthermore, parents and teachers (teachers risk personal liability) know this claim to be a red herring: research databases are designed for portable homework access--from the school bus, to home, to a friend's house--where there are no filters.

From Porn to Propaganda

Commercial vendors are uniquely poised to shift narratives, indoctrinating the next generation with racist propaganda and gender bending politics. Corporate database products may be "[curated](#)," but are they tailored to suit their audiences or their own agenda? Who decides what information stays and what materials go?

One of EBSCO's many databases, NoveList, advertises publisher content so readers can make a next best reading selection. While EBSCO has a K-8 version of its NoveList database (which many parents feel contains developmentally inappropriate content), secondary students are frequently directed to the adult NoveList database. [Reports](#) suggest that in some school or state collections NoveList returns numerous explicit novels, despite marketing its product for children. Figure 6 demonstrates that a simple search on "romance" in NoveList can return "erotic" novels.

Figure 6: Many states offer EBSCO Novelist as a taxpayer sponsored resource for K-12. For example, the Digital Arizona Library (DAZL), under the management of the Secretary of State, [offers Novelist to junior and senior high school students](#). A search on “romance” quickly lead to the first of hundreds of adult “erotic” novels, “Uncommon Romance...” which explores “...three different flavors of erotic lesbian...threesomes, bondage and domination...”.

Novelist databases used by K-12 students may also be top heavy with LGBTQIA-themed material that contains sexually graphic content, promotion of “affirmation surgery,” or left-wing political bias against religion (Figure 7). In the example below, students are offered links to purchase books through Amazon or Kindle after following the featured hyperlink to GoodReads.

Surrender your sons (Sep 2020)

Author: [Sass, Adam, 1983-](#)

Teen Fiction

Description: "Connor Major and other queer teens trapped at a conversion therapy camp work together to escape truths"--.

Book Appeal Terms: [Definition of Appeal Terms](#)

Genre: LGBTQIA fiction; Thrillers and suspense

Themes: Coming out experiences

Character: Gay; Lesbian; LGBTQIA; LGBTQIA diverse

Storyline: Own voices

Tone: Suspenseful

Min/Max Grade level: 9 - 12

Persistent link to this record (Permalink):

Popularity: ★☆☆☆☆

GET A COPY

Open Preview [Kindle Store \\$8.99](#) [Amazon](#) [Stores ▾](#) [Libraries](#)

and when he came out to his religious zealot mother, she had him kidnapped and shipped off to a secluded island. His final destination: Nightlight Ministries, a conversion therapy camp that will be his new home until he "changes."

Figure 7: EBSCO Novelist is a frequent offering to K-12 students nationwide. Ostensibly an aid for helping students decide what to read, it frequently leads to linked ads for online book purchases through Kindle or Amazon. Novelist has been reported to contain controversial themes involving "gender identity" and explicit depictions of teen sex.

The overrepresentation of transgender ideology as normal and healthy--even glamorous--[confuses developing minds](#). Some databases used by students even have advertisements for transgender dating sites. Databases also contain articles that explore the intersectionality of race and sex in graphic detail, justified under the umbrella of "academics." (Figure 8).

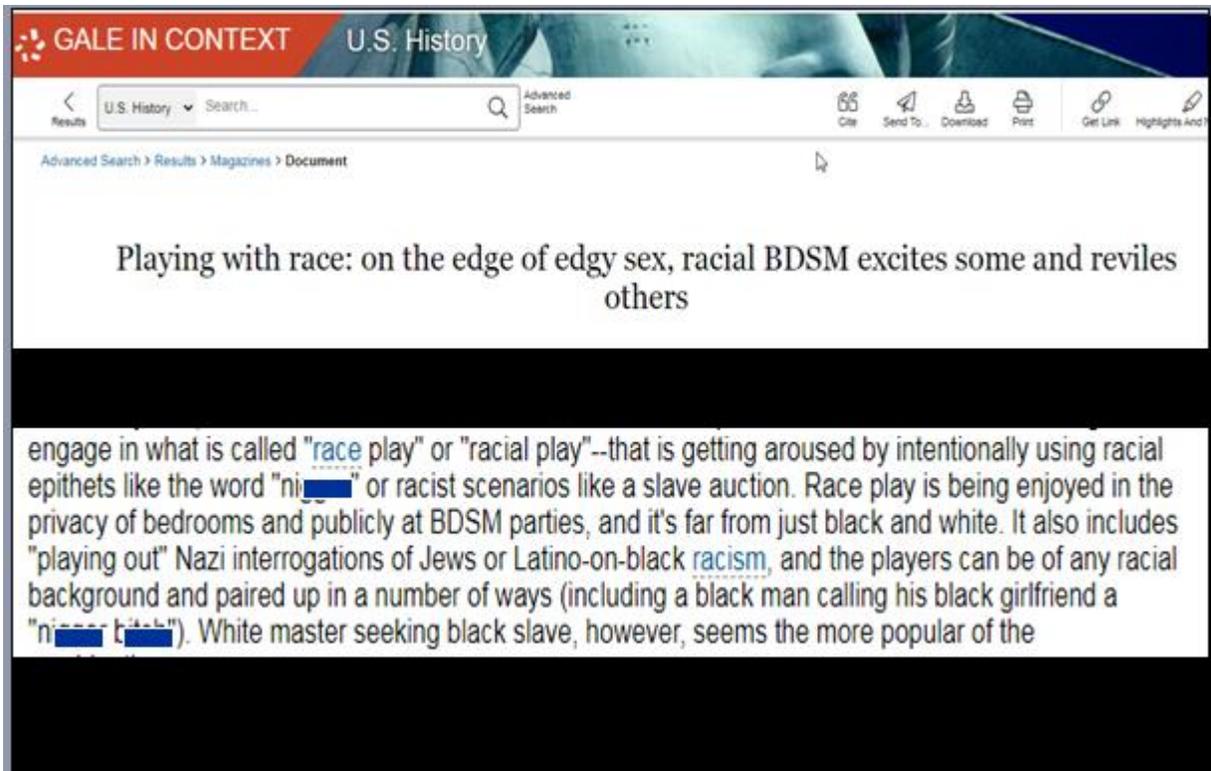


Figure 8. From a K-12 school collection of GALE databases, this academic article, "Playing With Race: On the Edge of Edgy Sex..." describes the role of race in sexual practices. Certain offensive words have been blurred as a courtesy to readers but are fully available to students using the database.

Who is to blame?

Despite a massive push for [legislation across 11 states](#) to regulate obscene content in research databases, and recent news coverage by the [Wall Street Journal](#) and [Washington Post](#) regarding controversial library resources, parents remain largely unaware of the dangers hidden in school databases.

Weak statutes, with outdated obscenity exemptions for schools and libraries, create loopholes that have allowed vendors to go unpunished for a stream of 'mistakes' in overlooking pornographic content. Good faith efforts to clean-up school databases become hampered by finger pointing: are vendors misleading their academic customers or are schools using the wrong databases or using them incorrectly, as vendors have asserted? Are parents unable to provide meaningful oversight because they are kept in the dark? What about teachers? Do educators face personal liability or even prosecution if their students are exposed to pornographic content?

These are all important questions, but one question is especially critical: are state educational leaders pressured or incentivized to maintain controversial database vendor subscriptions?

In 2017, the Colorado Department of Education produced the EBSCO Fact Sheet (Figure 9) to address concerns of pornographic content in EBSCO school databases. The Fact Sheet emphasized staff training and refining search results to assuage complaints against the vendor. The following year, EBSCO awarded a [\\$100,000 grant](#) to a Colorado community library. In 2021, representatives from [Pornography Is Not Education](#) (PINE) met with the State Librarian of Colorado and other state leaders. Despite prior assurances for refined materials, state officials acknowledged obscene content remained in certain EBSCO homework databases. Shortly after this meeting, the State Librarian left her position without providing any remedy.

EBSCO FACT SHEET AND KEY MESSAGES



WHAT IS EBSCO?

EBSCO, or the Elton B. Stephens Co., is a provider of database services for public libraries, school libraries, law libraries, corporate libraries and government libraries. It has partnered with libraries for more than 70 years, providing quality research content, powerful search engine technology and intuitive delivery platforms, [according to its website](#).

EBSCO is used by more than 55,000 schools nationwide and provides database access to hundreds of thousands of eBooks, scholarly articles, historic records and full catalogs of magazines, newspapers and periodicals of records.

The searchable content available to K-12 schools is delineated by age and subject matter into such areas as: Novelist K-8, Science Reference Center, History Reference Center, etc.

WHY ARE SOME PARENTS CONCERNED ABOUT EBSCO?

In September 2016, concerns were raised by parents about EBSCO content. Parents said they had encountered pornography in online search products and e-book portals. They cited the [National Center on Sexual Exploitation](#), an anti-pornography organization, which added EBSCO to its Dirty Dozen list that also includes HBO, Comcast, Amazon, the American Library Association, Roku and Amnesty International. The organization said EBSCO's products provide "easy access to hardcore pornography sites and extremely graphic sexual content ... via a system that bypasses school Internet filters."

A benefit of the system is that it provides students with more precise searches than, say, a Google search. Students searching Google will get millions of hits including everything from ads to disturbing photos. An EBSCO search will be more selective, searching academic material related to a specific subject and at an age-appropriate level.

Yet, the database is connected to the Internet and because the Internet is an ever-evolving environment, databases like EBSCO can potentially connect to websites outside of the network that may be inappropriate for students.

It is important for students to be aware of the dangers of the Internet and learn how to use online resources responsibly.

A group has petitioned the State Board of Education and is asking districts to strengthen their filters and not renew their subscription to the Colorado Library Consortium that supports the service. They are asking parents communicate to the Colorado State Library about the content and demand state funding be withheld.

Key Messages

Here are some key messages to provide to superintendents or school leaders regarding this issue:

- EBSCO is a company that offers a suite of online research tools to schools that lets students search for specific items at their age level, in specific content areas outside of the open web.
- EBSCO provides research tools used by more than 55,000 schools across the nation.
- Schools have filters set up to restrict access to objectionable material and are able to control the level of content made available in searches.
- Subscribing to EBSCO is entirely a local decision.
- The Colorado Library Consortium has negotiated lower price agreements for schools and districts to purchase EBSCO. But CDE is not involved in those arrangements or the funding.
- The Colorado Library Consortium offers free, unlimited training to school librarians/staff for how to manage online library databases.



HOW IS CDE CONNECTED?

The Colorado Department of Education is not connected to EBSCO. The Colorado Library Consortium (CLiC), which is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, receives funding from the state to subsidize its staff and service costs. It has negotiated a lower price for school districts to purchase EBSCO or other subscriptions to web-based educational and research products from vendors and publishers. CLiC also created a system for libraries to pay directly for these online resources. None of CLiC's state appropriation goes toward purchase of the databases used by schools or libraries.

LOCAL CONTROL

Neither CLiC, CDE nor the State Library have authority over involvement in the collection decisions of schools and districts. Currently 400 institutions buy the EBSCO database package through the CLiC-negotiated pricing agreement, including 189 K-12 schools. Districts decide what databases or products to buy and make available to their school communities.

IS ADULT CONTENT AVAILABLE?

While some articles may contain links to additional information outside of the EBSCO database, in many cases the person searching must copy the link into a separate search engine outside of the EBSCO database to reach this content. Such links typically do not allow a direct 'click-through' to access the content beyond that provided by EBSCO. District filters and student Acceptable Use Policies should be in place to limit access to adult content. EBSCO has taken steps in recent months to further refine search results within age-appropriate databases, and provides assistance in how to manage accessible content locally. These steps have addressed most of the concerns initially raised and helped make searches more relevant for curricular use.

WHAT CAN A DISTRICT DO?

The Colorado Library Consortium (CLiC) wrote a message to school districts, saying it is available to serve district needs. If a district or school subscribes to EBSCO databases, CLiC provides free, unlimited training to media specialists and school librarians/staff for how to manage those online library databases. CLiC provides training in the technical steps for applying collection management decisions made by district staff members – those typically are local-level decisions based on a district's curriculum policies or school's collection policies.

CLiC understands that school districts often receive challenges to the material assigned by teachers or being made available in classrooms and the library, and it encourages schools to rely on their own established local procedures for addressing such challenges.

CLiC respects local control: the right for every school and district to thoughtfully review educational materials to determine how those serve the educational mission in YOUR community.

Figure 9: The EBSCO Fact Sheet, distributed by the Colorado Department of Education, addressed concerns over pornographic content in EBSCO school databases. This document was obtained through a public records request.

Corporations and the American Library Association: A Cozy Relationship

The corporate power to influence decision making cannot be underestimated. Database vendors provide significant financial support to libraries in the form of lobbying for tax dollars. EBSCO, GALE and several other leading commercial vendors are founding members of the [Corporate Committee for Library Investment](#) (CCLI), a group that fought for millions in federal funding for their customers. The American Library Association championed these efforts on the part of the large corporations officially [stating](#), “ALA could not be more proud to work with [the CCLI] to assure that law and policy makers fully understand American libraries' tremendous value to communities and economies in every corner of the country.”

By June 2022, following social media exposure of its lobbying efforts, the CCLI removed its website (Figure 10). This partnership begs the question: do libraries reward vendors for their lobbying efforts by purchasing and renewing subscriptions to their digital products?



Figure 10: Screenshot of the CCLI website prior to its removal in June of 2022. The [CCLI claimed](#) it, “...[did] business in every state in the nation, collectively generating several billion dollars in annual revenue... The health of our businesses, our workers, and all of our communities is inseparable from the health of libraries and their full federal funding.”

The national organization, [EveryLibrary](#), is another vocal entity that stands strongly in defense of database vendors. EveryLibrary is a political action committee for libraries, while its sister organization, [EveryLibrary Institute](#), is a registered 501c3 operating “exclusively for educational and charitable purposes.” EveryLibrary tracks legislation and has decried efforts to hold vendors like EBSCO and GALE accountable for obscenity to minors (Figure 11a). The organization supports [mandating “media literacy” programs](#) which increase reliance upon

research databases. High level executives from EBSCO and Gale sit on the [board](#) of EveryLibrary (Figure 11b). Executive director and Board President of EveryLibrary Institute is [John Chrastka](#), a member and former director of membership for the ALA.

a.

everylibrary

NEWS AND UPDATES POLITICAL ACTIVITY - ABOUT -

HOME / NEWS AND UPDATES / LEGISLATION OF CONCERN

Politicians in state legislatures across the country have filed bills that are detrimental to our school libraries and public libraries.

There are important and troubling patterns in how these bills are designed. We have identified a few common trends among these problematic bills that keep coming up again and again:

1. Creates strict requirements regarding the materials that are allowed in class or in school libraries, often directly opposed to current state education standards.
2. Requires school districts to post instructional materials online so parents can object.
3. Claims that library databases contain materials that are harmful to minors.
4. Eliminates or downgrades a public library board's role in reviewing and answering materials challenges
5. Removes the "defense from prosecution" (defense to criminal prosecutions from librarians and others for providing access to so-called "harmful materials").
6. Defunds schools and public libraries that allow access to so-called "harmful materials".
7. Prohibits discussions relating to race and sex in ways that they consider "coercive".
8. Prohibits discussions that are LGBTQ positive.

SIGN THE PETITION

b.

everylibrary

Board of Directors

EveryLibrary is governed by a Board of Directors

Harmony Faust

Harmony Faust has a passion for helping libraries secure the funding they need to serve everyone. She is the Vice President of Marketing and Communications for Gale, a Cengage company. She brings her expertise as a brand strategist, storyteller and campaign planner to help EveryLibrary raise its own profile as an organization, as well as increase legislator and public awareness around the essential impact of libraries on their communities. Ms. Faust has 16 years of experience marketing to and on behalf of public, school and academic libraries, and an M.S. in Integrated Marketing Communications from Eastern Michigan University. She lives in Plymouth, Michigan, with her husband and two young children. Connect with Harmony on [LinkedIn](#) or email her at harmonyfaust@gmail.com.

Kathleen McEvoy

Kathleen McEvoy is the Vice President of Communications at EBSCO Information Services. For over 14 years, Kathleen has helped lead EBSCO's public relations, marketing, and communications efforts. She began her career in as a broadcast journalist and news director for WGIR-FM in Manchester, NH., after receiving her BA from the University of North Carolina - Greensboro. At EBSCO she has helped shape initiatives like the EBSCO Solar project and other key initiatives. Kathleen also currently serves as Board Secretary of ALA's United for Libraries Division.

Figure 11: Screenshots from the EveryLibrary website. (a.) EveryLibrary tracks legislation that it perceives harmful to schools and libraries. This includes legislation that would hold database vendors accountable for containing pornographic, age-inappropriate material. EveryLibrary also fights transparency efforts for parents (see areas underlined in red). (b.) The Board of Directors for EveryLibrary includes executives from the large database companies, Gale and EBSCO.

The American Library Association: Dangerous Ideologue?

Over the last several years, [parents have spoken](#) tirelessly at school board meetings, demanding accountability for the obscene materials found in school libraries. Opposition to these parents often [include](#) members of the library community. Talking points justifying pornographic material appear uniform; common arguments range from “[marginalized voices must be represented](#)” to parents are acting similarly to [Nazis](#) under Hitler’s reign. The entity encouraging these opposition points? The American Library Association.

The ALA trains and supports librarians nationwide through approved degree programs, continuing education, conferences, incentives, and awards. As [reported](#) by Joy Pullman for *The Federalist*, an ALA annual conference has featured “more than 100 workshops with an ‘equity, diversity, and inclusion’ theme,” many with an emphasis on Leftist sexual politics and LGBTQ ideology. According to the website [Opensecrets.org](#), members and employees of the ALA donated nearly \$20,000 to Democrats in 2020 with no contributions to Republicans recorded. Challenges to graphic material in schools and libraries are censorship attempts that infringe upon the rights of minors, according to the ALA. The ALA published a “[Bill of Rights for schools and minors](#),” an “[aspirational creed](#)” that decries age-based media abridgment as [discrimination](#):

Library policies and procedures that effectively deny minors equal and equitable access to all library resources and services available to other users is in violation of the American Library Association’s *Library Bill of Rights*. The American Library Association opposes all attempts to restrict access to library services, materials, and facilities based on the age of library users.

Librarians nationwide, who face content challenges by concerned parents, receive legal aid and funding from the ALA. Along with its affiliate, [Freedom to Read](#), the ALA filed suit against the [Children’s Internet Protection Act](#) (CIPA) in 2001. The Eastern District of Pennsylvania ruled in favor of the ALA and determined CIPA unconstitutional. In 2003 the Supreme Court overturned the District Court and CIPA was reinstated. The ALA has also acted on behalf of the [Free Speech Coalition](#) (FSC), the trade association for the adult entertainment industry. ALA filed an amicus brief for the FSC when the FSC filed suit to challenge the [Child Pornography Protection Act of 1996](#).

The ALA prominently displays “[Report Censorship](#)” links on its website. Censorship concerns appear to be a matter of political convenience for the ALA, however. In 2006, several countries condemned the imprisonment of Cuban librarians who kept material contrary to the ideologies of the Cuban communist regime. The ALA [refused](#) to condemn this assault on intellectual freedom and did not include the event on “book-banning” portions of its website. In 2008, the ALA [refused](#) to involve itself when Fairfax County, Virginia rejected books donated by Christian conservative citizens.

If the prior list of evidence is not enough to suggest that Leftist ideology drives the ALA, consider the following: in 2022, the ALA elected Emily Drabinsky, a self-described Marxist who [has given lectures about queerness and “the subversion of normal family types.”](#)

What can you do?

Embedding adult media and social propaganda behind K-12 digital databases directly attacks the innocence of America’s children and undermines the parent-child relationship. Protectors of children are Davids to the Goliaths of multimillion dollar businesses and national associations driven by political and ideological bias and/or agenda.

Hope does exist! While many parents began noticing the ideological attack on children over the past decade with programs like Race to the Top and Common Core, the lockdowns of the COVID-19 pandemic fast-tracked the parental rights movement as an increasing (if not overwhelming) number of controversial materials were exposed through virtual lessons. Legislation demanding restoring parental rights and [transparency](#) in schools became a nationwide focus.

[No Left Turn in Education](#) (NLTE) is the first and largest “boots on the ground” national grassroots movement that has been fighting politicization and radical indoctrination in K-12. We have inspired the birth of other groups with similar aims, and we are collaborating with many of them.

Since 2016 [Pornography is Not Education](#) (PINE) has helped educate parents by exposing the harmful and age-inappropriate materials in research databases. While it is true that databases contain scholastic content, PINE has spoken to students, parents, and teachers who found the databases to be “hard to use,” “biased,” “too much trouble,” or just plain, “full of porn.”

Parents must pay close attention to material hidden behind the digital wall of research databases. Then they *must* ask questions. Not all school administrators are aware of the details presented in this report. The following are some suggested actions you can take:

- Join NLTE.
- Contact PINE for guidance.
- Record questionable materials with photographs and screenshots.
- Inform fellow parents and teachers of your findings.
- Report your findings and concerns in writing to school administrators.
- Report your findings to NLTE and PINE.

We can hold school administrators, elected officials, and database vendors accountable for exposing children to ideological indoctrination and obscene material. But **WE** can put an end to this through a coordinated effort of civic, legal, and legislative actions.