

SIRS Issues Researcher Quick Start Guide

SIRS Issues Researcher ([resources](#)) is a general reference database containing thousands of full-text articles exploring 300+ social, scientific, health, historic, business, economic, political and global issues. Articles and graphics are selected from domestic + international publications, and are indexed according to Library of Congress subject headings.

Part 1: Navigating the Interface

Search Tabs → Quick Search | Advanced Search | Topic Browse | Database Features | [+ My Research | Dictionary Thesaurus | Toolbox]

Targeted Search → Search by: Subject Headings Keyword/Natural Language | Sort by: relevance date

All Leading Issues -- allows students to build critical thinking skills → LEADING ISSUES

Your 'TOP 10' -- updated daily based on user searches → YOUR 'TOP 10'

Help Topics & Reference Bar → [+ My Research | Dictionary Thesaurus | Toolbox | That's Debatable! | Today's News | Focus on Terrorism | Natural Disasters | Spotlight on... | Curriculum Pathfinders | World Almanac & Maps | Browse Topics

Database Features -- Significant information in several content areas → Can legalizing gambling help a weakened economy? | Yes, it is a source of revenue for communities. | No, money should not be spent on gambling. | Unsure | [Vote!]

Search Tabs allow access to the three search methods, including Quick Search, Advanced Search and Topic Browse, a listing of Database Features, as well as the SIRS Interactive Citizenship series (if licensed).

Help Topics are grouped to be easily accessible from anywhere in the database.

- [Help](#) launches context-sensitive help.
- [Dictionary & Thesaurus](#) assists users in defining words, checking spelling, choosing the perfect word and more.

The top **Reference Bar** provides links to functional and reference aids.

- [SIRS icon](#) returns to the portal page.
- [My List](#) includes:
 - o [My List](#) displays articles added to the list by selecting Add to My List.

- Search History contains a list of all searches performed during a session and provides links to return to the search results.
- Session Save provides the ability to save your search history and tagged list by keying in a user name and password.
- Educators' Resources compiles a collection of materials designed to help educators and librarians use Issues Researcher.
- Standards Correlations offers easy access to our **search by standards** feature, which makes it simple to mine for SIRS content that's directly related to U.S. state, national, or Canadian Provincial learning benchmarks.
- Toolbox provides a single point of access to all reference materials.
- Log-out ends the user session, clearing the search history and tagged list for the next user.

SIRS Leading Issues

SIRS Leading Issues are dynamically updated daily with new content. New topics are added, along with "Your Top 10 Choices"—a list that is solely driven by end-user searches and is updated daily. More than 300 issues are available, with more coming online bi-monthly.

The screenshot shows the SIRS Leading Issues interface. At the top, a red banner reads "LEADING ISSUES / Body Image / Teens and Cosmetic Surgery" with an RSS feed icon. Below this, the "Topic Overview" section explains that body image is how a person feels about their physical appearance. To the right, a "PRO/CON ISSUES and Essential Questions" section asks "Should teenagers use cosmetic surgery to enhance body image?" and provides a table of arguments for and against. The table is as follows:

YES	NO
It is a lifestyle enhancement that can boost self-esteem and body image.	It is risky and should not be used as a quick fix for self-esteem and body image issues.
Teens Under the Knife	Seeking Self-Esteem Through Surgery
More Teens Put Best Face, Body Forward	Plastic Surgery for Teens: Too Soon?
Girls Under the Knife	Teens Under the Knife

Below the table are "Research Tools" including Timeline, Global Impact, Statistics, Research Guides, and Note Organizer. A search bar at the bottom contains the text "Subject: Body image in adolescence" and a "Search" button. On the left, there are options to "Sort results by" (Date) and "Narrow your results" (All source types: 57 results, Newspapers: 26 results, Magazines: 5 results). On the right, search results are displayed, including "Body Image Timeline" and "An Aching Hunger".

Database Features include:

-  That's Debatable - Allows students to vote in an online poll and become vested in the research process.
-  Today's News - The top national and global headline news stories are dynamically updated to bring you up-to-the-minute breaking news.



Focus on Terrorism - Covers every aspect of the current crisis, providing a global perspective on the terrorism issue.



Spotlight of the Month - Articles selected as a sampling from the SIRS Issues Researcher database to encourage research and awareness of the topical issues.



Curriculum Pathfinders - A list of Pathfinders linked to recently added content and hot topics to encourage research and further exploration into the topics covered by SIRS Issues Researcher.



World Almanac & Maps – Hundreds of detailed, colorful current and historic maps are available as an online reference almanac. Articles about world history, profiles of all the nations of the world, and other important facts are also found within this section.



Browse Topics - Use to locate results by exploring topics and subtopics in a multilevel tree.

Part 2: Search Methods

Targeted Search

Simply click the new Images search link at the top of the main search page and find any of tens of thousands of photographs, charts and maps to simply copy and paste into reports, presentations and more.

Subject Headings Search

Subject Headings Search is useful when you have a specific research topic in mind and you want to use a subject index to quickly locate articles related to that particular topic.

Keyword Search

Keyword Search is useful when you want to locate articles based on your own combination of key words and phrases.

Standards Search

Move your mouse over the words Standards Correlations at the top, then click it. Choose your location, then a standards set. Drill down to a specific standards benchmark and select See Resources. SIRS content assets directly applicable to that standard will appear.

Topic Browse

Use to locate results by exploring topics and subtopics in a multilevel tree.

Part 3: Analyzing Your Results

The numbers of results returned for each source type may list up to 1000+ results. Selecting the corresponding links down the left side will narrow search results based on the content type. In-line thumbnails for images, timelines, and other multimedia sources appear next to results to help researchers preview the content before proceeding. If you conduct a keyword search, a tag cloud will appear in the lower-left corner makes it easy to find content by related keywords—the bigger the font size, the more relevant SIRS believes it is to your original search.

[Educators' Resources](#) [Standards Correlations](#) [Help](#) [Exit](#)



[Quick Search](#)
[Advanced Search](#)
[Topic Browse](#)
[Database Features](#)
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[Dictionary](#)
[Thesaurus](#)
[Toolbox](#)

Search

Sort results by

Date

Sort

Narrow your results

[All source types](#) (1000+ results)

 [Newspapers](#) (1000+ results)

 [Magazines](#) (1000+ results)

 [Gov't Documents](#) (1000+ results)

 [Primary Sources](#) (229 results)

 [Reference](#) (192 results)

 [Graphics/Media](#) (514 results)

 [WebSelect Sites](#) (82 results)

Click a subject to search

Obama, Barack Iraq War (2003-) War U.S., Foreign relations, Iraq **War on Terrorism (2001-)** Iraq War (2003-), Peace and mediation

[Show](#) | [Hide details](#)



[Globalization Timeline](#); *Leading Issues Timelines* , ProQuest Staff

Dec 31, 2009 | pg.n.p. | Lexile Score: 1130 | Size: 15K | SIRS Researcher

Summary: This timeline chronicles events and concepts that have contributed to the globalization of the world's economic and political systems.

Subjects: [Free trade](#), [Globalization](#), [U.S.](#), [Economic policy](#), [Globalization](#), [Timeline](#)

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[Homelessness Timeline](#); *Leading Issues Timelines* , ProQuest Staff

2009 | pg.n.p. | Lexile Score: 1170 | Size: 24K | SIRS Researcher

Summary: This timeline chronicles the problem of homelessness in the United States.

Subjects: [Homeless persons](#), [Homelessness](#), [Poverty](#), [Unemployment](#), [Homelessness](#), [Timeline](#), [Poverty](#), [Timeline](#), [Public welfare](#), [Timeline](#), [Unemployment](#), [Timeline](#)

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[Human Rights Timeline](#); *Leading Issues Timelines* , ProQuest Staff

2009 | pg. n.p. | Lexile Score: 1260 | Size: 45K | SIRS Researcher

Summary: This timeline presents the major events and milestones in human rights.

Subjects: [Child labor](#), [Detention of persons](#), [Ethnic conflict](#), [Ethnic relations](#), [Genocide](#), [Human rights](#), [Overpopulation](#), [Sweatshops](#), [Torture](#), [Human trafficking](#), [Human rights](#), [Timeline](#)

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[Nuclear Weapons Timeline](#); *Leading Issues Timelines* , ProQuest Staff

2009 | Lexile Score: 1170 | Size: 59K | SIRS Researcher

Summary: This article is a timeline on the development and acquisition of nuclear weapons throughout the world. It includes information on the



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Readers may duplicate as needed

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Part 4: Working Within the Full-Text Document

The full-text article is accessed by clicking the **article title**. Users may add the content to a new My List to store links for future reference, email or print the item, or use the Share button to post a link to various Web 2.0 websites like FaceBook, Twitter, etc. The article text may be machine translated using the Translate pull-down menu (select a language, click GO), or a summary and citation can be accessed in the upper-right of the document. Related subject areas appear below the Go to block to make finding similar content easy. A full citation for the item can be copied from the bottom of the item.

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sirs[®]

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Washington Post
(Washington, DC)
Jul 18, 2009, p. A. 1

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America's Iconic TV News Anchor Shaped the Medium and the Nation
By Bart Barnes and Joe Holley

Walter Cronkite, America's preeminent television journalist of the 1960s and 1970s who as anchor and managing editor of "CBS Evening News" played a primary role in establishing television as the dominant national news medium of that era, died last night at age 92.

CBS Vice President Linda Mason said Cronkite died at 7:42 p.m. with his family by his side at his home in New York after a long illness. He had been suffering from cerebrovascular disease, his family said recently.

Cronkite's career reflected the arc of journalism in the mid-20th century. He was a wire service reporter covering major campaigns of World War II before working in radio and then joining a pioneering TV news venture at the CBS affiliate in Washington. Later in New York, he anchored the network's nightly news program from 1962 to 1981, a period in which television established itself as the principal source of information on current events for most Americans.

In a statement last night, President Obama called Cronkite "more than just an anchor." He was "someone we could trust to guide us through the most important issues of the day; a voice of certainty in an uncertain world," Obama said.

Describing him as "family," the president said Cronkite "invited us to believe in him, and he never let us down. This country has lost an icon and a dear friend, and he will be truly missed."

Credit: Bart Barnes; Joe Holley-- Washington Post Staff Writers



Walter Cronkite

Credit: MCT
(Graphic Selected by ProQuest Staff)

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Subjects

- Broadcast journalism
- CBS Inc.
- Cronkite, Walter (1916-2009)
- Mass media
- Press
- Television broadcasting
- Television broadcasting of news
- Television journalists
- Television news anchors

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Summary:

"Walter Cronkite, America's preeminent television journalist of the 1960s and 1970s who as anchor and managing editor of 'CBS Evening News' played a primary role in establishing television as the dominant national news medium of that era, died last night at age 92. CBS Vice President Linda Mason said Cronkite died at 7:42 p.m. with his family by his side at his home in New York after a long illness. He had been suffering from cerebrovascular disease, his family said recently." (*Washington Post*) The iconic TV news anchor's extensive career is highlighted.

Citation:

You can copy and paste this information into your own documents.

M Bart Barnes Joe Holley. "America's Iconic TV News Anchor Shaped the Medium and the Nation." *Washington Post (Washington, DC)*
L Jul 18, 2009; A. 1. *SIRS Researcher*. Web. 05 August, 2009.
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