Richelle O'Neil

Co-Librarian and Leader of District Library and Instructional Technology Team

Prosper High School, Texas

Challenges

- Librarians understand that today's digitally connected students are put off by resources that are cumbersome to use.

- As more schools turn to Google Classroom to create a paperless learning environment, teachers are looking for ways to connect seamlessly to a variety of online databases and resources needed for classroom projects.

Solution

- Gale's *In Context* with Google Apps for Education

Results

- *In Context* usage has increased because connectivity with Google Apps for Education makes it fast and easy for students and teachers to find, annotate, and share *In Context* content.

- Students no longer have to print out In Context articles to annotate by hand, or struggle with making comments on PDFs.

Gale's Integration with Google Apps for Education Creates New *In Context* Fans

As co-librarian at Prosper High School in Texas and leader of the Library and Instructional Technology Team for her school district, Richelle O'Neil always has the interests of K–12 students and teachers in mind. These days, that means showing them how productive they can be when they use Gale's *In Context* integrated with Google Apps for Education.

"My co-librarians and I work with teachers from all subject areas, and we try to find ways to incorporate our research databases with any research projects they are doing," she says. "This campus 'went Google' 2.5 years ago, so anything we do with classes is tied into Google Apps for Education. When *In Context* rolled out the integration with Google, that was awesome! Now students can sign in to their Google account within *In Context* and save articles into their Google accounts with one or two clicks."

Teachers and Students Share Content in a Snap

The *In Context* family of online resources combines an easily searchable design with current, authoritative information covering such areas as Biography, Global Issues, Opposing Viewpoints, Science, U.S. History, and World History. Google Apps for Education is a suite of tools for classroom collaboration that lets users create, share, and edit files in real time. Together, they're ideal for today's digitally connected students and classrooms. "Articles are saved as .doc files, so students can go right into the *In Context* article and summarize or paraphrase it underneath. Teachers can go into *In Context* articles, annotate them, and share them with their students using the Classroom share button, which enables teachers to post an article as an assignment or announcement. We had a physics instructor who posted labs, too." The button allows Google Classroom teachers to share topic overviews and portal pages; search queries; articles from encyclopedias, magazines, journals, and newspapers; and images — any piece of content from *In Context* — and removes the copy/paste steps of sharing content.

Before the integration of Google Apps, students had to go through multiple steps to annotate articles. "I instructed students to use the print function within the database, where they could select 'Save as PDF.' Next, they had to rename the file and save it to their file folder on the school server. If they wanted to go in and digitally take notes, highlight, or annotate, it was tricky because it was a PDF document. Instead, students would print articles and do highlighting and annotating by hand. Having *In Context* connect with Google has made it much easier for them to connect, organize, and do all annotating digitally," explains Richelle.

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Students have taken to the new capabilities like ducks to water. "It is so easy, which blows their minds, and they are constantly in the Gale databases and Google Drives," says Richelle. "They can also use EasyBib, which pushes a fully formatted citation page to their Google page and allows them to build a bibliography and export it to a Google Doc. They no longer have to fight with citation builders." (EasyBib is an online tool that helps users create citations in MLA, APA, and Chicago/Turabian style; it integrates with many Gale databases, including *In Context*.)

New Apps Make In Context More Popular Than Ever

"The integration of the *In Context* suite with Google Apps for Education has made it easier to connect with the students and teachers, and they are beginning to see our library in a different light," says Richelle. "They recognize that we aren't just keepers of books, and that we have deep knowledge of Google Drive and the online resources as well as how they work together." To help her users get up to speed on all that's available to them, Richelle created a series of screen caps illustrating how to use *In Context* and other resources.

Richelle is happy to recommend *In Context* with Google Apps for Education. "I presented at the Dallas Independent School District library summit in August. Since then I have talked to other library directors and have initiated Google Hangouts with San Antonio librarians to talk about how I use Google and *In Context*."

She continues, "I have seen an increase in our usage numbers. Prior to this integration we had a lot of teachers using EBSCOHost because they liked the information — but it was difficult for students to use. Now teachers use *In Context* more often because it is easier for students. The students love it."