



Tue Gaston

Borupgaard Gymnasium Biblioteket

World History in Context Brings the Past into Focus for Danish Students

In some parts of Europe, a “gymnasium” isn’t a building equipped for indoor sports. Rather, it’s a type of school with a strong emphasis on academic learning focused on readying students to enter a university for advanced academic study. Tue Gaston is a librarian at such an institution — Borupgaard Gymnasium in Ballerup, Denmark.

Tue was introduced to Gale databases when he began working at the library, which has a subscription to several *In Context* online knowledge portals (*World History*, *Biography*, *Opposing Viewpoints*, *Global Issues*, and *Science*) as well as the *Literature Resource Center* and *Contemporary Authors: Contemporary Literary Criticism® Select*. He quickly became an advocate for their use. “I was impressed with the functionality and the number of documents you can reach with ease,” he says.

World History in Context in particular is front and center in many of his interactions with students. This online portal provides access to an overview of the most-studied events, periods, cultures, civilizations, religions, conflicts, wars, ideologies, cultural movements, people, and more — reaching back to the ancient world and forward to today’s headlines. Rare primary sources, reliable references, and multimedia content put world history into context for students as they complete their assignments. “Students must complete five major papers in their three years of attending Borupgaard, as well as some briefer papers throughout the year,” says Tue. “We can always tell when the deadlines are approaching because there’s a rise in the number of students asking for help with research.”

SEARCH FEATURES GUIDE STUDENTS TO QUALITY RESOURCES

Whether students get started early on a paper or procrastinate, Gale’s search features enable them to make every minute count. “If you begin with a broad search, Gale gives you options to limit your search; for instance, by document type or related subject terms. It provides very good help in narrowing your focus. I usually tell my students that they are lucky if they find a portal page for the subject they are writing about because it means that Gale’s editors have done a lot of their work for them. The portal page is very nice.” Tue prefers to search single databases — each one comprehensive in its own right — rather than take advantage of Gale’s PowerSearch to cross-search multiple databases simultaneously, but his students are aware that they can cross-search if they wish to.

“*World History in Context* is very easy to navigate. There’s a logic to the *In Context* system — once you have learned how to work in one *In Context* database you can use them all, and I really like that,” says Tue.

CHALLENGE

- High school students need convenient access to a variety of references to complete their assignments; they also must develop research skills to succeed in school and be better prepared for the rigor of college academics.

SOLUTION

- Gale/*World History in Context* (and others in the *In Context* series)

RESULTS

- Gale’s powerful, easy-to-use search features help students develop information literacy as they access high-quality, credible resources through their online research.
- Students broaden their horizons and build critical thinking skills through exposure to *World History in Context*’s varied resources, including rare primary sources, multimedia content, news items, and more.

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this and other resources
provided by Gale, visit:
www.gale.cengage.com

A BETTER ALTERNATIVE TO PRINT REFERENCES

Most of Tue’s pro-Gale campaigning is targeted toward students, although he also encourages teachers to remind students to use the databases. He explains, “even though it’s 2015 we still need to tell people that they can get their information from sources other than printed books. About 90% of the students who come to me for the first time ask for a ‘book.’ I tell them that I can get some books for them but that it will take some time because I have to order them from another library located across the country. Then I say that right now I can get articles for you that are fresher, newer, and exactly the same level or even better than whatever book I could get for you.”

His efforts are clearly having a positive impact, as the older students frequently turn to the Gale resources without having to ask for assistance. In fact, comparative usage statistics (reported to Tue by Gale) indicate that, over the past 12 months, Borupgaard Gymnasium exhibits the highest *World History in Context* usage among all schools in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

Tue says that he would “absolutely” recommend Gale’s solutions to his colleagues. “These databases are not as academic as the ones students will probably encounter if they enter university, but they are a stepping stone towards those more academic databases. With Gale, students learn how to navigate databases — and they learn that they need to use databases in their searches.”

Source Code: M1501023



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