Kate MacMillan *(left)*
Coordinator of Library Services

Sandy Killian
Teacher Librarian

Challenges

- School district wanted to give all students the opportunity to learn anywhere, anytime while promoting development of 21st century skills such as critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity.

Solution

- Gale's *In Context* suite and database resources with Google Apps for Education.

Results

- Integration of Gale resources with Google Apps for Education brings the district's libraries into the classrooms, fulfills the goal of providing equitable 24/7 access to digital learning resources in efforts to close the achievement gap, and supports the district's project-based learning model.

- Students gain proficiency in research, writing, and critical thinking by using authoritative Gale resources such as *Student Resources In Context* and *Science In Context*.

Napa Valley Unified School District Enriches Project-Based Learning with Gale and Google for Education

Located in California's wine country, Napa Valley Unified School District (NVUSD) serves 18,000 students at more than 30 schools. The district's mission is threefold: to prepare students for college and careers, provide equitable access to learning resources, and instill future ready skills. To meet these goals, NVUSD focuses on project-based and inquiry-based learning that engages students in practical, real-life experiences. Technology plays a leading role, and features a "game-changing" digital solution that integrates database resources from Gale/Cengage Learning with the communication and collaboration features of Google Apps for Education.

Technology Empowers Students to Take Charge of Learning

In 2012, NVUSD decided to introduce more cloud-based applications as a way to support students from all backgrounds and allow them to access learning resources at school and at home. "The rollout of Google for Education was an important part of our vision," recalls Kate MacMillan, NVUSD's digital resource project manager and coordinator of library services. "However, the game changer for students and staff came in September 2015, when the district implemented the Gale/Google integrated databases to provide students with quality online learning resources and help bring our libraries into the classroom."

NVUSD's investment in technology is evident — every school has wireless connectivity to the Internet, an automated integrated library system, digital resources, and a laptop for every student that needs one. "Technology, including the Gale/Google resources, helps us create educational environments for our students that involve deeper learning, student ownership and engagement, and inquiry-based projects," says Sandy Killian, teacher librarian for three of the district's high schools. "These tools teach students to be in charge of their own learning by allowing them to share knowledge, collaborate, and communicate with teachers and other students. They're also invaluable in helping students build and practice research, writing, and critical thinking skills."

One of NVUSD's goals is to provide students from every socioeconomic background with equal access to education and subsequently close the achievement gap. Thanks to the Gale/Google integration, all students have 24/7 access to the same resources and are learning future ready skills, either using their own device or one of the district's more than 7,000 Chromebooks. Sandy says students' reaction to their online tools has been positive. "The Gale/Google partnership has been key to having students use technology — and want to use it. The Google tools are familiar to them," she says.

Students Embrace Online Research and Collaboration

Although Gale resources have only been used for a few months, they're already a hit. "Gale resources are user-friendly with a clean, easy-to-understand interface, and the Google integration allows students to take full advantage of them," says Sandy. "Students can log in with their Gmail account (every student has one), which is convenient as well as efficient from an administrative standpoint." Searches in the Gale databases are quick and easy. It's simple to download articles and save them directly into Google Drive, which helps to assure that students don't lose their work. In addition, students can highlight and take notes in the documents, before and after downloading.

Gale resources are increasingly integrated into teachers' lesson plans. Teachers can share Gale content with their students using the Classroom Share button. Students can ask teachers for guidance with Google Classroom, whether or not they're in the same room. "The Gale/Google integration allows for easy sharing of materials, and for better student and teacher collaboration, which is important to our project-based learning model," says Sandy.

The number of library searches has jumped since Gale's implementation. Napa High School students conducted 9,000 searches in the first few months. At American Canyon High School (the nation's first high school to be certified as a High Performance School, a green compliance standard), students use *Science In Context* as they learn in a one-to-one laptop-computing environment. At New Technology High School, 350+ students initiated nearly 3,000 searches in the first few months of access to *Student Resources In Context* and *Science In Context*. Both of these Gale resources offer stellar support for papers, projects, and presentations while reinforcing students' development of research, critical thinking, and problem solving skills.

Sandy says, "The Google for Education and Gale partnership has been key in giving students the resources that they want and need to advance their education." Kate adds, "We're not just 'Googling' for information anymore. The Gale database integration truly has given us library resources without walls."

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Digital resource project manager and coordinator of library services, NVUSD

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