

## Library Search

*Approach:* One to one

*Level:* Year 4 and year 8

*Resources:* None. Year 4 students were asked about information on dinosaurs, year 8 students on Hong Kong.

<i>Questions/instructions</i>	<i>% responses</i>	
	<i>year 4</i>	<i>year 8</i>
Imagine that you are going to do a project on dinosaurs/Hong Kong, and that you are going to search a library for information — a library that you haven't used before.		
1. How would you find information about dinosaurs/Hong Kong in the library — describe to me what you would do?		
<i>Prompt: Are there any other ways you could find information about dinosaurs/Hong Kong in a library?</i>		
<i>Mentioned:</i>		
catalogue	53	81
Dewey system or similar	16	33
ask librarian or teacher	62	78
reference books	5	15
CDRom encyclopaedia	3	7
browse	43	33
2. Have you ever used a computer catalogue in a library to find information?	Yes	49 80
3. Can you describe how you would search for information about dinosaurs/Hong Kong using a computer catalogue?		
<i>Mentioned:</i>		
title or subject search	48	77
entering 'Hong Kong'/'dinosaur'	44	69
looking up details of book found through search	26	45
4. Have you ever used a card catalogue in a library to find information?	Yes	50 63
5. Can you describe how you would search for information about dinosaurs/Hong Kong using a card catalogue?		
<i>Mentioned:</i>		
title or subject search	61	65
go to 'Hong Kong'/'dinosaur'	49	48
look up details of book found through search	29	38

*Commentary*

Year 8 students were more likely than year 4 students to use a catalogue or classification scheme to find information. Year 8 students were also substantially more likely than year 4 students to have used a computer catalogue system and to be able to describe steps in using it. There was little difference between year 8 students in experience of card catalogues and ideas for their use.