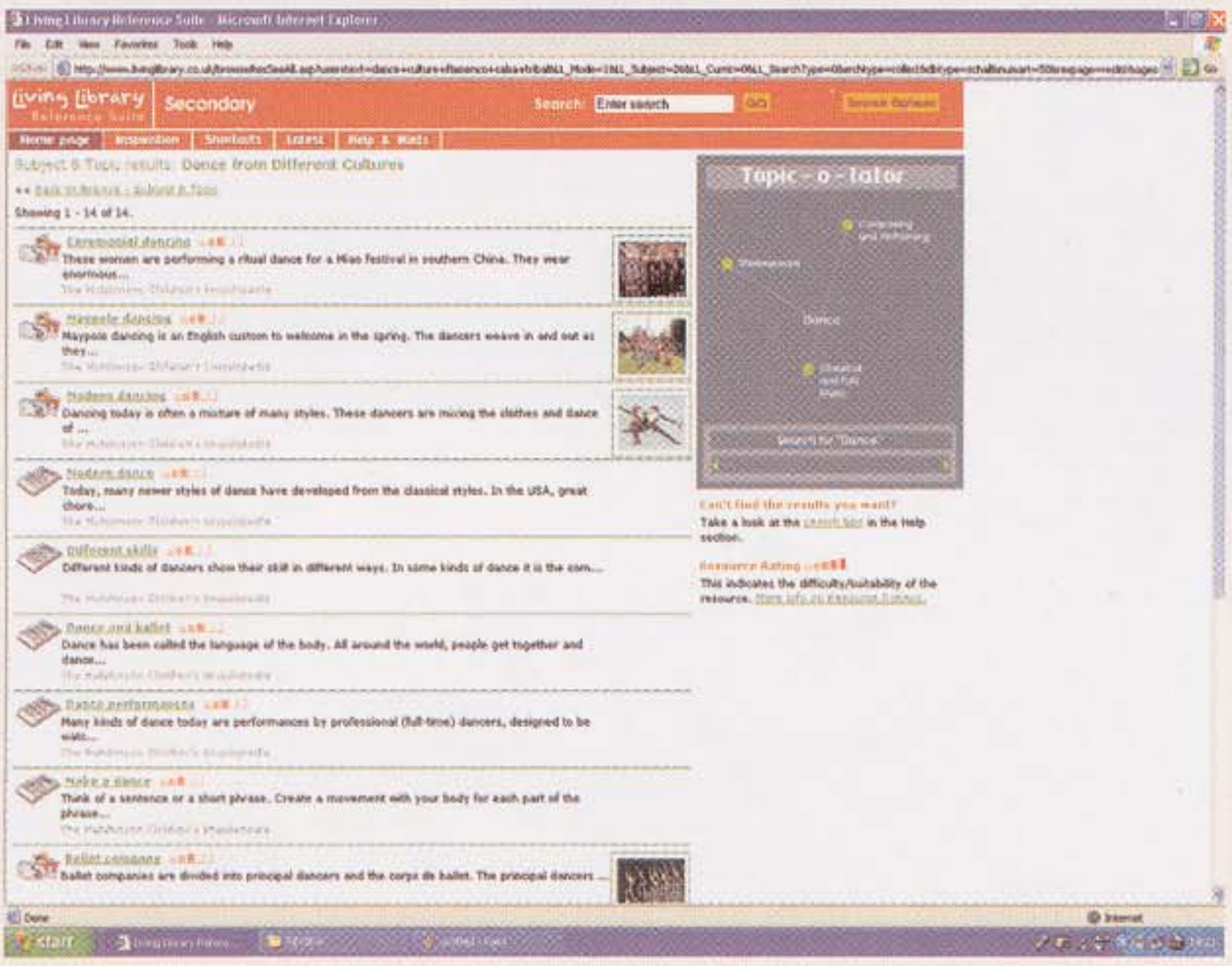
LEARNING ONLINE REVIEWS



RM LIVING LIBRARY

- Cost: from £470.25 (ex VAT)
- Contact phone: 0870 908 6868
- Website: www.livinglibrary.co.uk

Not every organisation is trying to reinvent the wheel of teaching by creating interactive lessons or activities which constitute the main focus of a lesson. RM has come up with Living Library, which is a whole collection of useful information! This is a very friendly encyclopaedia, all the information you want to find but without the starchiness of a hardback book.

Many teachers have asked students to log on to a computer and research a topic and the result is lots of students finding a multitude of useless information or far too detailed information.

What RM have done is separate the site into two; Primary and Secondary and then list lots and lots of very useful sites that are linked to every aspect of the National Curriculum. All a student needs to do is locate the subject they are interested in, type a few words into the search box and links pop up for them to browse – basically an education web search engine.

Not only can they specify newspaper articles or multimedia but by far the most popular thing for the students to use is the "This Day in History" section where they all wanted to find out what famous incidents occurred on their birthdays.

The only way this product could go wrong is in its presentation and accessibility because the idea behind the site is so simple and effective. Fortunately, presentation and accessibility are good and every teacher who used this site found numerous ways of using these features in their lesson as either a major part of it or as a minor part for extensions or to bring less able students into the lesson. This product would definitely be used by all subjects if purchased by a school.

VERDICT: RM has managed to make a reference tool addictive! This is one product that would be used by the majority of staff on a daily basis, especially useful for Form Tutors as a source for debates and thought.