



**Britannica**  
**EDUCATION**



# **Britannica Education & Ministry of Education Seychelles**

*CASE STUDY*

# INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

Encyclopaedia Britannica have been the historians throughout the generations, documenting human potential in every discovery and innovation. With information written by globally recognised scholars, Britannica's trustworthy authority is unmatched and remains the purveyor of trusted knowledge.

The Ministry of Education Seychelles had the mission "to build a coherent and comprehensive system of quality education and training" for each of the 38 schools across the country. After connecting with the Seychelles Ministry of Education, it was clear that Britannica were very well positioned to support them in their digital transformation, as they looked to move away from using just textbooks in the education system.

From differentiated content to interactive activities, we were able to provide educators with the power to stimulate their students' higher-order thinking skills and inspire curiosity. We were able to give young people the confidence to independently hone the breadth and depth of their knowledge and prepare them with the skills they will inevitably need later in life as global citizens.

This partnership has meant that every student and educator across the Seychelles now has access to safe and secure digital content for all subjects for the next three years.

***"It was both exciting and encouraging to see how enthusiastic the members of the Ministry team were when we introduced the project in 2022. The combined passion and dedication to provide schools with access to high-quality digital content ensured that we were able to work closely with each school, supporting them with the transition to digital"***

*Luke Saunders (Senior Business Development Manager)*



2022



## HOW DID THE PROJECT START?

After conversations with various team members of the MoE, we established that there was an opportunity for all schools across the Seychelles to benefit from access to 'Britannica School'. It was agreed that we would test this with teachers across 11 secondary schools as a pilot before visiting the country and running school training sessions for members of each school, including the primary schools.

### WHY BRITANNICA SCHOOL?

With its three differentiated learning levels it was agreed that Britannica School was the ideal starting point to assist the Ministry with the switch from print to digital. 'Britannica School' also had multiple features that could support both the students with research and teachers with classroom teaching support.

### THE PILOT

Each of the 38 schools had two representatives present across the virtual and in-person training sessions - The School Principal and a designated 'Britannica Champion', who would then be the point of contact for any further training or questions that came from other teachers within the wider school community during the pilot period.

### PILOT SUPPORT

Britannica's expert team provided all schools taking part in the pilot with a bespoke training session, introducing them to the best features of the resource. Along with the interactive workshops, Britannica worked with the Ministry to create bespoke promotional materials that could be shared with the Seychelles School community. This included a co-branded PDF guided tour, an offline guided presentation and bespoke posters to help in-school promotion of the platform.

# BRITANNICA SCHOOL ONLINE

**Britannica School Online** is a safe and educational online learning resource that is trusted by millions of teachers and pupils across the globe.

The information in Britannica School is updated daily and spans a range of media, including video, images and audio content, with all content being available to download offline. Curated and checked by professional editors, you can be sure that your students are learning in a safe environment, with the content covering all of the subject areas. With access to 'Britannica School' your whole school community will be able to benefit from using the resource, including the parents, as the platform can be used anywhere, anytime, even on mobile devices.

The breadth of resources available means that whether a school has a diverse catchment, mixed-ability classes or encourages project-based learning, teachers can easily cater for different needs. Every article has been written at 3 different reading levels, each article can be fully translated into 90+ languages and students can benefit from in-article support features such as 'read aloud' and the 'double-click dictionary'.

The screenshot displays the Britannica School Online interface. At the top is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon and the text "Explore Britannica School (start typing!)". Below the search bar are several content tiles:

- COMPARE COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES**: A blue header tile with the text "Which country has more people—Vietnam or Peru?" and two circular images showing landscapes. Below the images is the text "Find out more in Compare Countries".
- WORLD ATLAS**: A green header tile with the text "In the interactive World Atlas find detailed maps, satellite imagery, quick facts, full country and state profiles, and links to related content." Below the text is a world map image and the text "Explore the World Atlas Tour Europe".
- EXPLORE**: A red header tile with the word "EXPLORE" in white.
- Biographies**: A purple tile with a circular icon of a woman's face and the text "Biographies".
- Pictures & Videos**: A blue tile with a circular icon of a camera and film strip and the text "Pictures & Videos".
- Primary Sources**: A white tile with a portrait of William Shakespeare on the left, the text "Primary Sources" in bold, and the text "Find letters, speeches, and other primary source materials. Explore Primary Sources" below it.
- Articles**: A green tile with a circular icon of a document and the text "Articles".

# BRITANNICA TRAINING ACTIVITY

In 2023 two members of the Britannica team went over to the Seychelles to continue with the training, with the focus this time on primary school students as well as continuing to train the teachers. Across the week a select number of students from all Primary Schools across the Seychelles were introduced to the 'Britannica School' platform through 3-hour interactive in-person workshops.

The aim of the session was to show the primary school students how they can use Britannica to research for information in a safe environment, benefit from the built-in support features to cater for their learning needs and to encourage them to use Britannica at home, as well as in the school, to support homework and extension tasks



Each student that participated and completed the training received a certificate and the impact of this training week was clear, with the total number of **searches made on Britannica School across the Seychelles being 3x higher than in 2022.**

As well as running student workshops across multiple primary schools, Britannica ensured that teacher sessions were also put in place at the 'Teacher Training institute', which is attached to the Ministry of Education building.

# BRITANNICA TRAINING ACTIVITY CONTINUED

**2023**

In addition to the training sessions that were conducted in-person whilst the Britannica team were in the Seychelles, virtual training was and remained available for each of the schools whenever they needed it. These sessions are bespoke depending on the teachers that are present, as the Britannica training team are able to focus on supporting the different departments across the schools to meet their needs.

Student sessions are also available to all of the schools, which are designed not only to help the students, but also the parent community. Britannica School has a range of different functions that can benefit the students and these webinars allow for each and every student to understand which areas of the platform would support their individual needs for each of their subjects. Parents also have the option of joining in, as 'Britannica School' can be accessed at home as well as in the classroom.



# TEACHER & STUDENT FEEDBACK

**“Britannica gets an overall ‘excellent’ from me. The thing that was most interesting is that I can find information on all topics. I will be sharing the benefits with my students and teachers after receiving the training”**

*School Librarian - Grand Anse Mahe Primary School*

**“Britannica truly helped me understand all of the topics that I am learning about. The information is written by experts and can’t be edited, which is why I won’t be using Google anymore. Britannica will support me with my IGCSE’s”**

*Secondary School (S4) Student -Mount Fleuri Secondary School*

**"Britannica is rich in relevant and credible content. It can be used with trust and confidence. It is a resource that I will use for content in my lessons and as a source to reference for students "**

*ICT Teacher - Praslin Secondary School*

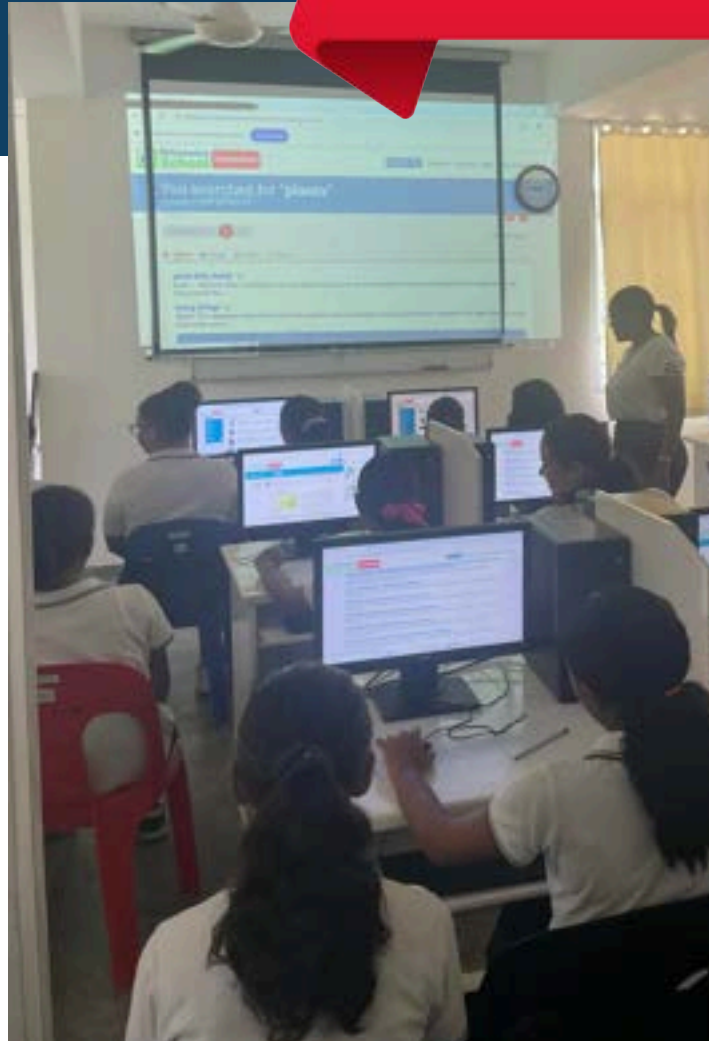
**"With my personal difficulties, I only wish that I knew about this site for my exams. It has no distracting ads on it and will help me to navigate online safely, with the content beneficial for educational purposes"**

*Secondary School (S3) Student -Pointe Larue Secondary School*

# BRITANNICA TRAINING ACTIVITY

# 2024

In June 2024 the Britannica team returned to the Seychelles to continue with the support of the implementation of the project which was now into the second year. The focus this time was training secondary school students. Every single secondary school across the country was visited, with 20+ students from each school getting access to a 1-hour workshop, led by the Britannica team. The students were able to suggest topics that they were learning about in preparation for exams, so that they could see how Britannica School can support them with exam preparation, as well as day-to-day research, with a focus on the 'Intermediate' and 'Advanced' levels of the platform. The reaction and increase in usage was very encouraging to see.



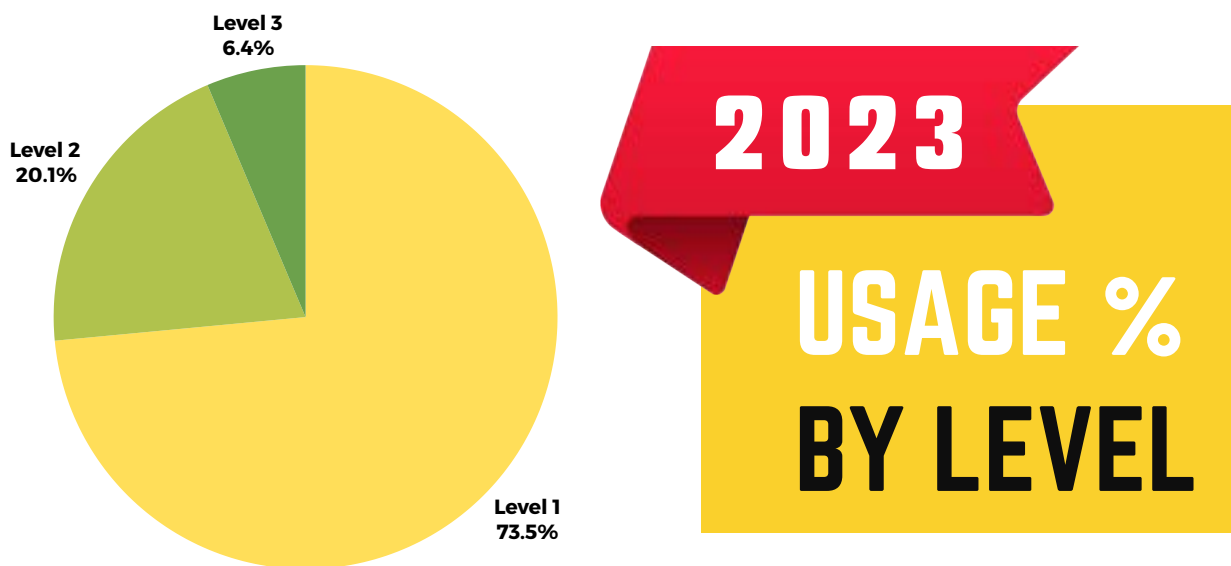
The immediate impact of the secondary school training was evident from the **40,000+ individual searches that were conducted in the week.** Students were able to log-in to Britannica on all devices and now many of them have a quick link to the platform for whenever they need it.

Once again, on top of the student sessions we conducted a librarian workshop, to continue with the promised professional training that is part of the agreement with the MoE Seychelles. Each librarian received further support materials to take back to their school, to further promote access.

# PROJECT ANALYSIS TO DATE

The Britannica Education & MoE Seychelles project is currently into its second full year and the positive impact is evident from the increase in usage year-on-year, which shows that the students and teachers are getting value from the content.

During the most recent full year of access (excluding 2024) the Britannica School resource has clearly been very well used and valued. In this time a **total of 172, 653 individual searches and 43, 736 document downloads** were recorded. In 2023, the first full year of access, an incredible **5,040,685 Hits/total page interactions were recorded across the Seychelles.**



The most used level in 2023 was **Level 1 (Foundation)**, which is aimed at students aged 5-11 years old. This level had **73.5%** of the total activity. **Level 2 (Intermediate)**, aimed at students aged 11-15, made up **20.1%** of the total activity and then **Level 3 (Advanced)** recorded just **6.4%** of activity. After a successful training week focused on the secondary school students, the 2024 usage report should show a significant increase in usage in 'Level 2' and 'Level 3', which again reinforces the benefit and importance of continuing to support the Seychelles with training.

**“Britannica has ensured continuous support of the project with monthly virtual meetings with school representatives since the project began in 2022, along with the annual training visits, where they also present a detailed impact report to the entire Ministry team”**

*Director General - Department of Education Sector Development (MoE Seychelles)*

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