Solutions for “Fast Food” Searchers
by Lori Franklin
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Ever notice that students not only want their information quickly, but they also want it delivered to them hot, fresh and without any mistakes? This behavior is what many like to call the “Fast Food Mentality” of information seeking. Students want reliable facts, but there’s a gap between the desire for correct information and the effort that goes into seeking, gathering, examining, using and evaluating those resources.

As a library media specialist, it can be frustrating to observe students looking for the quickest, easiest solution. When we allocate a portion of our budgets for purchasing online subscription databases, we are taking a chance that we will be able to provide helpful, inspiring instruction that will cause our students to naturally seek out these resources. Unfortunately, that isn’t always the case.

At our high school, we’ve discovered a unique way to guide students to use online subscription databases by providing them with hyperlinked resource guides. These documents also provide access to appropriate free web links and even links for online PowerPoint presentations and other interactive activities that pertain to topics being researched. We help steer learners to the online guides by sending them to our library media center web site and then having them choose. Once there, they open various PDF files that contain links to databases, along with searching suggestions for specific assignments. We note which databases provide different services, such as saving search results to folders, or giving the option of e-mailing hits to a home or school e-mail account. This is also a great place remind students about opening up database links in either full-text format or PDF format for best results.

Our online research guides also provide students with pre-chosen web links for sites that have been selected for their assignments. And, in keeping with student searching behaviors, we use the online research guide to promote using the “advanced search” feature on Google to perform a smart search using limiters. For some students, this is the first time they’ve been exposed to the idea of creating tight, specific searches that may yield less than 100 hits, rather than the typical million plus hits usually gathered by a search engine.

One other item we’ve managed to highlight on our research guides are free online database trials we are currently examining. We post the name of the database, tell why it might be useful and give the end date of the trial. Using this method, we determined this year that we will purchase Culturegrams when we renew our online database subscriptions. The hits on this database trial were phenomenal, and using our online research guide helped us spread the word about its availability. We always ask for permission to publish the information about online database trials, and so far vendors have been willing to have this information shared. Using a database trial during a real-life assignment or unit allows us to observe its usefulness during a meaningful process, rather than a simple, one-time examination.

For an example of one of our online research guides, visit our library media center site at Olathe East High School: http://teachers.olatheschools.com/~lfranklinoe. Then choose: Research Links by Assignment. Ongoing assignments and their respective guides are listed.
From your KASL President…..

Dear KASL Members:

We’re tryin’ to get a tour of England together now; that’s definitely gonna call for another bass player. Jimi Hendrix

As KASL stretches and changes, adapting to the current state of school libraries in Kansas and to the needs of its members, I hope you will help KASL leadership see what your professional organization can do to meet your needs. If we think we need another “bass player,” we’ll do our best to provide one! Currently, we are concentrating on the following events and programs, though much is happening in KASL that I don’t have the space to mention here.

It’s not too early to begin planning to attend Tri-Conference in Topeka, April 11-13, 2007. The KASL Showcase and luncheon will feature Cheryl Harness, author of biographical and historical books for the middle grades. The General Session speaker will be Andrew Pace, Information Technology Head at North Carolina State University. He writes for AMERICAN LIBRARIES and has an interesting blog called Hectic Pace http://blogs.ala.org/pace.php. You can find links to more information on the KASL website at http://www.kasl.ws. Registration will be $75 if you pre-register before mid-March. The conference hotel is the Capitol Plaza Hotel: king rooms, $89 and double rooms, $92. Also plan on a 13.3% tax. If you plan to attend additional special events, be sure to set aside some funding for them. For example, last year, the KASL luncheon was $25. The registration forms will be available some time in February.

The Tri-Conference Planning Committee met on November 28 to put together the preliminary program for Tri-Conference. I was impressed by the variety and quality of the program proposals.

KASL has put together one particularly exciting panel for Tri-Conference that has grown from the grass roots via the work of the Projects Committee and Council. The panel will discuss how to leverage power to garner support for library programs. In a program called SHOW ME THE EVIDENCE: USING DATA TO SUPPORT SCHOOL LIBRARY PROGRAMS, Carol Fox, Nina Flax, Sharon Sharpe, and Dr. Mary Devin will discuss issues surrounding 1. gathering data (generating stats) in order to support your library program; 2. leveraging power for the library program; 3. understanding budgets; and 4. developing good relationships with administrators and teachers.

Another exciting opportunity is the result of Linda Roberts and Terri Snethen’s attending the AASL Fall Forum about Assessment. They will present a pre-conference on the afternoon of Tuesday April 10, from 1-4 pm called ASSESSMENT MATTERS: ENHANCING STUDENT LEARNING. If you will not be able
to attend that program, they will present a short program on Thursday afternoon that will hit the high points of what they learned from attending the forum.

If you see a member of the Projects Committee, be sure to compliment them on the hours they have poured into assessing the results of the KASL survey they administered last spring. Julie Fisher chaired that committee. Dr. Rosemary Talab, KSU, spent countless hours helping to craft the questions and continues to contribute her expertise. Committee members are Linda Corey, Shanna Richards, Amy Brownlee, Charyla Cooley, Cheryl Larson, and Gail Hughes. Dr. Talab, Dr. Mirah Dow (ESU), Diane Leupold, Jackie Lakin, Christie Brandau, Laura Soash, and I will meet at the Topeka Shawnee County Public Library on the afternoon of December 12 to try to continue to develop direction for the survey project. If any of you would like to be involved in this work in progress, please let me know.

January 1st is the due date for nominations for President’s Distinguished Media Specialist Award and Distinguished Service Award. Go to the KASL Awards page for nomination forms. http://www.cgrove417.org/cghs/KASL/awards.html

AASL Affiliate Assembly will be in mid-January in Seattle, and Laura and I are looking forward to participation as delegates from Kansas.

In the meantime, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Martha House
KASL President

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Teen Read Week “Survivor” at Admire Middle School

On a typical Teen Read Week school day, a camouflaged buff, and T-shirt worn with a tattered pair of denim jeans identified the participant as a “Survivor.” The student hugged a copy of Dave Barry’s *Peter & the Starcatchers*, while she and her teammates correctly identified the Lemony Snicket characters during this day’s Outsmart question. With the trivia question and portion of the contest out of the way, the team sat aside their AR books to work their way over to “Orienteering” in their physical education class. Armed then with a compass and a clue map she ran to find additional clues that would help her team in the Outplay challenge. Those clues, and others such as a “Wildcat Card” were found in such places as the milk cartoon cooler in the cafeteria, awarded the team extra points and required her to perform “leadership tasks” such as cleaning out the science lab beakers.

The memorable “Survivor: Wildcat Country” got Admire Middle School Students involved in an “Outread, Outsmart and Outplay” competition for Teen Read Week. The competition was a collaborative project for the students and was created and developed by Lori Houck, Emporia State University SLIM Practicum student, Sandra Moffatt, Admire LMCS and Tad Hatfield, physical education student. Admire Principal Craig Idacavage joined the project with an invitation to the winning teams to join him at a munching of healthy snacks and a trip to purchase books at the Scholastic Book Fair.

Mrs. Houck, Mrs. Moffatt and Mr. Hatfield agreed that “selling” the collaborative project was not difficult because the teens at Admire are a physically active group. Also, the students have been participants in the Accelerated Reader program for several years and have become avid readers. They were excited to join in a program that combined mental and physical tasks and competition, hands-on activities, and class contests.
Writers Needed:
If you would like to write a curriculum guide for one (or more) of the 2007-2008 William Allen White Award masterlists books, contact selection committee member Beverley Buller <bbuller@newton.k12.ks.us>.

The following books still need guides: Missing Manatee, Lowji Discovers America, Moon Runner, Flag with 56 Stars, Sixteen Years in Sixteen Seconds, Wing Nut, On Etruscan Time, Shakespeare's Secret, Out of Order, Defiance, Black Storm Comin', and Adam Canfield of the Slash.

You can read annotations on these books on the WAW website. http://waw.emporia.edu/masterlists/list07-08.htm#ml6

Beverly will send you a format to follow (same as last year's) and provide any assistance needed. The deadline is usually late January. These guides will be posted on the WAW website next spring for use by anyone teaching with these titles.

Current guides can be seen under "Teachers" at: http://waw.emporia.edu/

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Master List Grades 3-5

The Penderwicks; a summer tale of four sisters, two rabbits, and a very interesting boy Birdsall, Jeanne
The seven wonders of Sassafras Springs Birney, Betty G.
The journey that saved Curious George; the true wartime escape of Margret and H. A. Rey Borden, Louise
Shanghai messenger Cheng, Andrea
The missing manatee DeFelice, Cynthia
Lowji discovers America Fleming, Candace
Moon runner Marsden, Carolyn
A dog's life; the autobiography of a stray Martin, Ann M.
Let them play Raven, Margot Theis
The flag with fifty-six stars; a gift from the survivors of Mauthausen Rubin, Susan Goldman
Each little bird that sings Wiles, Deborah
Sixteen years in sixteen seconds; the Sammy Lee story Yoo, Paula

Master List Grades 6-8

The naked mole rat letters Amato, Mary
Wing nut Auch, Mary Jane
On Etruscan time Barrett, Tracy
Shakespeare’s secret Broach, Elise
The misadventures of Maude March; or trouble rides a fast horse Coulombis, Audrey
The sacrifice Duble, Kathleen Benner
Princess academy Hale, Shannon
Airball; my life in briefs Harkrader, L. D.
Out of order Hicks, Betty
Defiance Hobbs, Valerie
Project Mulberry Park, Linda Sue
Black storm comin' Wilson, Diane Lee
Adam Canfield of the Slash Winerip, Michael

If you were looking for ways to collaborate with teachers in meeting state and national informational literacy standards this title would be helpful. The author presents in everyday language several information models, how literacy skills are important for today’s successful student, and samples of aligning curriculum standards with library media standards as well as many other relevant topics. Some of the topics are planning for information literacy instruction, the research process, setting the stage for learning and assessment. The ideas and suggestion in this title will help you become a more effective library media specialist and an educational leader in your building.


“An image came into my mind of two boys sitting on either side of a fence (author’s note).” This is the story of those two boys and the fence (both physical and figurative) that separates them and brings them together. This unusual holocaust story is narrated by 9-year-old Bruno whose father is a high ranking Nazi official. When Bruno’s family suddenly moves to a place he pronounces Out-With, Bruno is lonely and bored until his explorations lead him to discover a “Dot That Became a Speck That Became a Blob That Became a Figure That Became a Boy.” While some reviewers have suggested that this novel is too far-fetched, unrealistic, and full of impossibilities, I think that was the author’s intent in calling it “a fable.” As in all fables, there is a moral to the story and meanings that are deeper than just the surface story. This is a difficult story to read but one that will stay with readers for a long time. (Grades 8 and up)
**Member News...**

There is a group of retired librarians and other interested people who support school libraries in the Wichita area. They call themselves the *School Library Advocacy Group* and help sponsor author visits, give mini grants to schools for special activities and help out wherever we can. The group is lead by *Rhita Muci*.

*Kendall Heide*, LMS at Maize Middle School, together with other teachers and media specialists in the district were inspired by the School Library Journal article "A Matter of (Radical) Trust" by Christopher Harris to begin a “Socratic” dialogue about the concept of radical trust with technology and student use. Check out this article at [http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA6386682.html](http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA6386682.html)

Congratulations to *Kim Nowak* for being selected as the KASL representative on the William Allen White Selection Committee.

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**News from Bishop Miege**

**History Club**

Eleven history club students are working with Judi Wollenziehn, LMS at Bishop Miege High School, to preserve history by posting obituaries and digital photographs of headstones at [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com). The project also helps students develop a sense of their history, heritage, and connection to the past. There is an old adage that says, "The history of a community is written upon the tombstones in the cemeteries of that community." Students working on the project may earn community service hours.

Teens who have loving intergenerational relationships grasp that they belong to a community that is greater than themselves. Unfortunately, many teens have little contact with their grandparents or great-grandparents. The mission of the club is to preserve history that might be lost to the ravages of time and to help students recognize the accomplishments and contributions of their ancestors and other community members who have passed on.

This year, club members plan to take one or two field trips to local cemeteries to take digital pictures of headstones and use a GPS to record the locations of the graves.

**Page Pirates**

Shiver me timbers, this year there are 40 sprogs and seadogs who've discovered the booty found in books. The Page Pirates’ captain is Mrs. Wollenziehn, First Mate is Sam Seifert, Second Mate is Jillian Circle, Keeper of the Captain’s Log is Meg Utz, and the Counter of Doubloons is Paloma Carmona.

*Ms. Erin Howerton*, school liason from the Johnson County Public Library, gave a booktalk on a dozen new books from which the Pirates selected seven titles. *Heir Apparent* will be discussed at our Nov. 15th meeting; next on the list is *Crushed* by Laura McNeal.

The Pirates’ fieldtrip will be going to he movie, *Eragon*, following its debut in mid-December. A club picnic at the end of the school year is also planned.

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**Kansas R.E.A.D. Week**

January 28–February 3

More info available soon at:

[http://www.kansasread.org/READ_Week.htm](http://www.kansasread.org/READ_Week.htm)

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**Homework Kansas**

Provided by the State Library of Kansas and Kansas Public Libraries

[free online tutoring: www.HomeworkKansas.org](http://www.HomeworkKansas.org)
Professional Partners Program

KASL’s Professional Partners Program is now in its second year. It was originally initiated to help strengthen our members through professional networking. The Program provides participants with the opportunity to share their professional and personal skills and experiences, and to grow and develop in the process. It is based on encouragement, constructive comments, openness, mutual trust, respect and a willingness to learn. By sharing our expertise with those who are just starting out in the profession or those who may have questions about certain areas of librarianship, we hope to help them become stronger, more confident school librarians.

Research shows that self-development is rarely successful without the support of other people. Mentoring offers that support by providing individuals with someone who can give feedback, question, discuss, challenge, comfort, and help guide through the learning cycle. Mentoring has benefits for all involved.

Potential benefits for the mentee may include:

- Access to role models on an individual basis
- Development of confidence and enhanced self-esteem
- Increased skills and knowledge
- Receiving encouragement and assistance
- Gaining greater insight into their position
- Regular and constructive feedback
- Increased personal and professional networks
- Development of greater job satisfaction
- Access to opportunities that contribute to personal and professional development

Possible benefits for the contributing mentor are:

- Opportunities to use and share their own skills and experience
- Opportunity to reflect on one’s existing skills and practices
- An enhanced feeling of self worth as a result of assisting in a colleague’s professional development
- Opportunities to demonstrate leadership skills
- Challenging discussions with people who have a fresh perspective
- Development of new networks
- Increased job and personal satisfaction

If you think you might be interested in taking a part in the Professional Partners Program, it’s not too late! Access www.kasl.ws, then click on the Mentorship link in the burgundy header and fill out the short application form. We would love to have you either as a mentor or a mentee! Become a part of the mentoring relationship where a mutually supportive partnership or friendship may develop and endure.
Reading Incentives in Minneola

Margo Rakes, a K-12, LMS in Minneola, has been busy inspiring her students to read, read, read! Here are a few of the incentives she has thought up to get the students involved in reading:

- A candlelight dinner (complete with root-beer floats) with the principal and librarian.
- A trip to the State Fair in Hutchinson (including the Carrie Underwood concert!) with their librarian.
- Margo took 21 students to Emporia for the 2006 William Allen White Award Ceremony. They got to meet the award-winning authors, get autographs, march in the parade, and visit the home of William Allen White. Sue Stauffacher even talked about the group in her acceptance speech. She was very impressed that so many had come so far to be a part of the festivities.
- One of this year’s prizes for the AR reading program is fishing at Margo’s house.
- A Library Lock-In. Pizza, book-related scavenger hunt, storytelling, a visit from a guy with a chainsaw (Mr. Rakes being scary), bobbing for apples, painting t-shirts, and movies!