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teacher | librarian

The Journal for School Library Professionals

FEBRUARY 2016

VOLUME 43 | NUMBER 3

Making the Classroom-Library Connection

Results of a three-hour workshop presented to 165 preK-12 student teachers

Bridging Two Worlds

Moving from Repository to Learning Spaces

Sustaining a Makerspace

Strategies for creating a maker culture



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Number 3
February 2016

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MAKING THE CLASSROOM-LIBRARY CONNECTION by Judi Moreillon

Moreillon reports results of a three-hour workshop presented to 165 preK-12 student teachers in the 2013-2014 academic year. A team of teacher librarian educators and advocates developed the workshop to influence preservice classroom teachers' understanding of classroom-library collaboration for instruction as well encourage them to seek out classroom teacher-school librarian instructional partnerships during student teaching. The report is based on participant evaluations of whole and small group sessions. The results show a positive response to the workshop and suggest practicing teacher librarians should make every effort to offer a coplanning session during preservice teachers' student teaching experience.

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Seattle Academy in Seattle, Washington, has developed a learning commons encompassing multi-purpose spaces for common library activities such as research, study, presentation rehearsal, and team collaboration while also functioning as spaces for student dining, meetings, community events, and student art display.

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MENTAL SCRIPTS FOR NURTURING DISPOSITIONS OF INQUIRY by Jean Donham

AASL's Standards for the 21st Century Learner urges librarians to include dispositions in their teaching. Yet, school librarians often find it perplexing to determine how dispositions might be taught. Donham urges librarians to incorporate Ritchhart's six specific habits of mind in their teaching. Through brief memorable scripts, librarians can teach students to be open-minded, curious, metacognitive, investigative, strategic, and skeptical.

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SCHOOL LIBRARIES, LIBRARIANS, AND INQUIRY LEARNING by Deborah Levitov

In recent years inquiry-based learning emphasis has emerged within initiatives such as Partnerships for 21st Century Learning, the AASL Standards for Student Learning, and Common Core State Standards. This newfound attention to inquiry often gives the impression that this is a new, emerging concept in education. This article explores the long history of inquiry reflected in the literature, research, and practice within the school library profession.

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PRESENTING THE SCHOOL LIBRARY PROGRAM IN A PUBLIC FORUM by Ann Welton

There are many ways to present effectively to stakeholder groups such as school boards. Faced with a challenging year with no administrative oversight, a cadre of school librarians in Tacoma, Washington, decided to approach a school board presentation as a study session. They provided a White Paper to show how school librarians and libraries impact student learning and support district academic goals and initiatives.

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SUSTAINING A MAKERSPACE by Kristin Fontichiaro

In this article Fontichiaro stresses the importance of identifying the long-term vision, goals, budget, activities, necessary human power, and goals of a makerspace. This article offers strategies for creating a maker culture and highlights projects that can sustain over time.

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Resources for Teacher Librarians and Other Educators

David V. Loertscher

Hovious, Amanda. **Transmedia Storytelling: The Librarian's Guide.** (Libraries Unlimited, 2016. 142 p. \$45. ISBN: 9781440838484)

Do you love storytelling? Do you know what *Inanimate Alice* is? Do you like creativity and using technology to *create* stories as well as tell them? Do you want children and teens to become story tellers as well as story listeners? If you answered *yes* to any of these questions, run, don't walk your way into this new book. Transmedia storytelling means the creation of stories in a wide variety of formats and genres from writing them on paper to inventing and creating them in many different kinds of virtual and real worlds using various forms of technology. With degrees both in library and information science and instructional design, Hovious helps us all push storytelling into an entirely new world that will not just entertain kids and teens, but add a wide skill set to their literacy bucket. So many librarians are wondering what to do with the tug of traditional practices in story times in both school and public libraries and this new generation who are growing up in the world of social media, games, and film. Trust me on this one: Hovious pushes the envelope and this envelope is worth opening. Now.

Deskins, Liz. **Linking Picture Book Biographies to National Content Standards: 200 Lives to Explore.** (Libraries Unlimited, 2015. 153 p. \$45. ISBN: 9781440835230)

New standards in many U.S. states now encourage linking children and teens into a wider range of nonfiction books as a part of curricular units of study. These activities are coming into the library learning commons for amplification and to benefit from coteaching. Deskins teaches us all how to integrate our time-honored tradition of sharing great books

with young people and at the same time helping to energize science, social studies, and other disciplinary studies. She gives tips for doing so and then helps with some 200 annotated books to consider. As a refreshed strategy of integration, backed up by the resources and tips, this book is a winner. Highly recommended.

Byrne, Richard. **The Practical Ed Tech Handbook.** (FreeTech4Teachers.com, 2016. Free at: <https://app.box.com/s/xf79d4u4lefkp3d3i03kkeflah1lei81>, or at: <http://tinyurl.com/hymmewp>)

If you have connected into the resources sent out daily by Richard Byrne, then you already know about the helpful daily tips about software, websites, tools, and technology for students K-12. Periodically, Richard issues guidebooks on various groups of useful tools, and this one not only guides you to resources but also links you to the rest of his publications. In this guide, he covers: communication with students and parents, web-searching strategies, digital citizenship, video creation, audio recording and publishing, backchannels and information assessment, and digital portfolios. Each tool has a description and recommendation for use along with a useful video tutorial. This is not only of use to teacher librarians, but also to other teachers and specialists in the school. Student tech teams that work out of the learning commons should keep up to date using these guides so that they can be tech advisors all across the school. The price is right. And, Richard keeps updating these guides from time to time. Highly recommended.

McKenzie, Jamie. **The Great Report: A Guide for Students and Teachers Who Wish to Replace Tedium with Delight.** (FNO Press, 2016, 170 p. \$25. ISBN: 9780985698515)

I don't know about you, but I often think I have mastered a concept or practice, and so I build a mindless set of teaching strategies without any rethinking. I forget that I forget and have to push myself to rethink and freshen both central ideas and what needs a fresh outlook to keep the excitement and passion going. Reading Jamie McKenzie's book on inquiry made me re-examine what I know, how I think about it, and how I teach it. If I were a novice at teaching inquiry, this book would be a great experience; if a pro, then an opportunity to rethink, re-examine, and question what I am doing or not doing. Jamie's approach is to take his five pillars of greatness during inquiry and provoke our thinking about what we know and that great question, "So what?" Those



pillars are: Curiosity, Mystery, Challenge, Novelty, and, Delight. There is a chapter devoted to each pillar but also chapters devoted to their use in various settings and levels of education. We are reminded over and over of the dangers of superficial gathering and regurgitating facts about a topic or question posed by the teacher's assignment. Instead, we are reminded of techniques and strategies to help the learner care, probe, question, discover, think, and create. This book is a highly recommended brush up for the experienced and a fine introduction for teachers or novices wanting to become great teacher librarians.

Isaacs, Kathleen T. **Excellent Books for Early and Eager Readers.** (ALA, 2016. 251 p. \$52. ISBN: 9780838913444)

This is a fun list that every parent wishes they had for their early precocious readers who are driving their teachers crazy because they are reading before we expect them to do so. After a couple of explanatory chapters about this type of reader and how the books were selected, Isaacs gives us an annotated bibliography by topics. These include themes such as: talking animals and little people, traditional tales, real places and people, humor, and more complicated plots among others. This list needs to be circulated to the teachers of preschoolers and Kindergarteners. It is an example of a list that needs to be in a database for easy direct ordering by teacher librarians. The printed bibliography continues to be published, but needs to be a database that is constantly updated by authors. One wonders if this will ever happen in the library world. Recommended for programs serving our wonderful youngsters.

MacMillan, Kathy and Kirker, Christine. **More Storytime Magic.** (ALA, 2016. 190 p. \$52. ISBN: 9780838913680)

Do you have a story time in the public library sense but in your school library? If so, these two authors continue their topical guide to find programs complete with directions for props and activities. If you liked their first volume, then this one will add to the collection. For teacher librarians, such an idea book is valuable when trying to tie in stories to curriculum but keep it fun without the onerous assignments attached. Themes include: animals, around the world, at home, all about me, bugs and insects, concepts, fairy tales and castles, family and friends, food, holidays and friends, the natural world, people in my neighborhood, play, school and library, sing and dance, and transportation. For the younger set.

Halla, Ken. **Deeper Learning Through Technology: Using the Cloud to Individualize Instruction.** (Corwin Press, 2015. 176 p. \$34.95, ISBN: 9781483344683)

If you are familiar with the SAMR model, you know that the challenge of technology is to actually use it in ways that boost learning. And, if you have attended a Joyce Valenza Smackdown, you understand the parade of tools and quick ideas for their incorporation into teaching and learning. This volume can be thought of as a "fat smackdown" of more in-depth tips on pushing the technology itself and those using it into superior learning. The book begins addressing you as a professional and how to hone your own world of professional development using technology. This is followed by chapters on various

YA FICTION

A TOUCH OF MAGIC

Sands, Kevin. **The Blackthorn Key.** Aladdin, 2015. 384 p. \$17.99. 9781481446518. Grades 5-8. In this historical thriller, 14-year-old Christopher races to solve the mystery of who is killing apothecaries across 1665 London. He must decipher messages and figure out puzzles that send him through secret passages and into hidden rooms. An appealing combination of history, mystery, and a bit of fantasy.

Ruby, Laura. **Bone Gap.** B&B, 2015. 368 p. \$17.99. 9780062317605. Grades 8 up. Lovely Roza, a Polish immigrant, has won hearts in Bone Gap, especially of a young man named Sean. When she disappears, he thinks she's run off, but his younger brother, Finn, saw her taken by a silver-eyed man. As Roza tries to free herself from captivity, Finn searches for her enlisting Petey, a girl he likes who's considered homely. An original, absorbing story about love, trust, and our emphasis on female looks.

Cornwell, Betsy. **Mechanica.** Clarion Books, 2015. 320 p. \$17.99 9780547927718. Grades 6-10. In this charming steampunk Cinderella story, Mechanica does the housework for her cold stepmother and stepsisters with the help of machines and magic. The workshop of her mother, who had been an inventor, inspires Mechanica to follow in her footsteps. She makes friends when she sells her inventions and later attends both a ball and an engineering competition. Great fun with a heroine who loves to weld.

Bow, Erin. **The Scorpion Rules.** McElderry, 2015. 320 p. \$17.99. 9780547927718. Grades 9 up. In this futuristic tale, Greta, 17, daughter of Canada's queen, has grown up at a boarding school for children of world rulers. When nations fight, the offspring of their rulers are killed as a deterrent. With war likely against Canada, Greta expects to die soon. A new student throws the school into disarray as he questions the system while also introducing Greta to romance. Suspenseful and thought-provoking.

types of tools and their use with students. Clear directions are given when a specific skill is needed. Topics include teacher collaboration using the cloud to advantage, flipping the classroom, interactive assignments, student collaboration, and assessment practices. If you are like me, I am always looking for a new technique to try; one that will squeeze a bit more learning out in the same or less time. Lots of tips in this recommended source.

Jacolson, Trudy E. and Mackey, Thomas P., eds. **Metaliteracy in Practice.** (ALA Neal-Schuman, 2016. 256 p. \$70. ISBN: 9780838913796)

Metaliteracy is a term used by academic librarians to push the teaching practices of academic librarians beyond one-shot sessions where they make students aware of resources and how to search commercial databases. The editors published a previous book describing a whole new range of concerns and literacies including digital citizenship, concentration on the creation of knowledge rather than just regurgitation, use of technologies in the creation of student products, and the response of libraries to the real needs of students rather than just those we perceive that they need. In this book, they gather a range of full length chapters that describe new practices to fulfill the new information literacy standards for academic libraries. For high school teacher librarians, our aim is to prepare many of our students for college. This book helps us realize that just trying to prepare students for the academic research paper is not enough. Having said that, I think that if teacher librarians are looking at a range of literature that includes academic library practice, there are many shorter ar-

ticles about these practices. So, while this collection brings a number of these ideas together, there are easier and less expensive alternatives. This collection is recommended if you have ample budgets to purchase professional books; but you can check out your own databases for articles on metaliteracy just as easily.

Piepenburg, Scott. **Digitizing Audio-visual and Nonprint Materials: The Innovative Librarian's Guide.** (Libraries Unlimited, 2016. 94 p. \$50. ISBN: 9781440837807)

So you have materials laying around that are valuable as archival items such as school yearbooks, great sound slide materials from school activities . . . materials you want to preserve and are afraid that no one will be able to play, like those audio cassettes or CDs or old film formats? Piepenburg describes the equipment, techniques, and processes necessary to preserve these materials through digitization. The book may be very valuable to your student tech team who may be invited to investigate digitization as a preservation practice. It would be a very valuable skill to learn, for example, how to convert those old videotapes that no one can play anymore. There are jobs in preservation now, even at local COSTCOs and in many business and industrial settings where preservation is important. This book just might help not only your school but also the young people learning how to deal with preservation.

Maniotes, Leslie K., LaDawna Harrington, and Patrice Lambusta. **Guided Inquiry Design in Action: Middle School.** (Libraries Unlimited, 2016. 158 p. \$40, ISBN: 9781440837647)

Those familiar with the Maniotes

Inquiry model realize that it is a much more thorough stepped strategy than other models. It has been designed to push kids into much deeper learning than they are normally accustomed to doing. This volume concentrates on the earlier age and, for most kids, the first real in-depth learning challenge. The trio of authors first introduces and reviews the steps of the model, and then the rest of the book contains full directions for conducting a sample inquiry including handouts and other helps. The advantage here is that, if you are unfamiliar with the extensive model, you have enough guidance to use one with real middle schoolers, and then after some practice embark on your own. While inquiry is encouraged in Common Core, we have noticed that many teachers want "short" projects so they can get on with their "coverage" so they can say that they have done that. If a teacher will team with you as an information professional on one or more of these in-depth experiences, they will begin to realize the major difference between inquiry they would do alone in the classroom and an experience cotaught alongside you. The difference in learning is likely to be huge. Thus, the volume is highly recommended to those who are tackling the major investigation with students. It is a great experience that will help them become much more sophisticated when they reach high school.