

# Professional Books for Your Summer Reading

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In a departure from our regular reviews column, we went through our book review shelves to pull out titles we think teacher-librarians might consider for personal professional reading this summer.

Instead of treating titles individually, we have woven a narrative and list by topic, which are up for your consideration. Full information on the various titles is listed at the end of the review section and we have included only the books we recommend here.

## DEVELOPING A LEARNING COMMONS

Since the publication of *The New School Learning Commons* in 2008, a number of publications have appeared. The *Learning Commons Treasury* is the first book from the new Teacher Librarian Press and is a collection of articles about the learning commons that have appeared in *Teacher Librarian* over the past several years. An excellent way to keep up with the topic is to visit <http://schoollearningcommons.pbworks.com>.

The *Building a Learning Commons: A Handbook for Administrators and Learning Leaders* provides not only an introduction to the concept but a wide variety of checklists, plans, and assessment strategies.

The state of Ohio has recently developed their INFOhio 21st Century Learning Commons and the Ontario School Library Association has developed its *Together for Learning: School Libraries and the Emergence of the Learning Commons*. Later this year, watch for a similar provincial guide to the learning commons by the province of Alberta, Canada.

## INTRIGUING POPULAR BOOKS

If you enjoyed Seth Godin's *Tribes*, check out his latest book for radical change in *Linchpin*. Gordon helps us get the courage to be different and indispensable in our organizations. Daniel Pink fans will enjoy his latest book *Drive* in which he explores that inner motivation to create, to be better, and to accomplish meaningful things rather than doing things for external reward. Continuing with the topic of change, Michael Fullen's major book *The Six Secrets of Change* is further extended in his new *All Systems Go* in which he argues for change across the entire organization. Contrast all these ideas with Fisher's *The Perfect Swarm* that looks across crowds and groups to distill some basic rules of both leading and behaving differently.

## THOUGHTFUL EDUCATION READS

Any time you can read something by Linda Darling-Hammons, do so. She is a major voice in sensible education trying to move the nation beyond the fact-querying bubble tests of NCLB on to a higher road. Her *The Flat World and Education* discusses the broadening gap and inequality present in education currently and what to do about it. As a community and teacher-librarians, we need to direct her attention to a vision of what we could do across the continent to really help every child and teen. Our second pick for the summer is Heidi Hayes Jacobs' *Curriculum 21*. In each chapter, if we think the concepts of a library/learning commons, we are likely to yell out, Yes! Yes! Yes! We are all ready to do that. She gets the idea of the 21st century connected kid and the need to build exciting, engaging, and challenging learning experiences. And, if you like the Michael Fullen book cited above, try *Six Pillars of Dynamic Schools* that looks across the school system for six major characteristics including our idea of collaboration to discover the factors that really make a difference. Do not forget David Perkins' *Making Learning Whole*, which looks at how to best approach learning anything, including the subjects presented to students in school with seven principles that help transform education and learning strategies.

## INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY

It is difficult to find a better and more comprehensive treatment than Trilling's *21st Century Skills*. He and co-author Fadel, bring together the many different definitions of what 21st century skills are and how they fit into a coherent pattern of skills that build deep content understanding. It is also refreshing to read Will Richardson's *Blogs, Wikis, Podcasts, and Other Powerful Web Tools for Classrooms* in which he stresses how to boost learning through tech tools rather than just using them to join the fad. We continue to appreciate the voice of Jamie McKenzie in his latest book of essays, *Beyond Cut-and-Paste* with the usual thought-provoking turns of phrase and sensibility in the use of learning technologies.



## GRAPHIC NOVELS

## WOMEN WHO FLY

**A.D.: New Orleans after the deluge.** Josh Neufeld. Pantheon, 2009. \$24.95. 978-0-307-37814-9. Grades 9 and up. The story of Hurricane Katrina is ugly. Now it is also human. Neufeld's retelling of the first-hand accounts of survivors of the disaster communicates the stubbornness, naïveté, and—too often—lack of any other option that kept people in the city as the corpses rose along with the water. The story points to unlikely heroes as well as the failure of people who might have been heroes. It follows the survivors' stories from before the storm hits, keeping careful track of the passage of time as disaster mounts. It recounts their few successes as they fight off disease and discomfort at the best of times, and it ends a year and half after, tallying the losses and whispering the fear that New Orleans will never heal.

**Outlaw: The Legend of Robin Hood.** Tony Lee, Sam Hart, and Artur Fujita. Candlewick, 2009. \$21.99. 978-0-7636-4399-7. Grades 7 and up. This beautifully colored, self-contained story of the rise of Robin Hood layers together different versions of the myth seamlessly, presenting a thought-provoking vision of the legend shot through with love, despair, betrayal, and ultimately victory. Lee grounds Robin's character in a moving story of how his father, through failure, drove Robin to be the consummate archer. Marian's character is stunned into action by a revelation about her dead husband. The result is a story motivated by broken people refusing to surrender.

Then we recommend the variety of ideas for early teens in *Differentiating Instruction with Technology* if you are looking for engaging strategies to perk interest in learning. And, there is a continuing flood of books that discuss the new connected generation and its influence on teaching and learning. Any one of the following three provide additional insight and recommendations: *The World is Open; Rethinking Education in the Age of Technology*; and, *Cyber Kids, Cyber Bullying, and Cyber Balance*.

For teaching 21st century skills, try a new book from ASCD entitled *Developing Habits of Mind in Elementary Schools*, a topic we have not seen much about in the ideas literature. It includes many of the AASL dispositions and also others as well. In addition, a collection of articles previously published is in the handy *21st Century Learning in School Libraries* brings together both ideas and reflections on topics beyond just teaching a research model. There are many good collection development books, but Peggy Johnson's *Fundamentals of Collection Development and Management* reminds us of the core tenets of developing a collection that represents audience needs well, and it also weaves in great information about how to work effectively with the emerging information technologies that face all librarians today.

## EDUCATIONAL MATTERS

Many schools are adopting the RTI or Response to Intervention method of assessing and diagnosing each learner for the purpose of helping each person achieve the goals of instruction. There are a number of books on RTI available in the market and perhaps your school is studying one together. You might consult *Enhancing RTI* by Fisher and Frey as a supplement for ideas on how to co-teach and assess progress alongside classroom teachers. Another popular voice in professional development is Douglas Reeves who is doing a great deal of work across the United States. His *Transforming Professional Development into Student Results* is just one of his many books and articles and as succinct a read as any of his

ideas. Another recognized author, Bruce Joyce, provides a variety of approaches in his *Models of Professional Development* in an attempt to reach a variety of teachers with varying teaching styles. And for those who are still mystified with differentiation of instruction, we recommend a book of a hundred condensed ideas entitled *Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners*. One topic deserving constant attention is learning the art of questioning, which is as old as education itself. *Leading through Quality Questioning* is another in a long line of titles of recent years but worth a look as a reminder and idea generator. Lastly, an enticing idea that can be used in both the classroom and the learning commons is covered in *The Kinesthetic Classroom* with a plethora of ideas on using movement to develop learning and learners. You can never know enough about the movement regarding common standards throughout the United States (the latest information can always be found at <http://www.corestandards.org/>). Compare this set of standards with what your school/state/association is doing.

## TAMING TEENS

For some reason, there has been a Nashville flood of books exploring services to teenagers. These titles just might spark some fresh ideas for use in the fall: There is the lengthy bibliography, *Disabilities and Disorders in Literature for Youth: A Selective Annotated Bibliography for K-12*, and to freshen up the same old literature studies, try *Adolescent Literature as a Complement to the Classics*. And to engage teens in reading, try, *Booktalking with Teens*. Two titles that cross school and public library activities include *Urban Teens in the Library*, and *Library Programs for Teens: Mystery Theater*. John Guthrie in *Engaging Adolescents in Reading* gives strategies for how to create more teen interest in reading. Speaking of teens, the Linda Tuhiwai Smith book called *Decolonizing Methodologies* focuses on how to not only research various minority population groups but then it offers insights into how to best use this kind of information to create a more di-

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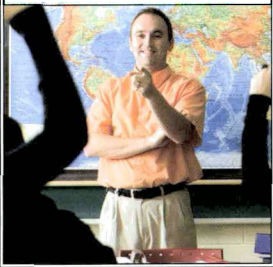
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## BOOKS MENTIONED

*21st Century Learning in School Libraries.* Kristin Fonticharo. Libraries Unlimited, 2009. 978-1-59158-895-5.

*21st Century Skills: Learning for Life in Our Times.* Bernie Trilling and Charles Fadel. Jossey-Bass, 2009. 978-0-470-47538-6.

*Adolescent Literature as a Complement to the Classics: Addressing Critical Issues in Today's Classrooms.* Joan F. Kaywell. Christopher-Gordon, 2010. 978-1-933760-30-8.

*All Systems Go: The Change Imperative for Whole System Reform.* Corwin Press, 2010. 978-1-4129-7873-6.

*Beyond Cut-and-Paste: Engaging Students in Making Good Ideas.* Jamie McKenzie. FNO Press, 2009. 978-0-9674078-0-7.

*Blogs, Wikis, Podcasts, and Other Powerful Web Tools for Classrooms.* Will Richardson. Corwin Press, 2010. 978-1-4129-7747-0.

*Booktalking with Teens.* Katherine Mahood. Libraries Unlimited, 2010. 978-1-59158-714-9.

*Building a Learning Commons: A Handbook for Administrators and Learning Leaders.* Carol Koechlin, Esther Rosenfeld, and David V. Loertscher. Hi Willow/LMC Source, 2010. 978-1-933170-59-6.

Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSS) is available at <http://www.corestandards.org/>.

*Curriculum 21: Essential Education for a Changing World.* Heidi Haayes Jacobs. ASCD, 2010. 978-1-4166-0940-7.

*Cyber Kids, Cyber Bullying, Cyber Balance.* Barbara C. T

rolley and Constance Hanel. Corwin, 2010. 978-1-4129-7292-5.

*Decolonizing Methodologies.* Linda Tuhiwai Smith. Zed Books, 2008. 978-1-85649-624-7.

*Developing Habits of Mind in Elementary Schools.* Karen Boyes and Graham Watts. ASCD, 2009. 978-1-4166-0887-5.

*Differentiating with Instructional Technology in Middle School Classrooms.* Grace E. Smith and Stephanie Throne. ISTE, 2009. 978-1-56484-233-6.

*Disabilities and Disorder in Literature for Youth.* Alice Crosetto, Rajinder Garcia, and Mark Horan. Scarecrow Press, 2009. 978-0-8108-5977-7.

*Drive: The Surprising Truth about What Motivates Us.* Daniel H. Pink. Riverhead, 2009. 978-1-59448-884-9.

*Engaging Adolescents in Reading.* John Guthrie. Corwin Press, 2008. 978-1-4129-5335-1.

*Enhancing RTI: How to Ensure Success with Effective Classroom Instruction and Interventions.* Douglas Fisher and Nancy Frey. ASCD, 2010. 978-1-4166-0978-0.

*Flat World and Education: How America's Commitment to Equity Will Determine Our Future (Multicultural Education).* Linda Darling-Hammond. Teachers College Press, 2010. 978-0-8077-4962-3.

*Fundamentals of collection development and management, 2nd edition.* Peggy Johnson. ALA, 2009. 978-0-8389-0972-0.

INFOhio 21st Century Learning Commons is available at <http://learningcommons.infohio.org/>.

*Leading through quality questioning: Creating capacity, commitment, and community.* Corwin Press, 2010. 978-1-4129-6061-8.

*Learning Commons Treasury.* David V. Loertscher and Elizabeth "Betty" Marcoux, Eds. Teacher Librarian Press/LMC Source, 2010. 978-1-61751-000-7.

*Library Programs for Teens: Mystery Theater.* Karen J. Siwak. Scarecrow, 2010. 978-0-8108-4992-1.

*Linchpin: Are you Indispensable?* Seth Godin. Portfolio, 2010. 978-1-59184-316-0.

*Making Learning Whole.* David Perkins. Jossey-Bass, 2009. 978-0-470-38452-7.

*Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners.* Paula Rutherford. Just Ask Publications, 2010. 978-0-9797280-4-4.

*Models of Professional Development: A Celebration of Educators.* Corwin Press, 2010. 978-1-4129-7806-4.

*New School Learning Commons: Where Learners Win.* David V. Loertscher, Carol

Koehlin and Sandi Zwaan. Hi Willow/LMCSource, 2008. 978-1-933170-40-4.

*Perfect Swarm: The Science of Complexity in Everyday Life.* Len Fisher. Basic Books, 2009. 978-0-465-01884-0.

*Rethinking Education in the Age of Technology.* Allan Collins and Richard Halverson. Teacher College Press, 2009. 978-0-8077-5002-5.

*Six Pillars of Dynamic Schools.* Stephen W. Edwards and Paul E. Chapman. Educational Research Service, 2009. 978-1-931762-86-1.

*Six Secrets of Change: What the Best Leaders do to Help Their Organizations Survive and Thrive.* Jossey-Bass, 2008. 978-0-7879-8882-1.

*The Kinesthetic Classroom: Teaching and Learning through Movement.* Traci Lengel and Mike Kuczala. Corwin Press, 2010. 978-1-4129-7954-2.

*The World is Open: How Web Technology is Revolutionizing Education.* Curtis J. Bonk. Jossey-Bass, 2009. 978-0-470-46130-3.

*Together for Learning: School Libraries and the Emergence of the Learning Commons.* The Ontario School Library Association, 2010 (available from the Ontario Library Association). 978-0-88969-056-1.

*Transforming Professional Development into Student Results.* Douglas B. Reeves. ASCD, 2010. 978-1-4166-0949-0.

*Tribes: We Need You to Lead Us.* Seth Godin. Portfolio, 2008. 978-1-59184-233-0.

*Urban Teens in the Library: Research and Practice.* Denise E. Agosto and Sandra Hughes-Hassell, eds. ALA, 2010. 978-0-8389-1015-3.

## TELL US WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO READ



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