

TL's Best Professional Books of 2010 and Book Reviews for the Librarian

David V. Loertscher & Elizabeth "Betty" Marcoux

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School Learning Commons

LEARNING COMMONS TREASURY

David V. Loertscher and Elizabeth "Betty" Marcoux, eds.

Teacher Librarians Press, 2010. 146 pp. \$25.00. 978-1-61751-000-7. Bottom line: This work is a two-year collection of articles about the school learning commons from the pages of *Teacher Librarian*.

ASSESSING FOR LEARNING: LIBRARIANS AND TEACHERS AS PARTNERS, 2ND ED.

Violet H. Harada and Joan M. Yoshima

Librarians Unlimited, 2010. 242 pp. \$45.00. 978-1-59884-470-2.

Bottom line: Simply the best book of the teacher-librarian's perspective on the world of assessment and how to do it in the framework of teaching and learning in the learning commons.

HOW TO ASSESS HIGHER-ORDER THINKING SKILLS IN YOUR CLASSROOM

Susan M. Brookhart

ASCD, 2010. 159 pp. \$24.95. 978-1-4166-1048-9.

Bottom line: Higher order thinking is rarely assessed because so much attention is given to recall. This book provides sound strategies for measuring what we all value.

THE MANY FACES OF SCHOOL LIBRARY LEADERSHIP

Sharon Coatney, ed.

Librarians Unlimited, 2010. 147pp. \$40.00. 978-1-59158-893-1.

Bottom line: Coatney presents a collection of thoughtful issue papers by school library greets.

COPYRIGHT FOR SCHOOLS: A PRACTICAL GUIDE, 5TH ED.

Carol Simpson

Linworth, 2010. 251 pp. \$45.00. 978-1-58683-393-0.

Bottom line: Trust Carol Simpson on this topic because she has degrees in both library science and law. This title keeps up with the changes that happen regularly.

THE RESILIENT SCHOOL LIBRARY

Carol Doll and Beth Doll

Librarians Unlimited, 2010. 123 pp. \$40.00. 978-1-59158-639-5.

Bottom line: So many young people are growing up in such dysfunctional families they are seeking ways to cope with the world and its problems. These two authors bring their considerable experience together to help adults help their students be resilient. Worth a careful read.—Elizabeth "Betty" Marcoux

Technology

CYBER KIDS, CYBER BULLYING, CYBER BALANCE

Barbara C. Trolley and Constance Hanel

Corwin Press, 2010. 184 pp. \$31.95. 978-1-4129-7292-5.

Bottom line: Herein and available are lots of sensible advice on how to handle this seemingly perennial problem.

BLOGS, WIKIS, PODCASTS, AND OTHER POWERFUL WEB TOOLS FOR CLASSROOMS, 3RD ED.

Will Richardson

Corwin Press, 2010. 171 pp. \$31.95. 978-1-4129-7747-0.

Bottom line: This popular title by a very popular speaker about education and technology is worth your time.

NO SHELF REQUIRED: E-BOOKS IN LIBRARIES

Sue Polanka, ed.

ALA, 2011. 181 pp. \$65.00. 978-0-8389-1054-2.)

Bottom line: Essays about one of the hottest topics in libraries in a fast changing world of publishing and library experimentation.

UNDERSTANDING THE DIGITAL GENERATION: TEACHING AND LEARNING IN THE NEW DIGI- TAL LANDSCAPE

*(The 21st Century Fluency
Series)*

Ian Jukes

Corwin Press, 2010. 150 pp. 978-1-4129-3844-0.

Bottom line: Excellent essays discussing a wide range of issues in the use of technology with the current generation of social networkers.

TEACHING DIGITAL NATIVES: PARTNERING FOR REAL LEARNING

Marc Prensky

Corwin Press, 2010. 203 pp. \$33.95. 978-1-4129-7541-4.

Bottom line: A popular author and lecturer, Prensky provides solid ideas and visionary plans for use with the social networking crowd.

THE DIGITAL DIET: TODAY'S DIGITAL TOOLS IN SMALL BYTES

*(The 21st Century Fluency
Series)*

**Andrew Churches, Lee Crockett,
and Ian Jukes**

Corwin Press, 2010. 172 pp. \$29.95. 978-1-4129-8236-8.

Bottom line: This visionary group of consultants has produced an excellent look at the various technologies that can be used in education.

GOOGLE APPS FOR EDUCA- TION: BUILDING KNOWLEDGE IN A SAFE AND FREE ENVI- RONMENT

**Roger Nevin, Micah Melton, and
David V. Loertscher**

Hi Willow/LMC Source, 2010. \$25.00. 978-1-933170-63-3.

Bottomline: These three authors team up to cover the new learning environment of Google Apps for Education that has recently celebrated its ten millionth student user.

BEYOND CUT-AND-PASTE: EN- GAGING STUDENTS IN MAKING GOOD NEW IDEAS

Jamie McKenzie

FNO Press, 2009. 164 pp. \$20.00. 978-0-9674078-0-7.

Bottom line: Regular readers of McKenzie will appreciate this, his latest collection of well-written columns on education, libraries, and technology.

Curriculum and General Education

21ST CENTURY SKILLS: RE- THINKING HOW STUDENTS LEARN

James Bellanca and Ron Brandt, eds.

Solution Tree, 2010. 375 pp. \$34.95. 978-1-935249-90-0.

Bottom line: A collection of excellent essays exploring a wide variety of learning how to learn skills written by prominent education writers and thinkers.

CURRICULUM 21: ESSENTIAL EDUCATION FOR A CHANGING WORLD

Heidi Hayes Jacobs

ASCD, 2010. 251 pp. \$26.95. 978-1-4166-0940-7.

Bottom line: This is the perfect book that matches what a learning commons could do. Now, if Jacobs would get acquainted with a library, this book could become our bible.

THE FLAT WORLD AND EDUCATION: HOW AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO EQUITY WILL DETERMINE OUR FUTURE *(Multicultural Education)*

Linda Darling-Hammond

Curriculum 21/Economic Policy Institute and Teachers College Press, 2010. 240 pp. \$21.95. 978-0-8077-4962-3.

Bottom line: There are few better or smarter writers in education than this in-demand consultant from Stanford. It's worth reading anything she writes.

HABITS OF MIND ACROSS THE CURRICULUM: PRACTICAL AND CREATIVE STRATEGIES FOR TEACHERS

**Arthur L. Costa and
Bena Kallick, eds.**

ASCD, 2009. 237 pp. \$26.95. 978-1-4166-0763-2.

Bottom line: There are many more skills than just research skills for the teacher-librarian to consider. This excellent collection of ideas covers many of the dispositions of the AASL standards document.

DEVELOPING A NETWORKED SCHOOL COMMUNITY A GUIDE TO REALISING THE VISION

Mal Lee and Glenn Finger, eds.

Australian Council on Education/Acer Press/Amazon.com, 2010. 355 pp. \$70.00. 978-0-86431-981-4.

Bottom line: Essays from Australia provide the vision for a shift to a lively learning commons in the school as a part of a major educational philosophy shift.

THE DEATH AND LIFE OF THE GREAT AMERICAN SCHOOL SYSTEM: HOW REFORM AND CHOICE ARE UNDERMINING EDUCATION

Diane Ravitch

Basic Books, 2010. 182 pp. \$26.95. 978-0-465-01491-0.



YA NONFICTION

SOME OF THE BEST!

Isabel Allende (Today's Writers and Their Works). Joan Axelrod-Contrada. Marshall Cavendish, 2011. 978-0-7614-4116-8. \$42.79. Grades 7-12. As one of the most admired Latin American authors, Allende's personal story reads like her novels, full of zealous, feminist female characters. Featured here, in addition to biographical information, are in-depth looks at two of the author's works, *House of the Spirits* and *Eva Luna*. Back matter includes extensive chapter notes, time line, bibliography and index.

Scientific Exploration and Expeditions: From the Age of Discovery to the Twenty-First Century. Neil Hamilton. Sharpe, 2011. 978-0-7656-8076-1. Grades 7-12. \$168.00. Two-Volume Set. With each article placed between a chronology and additional reading, this encyclopedia set is uncomplicated to navigate and useful for current research information. Includes maps, photos, and fact boxes.

Score!: The Action and Artistry of Hockey's Magnificent Moment (Spectacular Sports). Mark Stewart and Mike Kennedy. Millbrook, 2011. 978-0-8225-8753-8. \$26.34. Grades 6-12. While not for the novice, here is a hockey book full of attention-grabbing stories and information about players and their goals that is sure to increase the already growing popularity of hockey. Colored photos and side bars add to the interest. Resources and index included.

Vegetarianism (Nutrition and Health). Susan M. Traugh. Lucent Books, 2011. 978-1-4205-0272-5. \$30.85. Grades 7-10. Here are chapters on the growing trend of vegetarianism and the reason, the nutrition involved, vegetarianism around the world and how to get started. Each title in this series deals with popular, current topics regarding nutrition and health: junk food, diet and disease, as well as food myths and vegetarianism. Back matter includes notes, organizations to contact, glossary, more reading, and an index.

Bottom line: Ravitch's mea culpa for supporting No Child Left Behind and what should be done about it.

THE HIGHLY ENGAGED CLASSROOM

Robert J. Marzano and Debra Pickering

Solution Tree Press, 2010. 224 pp. \$29.95. 978-0-9822592-4-5.

Bottom line: The fifteen strategies for transforming learning experiences into great events are all backed by research findings.

AHEAD OF THE CURVE: THE POWER OF ASSESSMENT TO TRANSFORM TEACHING AND LEARNING

Douglas Reeves, ed.

Solution Tree Press, 2007. 267 pp. \$34.95. 978-1-934009-06-2.

Bottom line: For writers treat the idea of assessment that are worth reading in preparation for higher-level tests due from the Feds in 2014.

DEVELOPING HABITS OF MIND IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (ASCD ActionTool)

Karen Boyes and Graham Watts, eds.

ASCD, 2010. 387 pp. \$69.00. 978-1-4166-0887-5.

Bottom line: This hefty volume is a treasure trove of ideas for teaching those dispositions teacher-librarians worry about. It follows their compilation in the last year for the secondary school.

WORLD WIDE MIND: THE COMING INTEGRATION OF HUMANITY, MACHINES, AND THE INTERNET

Michael Chorost

Free Press, 2010. 256 pp. \$26.00. 978-1-4391-1914-3.

Bottom line: This futuristic work predicts the merger of man and machine. You will have an opinion about this one.

SIX PILLARS OF DYNAMIC SCHOOLS

Steven W. Edwards, Paul E. Chapman, and Tracy Pastian

Educational Research Service, 2010. 154 pp. \$30.00. 978-1-931762-86-1.

Bottom line: These authors look at six major principles that must be in place if a school district is to actually make progress in improving itself. Provocative.

ALL SYSTEMS GO: THE CHANGE IMPERATIVE FOR WHOLE SYSTEM REFORM:

Michael Fullan

Corwin Press, 2010. 136 pp. \$23.95. 978-1-4129-7873-6.

Bottom line: Read everything this famous author writes. His wisdom on school reform is both visionary and practical.

Architecture

THE THIRD TEACHER: 79 WAYS YOU CAN USE DESIGN TO TRANSFORM TEACHING & LEARNING

Abrams, 2010. 255 pp. \$29.95. 978-0-8109-8998-6.

Bottom line: The best book on school architecture we have seen although it does not mention the learning commons. These architects are designing their first learning commons in the north suburbs of Chicago so they are worth watching.

Think Books

THE BACK OF THE NAPKIN: SOLVING PROBLEMS AND SELLING IDEAS WITH PICTURES

Dan Roam

Portfolio (Penguin Group), 2008. 278 pp. \$14.24. 978-1-59184-199-9

Bottom line: This is the first book of cartoon drawings for mindmapping and other planning and thinking strategies to hit the best seller list.

UNFOLDING THE NAPKIN: THE HANDS-ON METHOD FOR SOLVING COMPLEX PROBLEMS WITH SIMPLE PICTURES

Dan Roan

Penguin Group, 2009. 280 pp. 978-1-59184-319-1.

Using simple sketches to plan, explain, and develop ideas, the concept is akin to mind mapping and can be learned by almost anyone.

RAPID PROBLEM-SOLVING WITH POST-IT NOTES

David Straker

Da Capo Press, 1997. 156 pp. \$18.00. 978-1-55561-142-2.

Bottom line: Yes, an older title but a perfect compliment to the above two titles that will help learners of all ages build ideas and solve problems.

THE WORLD IS OPEN: HOW WEB TECHNOLOGY IS REVO- LUTIONIZING EDUCATION

Curtis J. Bonk

Jossey Bass, 2010. 480 pp. \$29.95. 978-0-470-46130-3.

Bottom line: Bonk provides many examples to support his thesis that the world is now open to learning anything at any time via technologies that are ubiquitous. So what is the future of organized schools and schooling?

BUY-IN: SAVING YOUR GOOD IDEA FROM GETTING SHOT DOWN

John P. Kotter

Harvard Business Press, 2010. 208 pp. \$22.00. 978-1-4221-5729-9.

Bottom line: Yes, this is a business book, but Kotter uses a public library story of a proposal to the town council to give a major lesson and strategy for getting your ideas adopted rather than shot down. Guaranteed to make you think about your own strategies.

THE PERFECT SWARM: THE SCIENCE OF COMPLEXITY IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Len Fisher

Basic Books, 2010. 288 pp. 978-0-465-02024-9.

Bottom line: How do ideas spread fast among large groups? What may seem to be complex, may not be so complex after all. A major think.

DRIVE: THE SURPRISING TRUTH ABOUT WHAT MOTIVATES US

Daniel Pink

Riverhead, 2009. 356 pp. \$26.95. 978-1-59448-884-9.

Bottom line: Just in case you missed this 2009 title, we present it again as a major help book on how to create the stamina we all need not only to survive but thrive in our world with our jobs. Excellent!—*Elizabeth "Betty" Marcour*

CURRENT REVIEWS

TRIED AND TRUE: TIME-TEST- ED ACTIVITIES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Inez Fugate Liftig, ed.

NSTA puts out a plethora of fun and scientifically accurate learning activity books. This one, for middle school, begins with essays of inquiry and other more constructivist ideas and then includes the editor's choice of the best from all the various branches of science. Teacher-librarians can get ideas here for working with science teachers as kids face problems, critical thinking, and exploration into the real and practical world of science. (NSTA, 2010. 197 pp. \$26.95. 978-1-936137-13-8.)

Bottom line: Recommended.

THE FRUGAL LIBRARIAN: THRIVING IN TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES

Carol Smallwood, ed.

Smallwood collects materials on topics and

assembles collections such as this one that tries to respond to hard times in the library's financial fortunes. She begins with essays on librarians out of work or trying to find employment and then moves to articles that suggest grants, programming, sharing, management, on-the-job success, staffing, and professional development—all these topics centering on tough economic times written by librarians around the United States who have experience in dealing with these matters. Idea books may be of value to teacher-librarians because they may suggest new ways of working around various types of challenges and thus the investment in the book may or may not pay off, but one good idea would be worth the investment. (ALA, 2011. 277 pp. \$42.00. 978-0-8389-1075-7.)

Bottom line: Borrow a copy if you can. A quick survey will be indicative of its value in your situation.

COACHING IN THE LIBRARY: A MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE

Ruth F. Metz

There are many styles of leadership and in the world of teacher-librarians, this quality of coaching rather than directing is a vital concept that must be learned. Metz writes for any type of library and covers the basics of coaching and then turns to coaching individuals, teams, leaders, managers, and the organization itself. (ALA, 2011. 103 pp. \$50.00. 978-0-8389-1037-5.)

Bottom line: Teacher-librarians need to do an analysis of their management style and this book would be a good read for someone wishing to learn more collaborative techniques. Is that you? If so, consider purchasing and perusing this slim volume.