Meeting Information
Needs:
Visiting a Virtual Library

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Session Agenda

- Defining Virtual Libraries
- Libraries and information services for DE students?
  - Research about impact of school libraries
  - Teen information behavior
- Lessons from the University Level
- Implications for K-12 Distance Education
What is a Virtual Library?

- Collection of resources, services, and information literacy instruction
- Available 24/7
- Extension of brick-and-mortar library
Virtual Library Components

- Pathfinders and webquests
- Reference service
- Subscription based resources – databases of articles, reference works, primary sources, streaming media
- Links to search tools
- Tutorials and other instructional information
- Library 2.0 services – blogs, wikis, podcasts, etc.
- Access to catalogs and interlibrary loan service
- Reading resources
Welcome to the Highland Middle School Virtual Learning Center!

Research Tools

**DATABASES**  **INTERNET SEARCH TOOLS**  **REFERENCE**

Databases - click on the icon to link to the databases

- EBSCOhost Databases
  - Use EBSCO's Middle Search to find magazine and newspaper articles, image collection, and online reference books.

- SIRS
  - SIRS research database has a wealth of reference information and articles.

- Cook Memorial Library Research Databases
  - A huge list of databases available with a public library card.
  - Don’t miss the Student Resource Center.

- WorldCat Services
  - FirstSearch, a collection of research tools provided by the state of IL, has a number of databases for academic research.

- NovelList
  - Wondering what to read next? Use NovelList!

- TeachingBooks.net
  - Collection of resources about children's authors. Access funded by an Educational Partnership grant.
School Libraries

School library research studies
Information Literacy
Libraries and K-12 Distance Learning programs
Teens and Information Behavior
School Libraries and Student Success

Studies conducted in 16 states have shown that students in schools with quality libraries and qualified school library media specialists have a positive relationship with student achievement.

Powerful Libraries Make Powerful Learners: The Illinois Study

Research Finding #1: Schools with better-staffed libraries have more students who succeed on tests.

Research Finding #2: High Schools with computers that connect to library catalogs and databases average 6.2% improvement on ACT scores.

Research Finding #3: Students that visit the library more frequently receive improved reading and writing scores.

Research Finding #4: Students with access to larger, more current book collections achieve higher reading, writing, and ACT scores.

Fun (and IMPORTANT) Fact about School Librarians

Certified school librarians are certified teachers AND librarians
Information Literacy

According to the American Library Association, “...to be information literate, a person must be able to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information.” (1989, para.3)
“Digital Information Fluency is the ability to find, evaluate and ethically use digital information efficiently and effectively to solve an information problem.”

IMSA 21st Century Information Fluency Project

http://21cif.imsa.edu
An information literate person does not live by Google alone.

Visit the Deep Web!

- BrightPlanet coined the term deep web. Some used the term invisible web previously.
- Surface web refers to the static web.
- Dynamically created pages help make up the deep web – which is estimated to be 500 times larger than the surface web.

Laura Cohen’s tutorial on the Deep Web can be found at http://www.internettutorials.net/deepweb.html
Connecting K-12 Distance Learners with Library Services
Where are the libraries?

“If you use the Internet -- which has pretty much replaced the public library as a resource -- you need to keep some simple rules in mind.”

-From a statewide virtual high school’s student resources page.
Kentucky Virtual High School’s link to a statewide virtual library is the exception, rather than the rule.
## Possible Resources for Information Seeking for Distance Students

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<th>Instructor generated resources</th>
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<td>Instructor linked resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internet - &quot;free web&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virtual library service linked to course</td>
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<tr>
<td>School library web site</td>
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<td>Physical school library</td>
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<td>Public library web site</td>
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<td>Physical public library</td>
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<td>Library staff member</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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Teens and the Internet

Sources Not to Miss:

- Pew Internet and American Life Project
  http://www.pewinternet.org/
- Frances Jacobsen Harris’ *I Found it on the Internet: Coming of Age Online*
Even Frequent Users Could Benefit From Instruction

From the Digital Disconnect Report

“…it was abundantly clear from conversations with focus group participants that even students who are frequently online could benefit from instruction and advice about how to use the Internet better. The students held many misconceptions about such basic things as how to use search engines, how computer viruses are contracted and spread, and how their privacy might be compromised online—just to cite a few examples.”

(Levin & Arafeh, 2002, p. 24)
Lessons Learned from the University Level

User studies of university distance education students’ use of various information sources have shown:

- Strong preference for Internet sources and the free web.
- Principle of least effort holds true.
- Technology Acceptance Model can be applied to use of online resources and virtual libraries.
- Users who use digital library services are generally satisfied.

(Kelley & Orr, 2003; Liu & Zhang, 2004; Hong, Thong, Wong & Tam, 2002; Yi & Hwang, 2003; Koohang, 2004; and McLean & Dew, 2004)
ACRL Guidelines

Guidelines for Distance Learning Library Services. First developed in 1963 but most recently revised in 2004.

http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlstandards/guidelinesdistancelearning.htm
Notes from Session Brainstorm

Resources Needed to Integrate Information Literacy in Distance Learning:

- Distance Learning Librarian
- Services comparable to on-campus services
- Easy access, 24/7
- Liaison to communicate between faculty and library and students
- Equity
- Instruction design help, collaboration
- Outreach and education of services using webinars, etc.
- Funding
- Citation management and ethical use issues
- Guidance to quality sources fee-based and free

Brainstorm from Workshop: Integrating Information Literacy
Implications for K-12 Distance Learning

Thoughts, conversations, creative solutions, and action
Equity Issues

- Differing K-12 models will have varied issues
- In classes with students enrolled from different local schools, how will access to resources be addressed?
Availability of Services and Library Professionals

- State libraries
- Consortia
- Building relationships between partner institutions
Virtual Reference Service

- Live Information Support
- One Example - AskAway!

- Cooperative project for Illinois and Wisconsin libraries operating 24/7
- LOW pricing for K-12 schools without staffing requirements
Chat Session Transcript:

Chat Transcript: Where can I find information about Vietnamese culture and communities in Illinois?

Erin: Good morning - can you help me find places to look for information about Vietnamese culture and communities in Illinois?

Butte County Librarian Is: Hi, this is the Reference Librarian. I am reading your question... Where have you looked so that I don't duplicate your search?

Erin: Mostly just online searching through Google and my local library OPAC

Erin: Search terms: vietnam, vietnamese, culture, illinois
Second Life’s Info Island

A new type of virtual library in a virtual reality world…

“Alliance Library System and OPAL are teaming up to utilize the programs currently offered online to librarians and library users to extend the programs to the Second Life virtual reality game. Although there are a couple of libraries currently on Second Life, none currently offers programs or services. Alliance and OPAL will start with programs and eventually hope to offer library services.”

From the Second Life Library Blog: http://secondlifelibrary.blogspot.com/
Creating Awareness and Competent Users

- Faculty are KEY to getting students to use varied information resources
- Faculty’s information seeking strategies inform their expectations for students
- Teachers can’t require what they don’t know. If teachers are requiring use, students will become users.
Information Literacy

"To be information literate, a person must be able to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information."

Comments and Questions

- Please continue the conversation about adding information services and resources to K12 distance learning.

- Thank you.
References


References


