Title of Session: Targeting Librarians! School/Public Library Connections via Technology
Moderator: Lesley Farmer
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LesleyF: Welcome, folks!

RandyZ: hello

LesleyF: Ready to talk about school-public library connections via technology?

RandyZ: sure!

LesleyF: While we're waiting for others, let's reintroduce ourselves. I coordinate the library media teacher program at California St. University at Long Beach

BjB: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and librarians are my favorite people

RandyZ: I'm a technology specialist in PA...and am interested to see what librarians are doing with technology.

LesleyF: Do you work in a K-12 setting, Randy?

DavidWe joined the room.

RandyZ: yes...middle and high school

DavidWe: Hi, Randy

BjB: welcome, David

LesleyF: Hi, David. We're introducing ourselves.

DavidWe: Hi, Lesley

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I'm in Pennsylvania making gravy for pot roast

DavidWe . o O (Randy met me yesterday, if not before)

LesleyF: for a job, David??

RandyZ: yes...is this the PA group?

LesleyF: Well, I used to teach in Philadelphia, so the network continues

LesleyF: I was the library specialist at NE Catholic HS.

LesleyF: And earned my Ed.Dl. at Temple.

LesleyF: Does PA still have Palinet?

BjB: haven't come across it, Lesley

LesleyF: it was a statewide database for libraries.

RandyZ: no I don't think so.

BjB: http://www.palinet.org/

LesleyF: Do you folks know what I'm referring to when I say subscription databases? They're full-text indexes to magazine/journal articles, usually.

RandyZ: yes

DavidWe: I believe it still exists, Lesley

DavidWe: Although it may have been absorbed into something bigger

DavidWe: http://www.palinet.org/

BjB . o O (mid-Atlantic)

LesleyF: looks like it.

JeffC joined the room.

LesleyF: Hi, Jeff.

JeffC waves... had to find my towel.

LesleyF: We're just starting to talk about school-public library collaboration via technology.

LesleyF: PALINET in the mid-Atlantic is one example of how libraries can connect/coordinate.

LesleyF: Several statewide collaborations for subscription databases exist (only 4 don't -- one of which is California...).

BjB: PALINET is for both public and school libraries?

LesleyF: I believe so.

LesleyF: yes

BjB: what is the typical fee for a subscription to a database like that?

LesleyF: Let me put it this way, my university spends a half million dollars in subscription databases.

DavidWe: I can imagine most colleges and universities spend a great deal on library services

LesleyF: For individual K-12 schools, the price for one subscription database can run $2-4K. per year.

BjB: and if you subscribed to all the publications to which you have access through the database?

LesleyF: it runs around the same, but there are several advantages: less theft, easier copying, much easier retrieval/finding, and richer/deeper indexing.

LesleyF: And several people can use the same article simultaneously.

BjB nods

LesleyF: Subscription DBs are usually well indexed, and the choice of periodicals/journals is age/subject appropriate.

LesleyF: Most info isn't free.

LesleyF: Sometimes administrators think that students can just use the free periodicals, but they can be limited and uneven in quality -- and it's usually hard to find the exact article, even with scholar.google.com

BjB: does it benefit a school library to get a subscription to a different service than the public library gets?

LesleyF: With the recent (2 years ago) court ruling on royalties to newspaper reporters and columnists, newspaper articles have become harder to access too.

LesleyF: Yes, depending on the age and the nature of the community.

BjB: thanks

BjB: interesting about newspaper articles

LesleyF: For instance, elementary/middle schools tend to get younger magazines.

LesleyF: Some public libraries focus on business and newspaper DBes.

JeffC: well... I *used* to have access to both EBSCO and Vlibrary... both are gone now I'm afraid... although I think I can access EBSCO through my library card.

LesleyF: The idea of different DBes can be a good selling point for school-public collaboration though.

LesleyF: EBSCO is pretty ubiquitous. Thankfully, they do good indexing and are easy to use; it's the favorite DB of the university students and librarians.

DavidWe: They have offices (for something) in my home town in New Jersey

LesleyF: One practice that was starting was the use of public library DBes by students WHILE IN THEIR SCHOOL library. Public libraries usually don't mind, but that's not the spirit of the subscription, and the DB companies can get very angry -- and charge more...

LesleyF: They have offices all over the country.

LesleyF: There are several other DB companies: Gale/Thomson has InfoTrac, there's elibrary, NetTrekker, etc. Califa and Amigos are state-developed DBes.

LesleyF: One of my grad students did a study to see if technology would foster school-public library collaboration, but she found that it didn't.

LesleyF: The reason was that the 2 types of libraries didn't talk with each other.

LesleyF: What kind of technology do you see in your local school and public libraries, Randy?

LesleyF: How about you, David and Jeff?

JeffC: well... the tech they have is ok

JeffC: the support they have sucks... they're just big electronic paperweights for the most part.

LesleyF: could you explain that?

JeffC: they got a grant to get smartboards in all the schools... they're gathering dust.

RandyZ: in our town, the school actually provides the technology and support for the public library...believe it or not.

JeffC: teachers don't know what to do with the computers... and the district doesn't really have anything in place that supports them... I'm trying to change that single-handedly... but they're resistant.

LesleyF: That's unusual, Randy.

LesleyF: That's NOT unusual, Jeff.

LesleyF: What is the administrator's knowledge level, Jeff?

RandyZ: In PA we also use something funded by the state legislature called Power Library...it is a collection of databases available to schools and anyone with a public library card.

RandyZ: nettrekker also made an agreement recently with the state so that is now available to all students.

LesleyF: That evolved from PALINET.

LesleyF: Have you used NetTrekker?

JeffC: on a scale of 1-10? about -3

JeffC: that's a negative 3

LesleyF: because---

RandyZ: yes...our district had a subscription prior to the state purchase...a lot of teachers like it because it is a fairly tight environment since everything is reviewed.

JeffC: they not only don't get it... they really don't want to get it

DavidWe: I'm sad to say, but I think it is a question of people wanting/needing to be in charge of something (schools, libraries, etc.) and seeing the collaboration as a diminution of their personal authority/autonomy

JeffC: I'm hoping to change that attitude.

LesleyF: Oh, so we're talking about collaboration rather than the quality of NetTrekker, I take it.

DavidWe: We had some interesting conversations between school librarians and public libraries, but it didn't really go anywhere

MargaretTK joined the room.

DavidWe: School libraries are typically NOT publicly accessible

BjB: welcome, Margaret

LesleyF: The main reason for the lack of collaboration between school and public librarians is ignorance and fear of stepping on toes, not territoriality, from my experience.

LesleyF: That's right, David. Security issues, usually.

JaneGst4 joined the room.

BjB: welcome, Jane

JaneGst4: Thank you!

LesleyF: There are public/school joint use libraries, but they're rare. Even though useful. The 2 main problems are usually governance (who pays salaries, who gets the collection), and user fears (of kids running around, of teen gangs, of smelly old people -- each one has an issue).

JeffC: hey... I'm one of those smelly old people... thank you very much!

JeffC: I tried to get into a teenage gang... but they're freakin' agists.

DavidWe laughs

MargaretTK: I was a public librarian for a while. We spent a lot of time and resources serving students.

LesleyF: SO, technology CAN bridge the gap as folks help each other, both in terms of use/training as well as collaboratively developed products created by librarians from both perspectives.

DavidWe goes to eat some dinner

JeffC: absolutely Lesley

JeffC: it's what it *should* be doing...

LesleyF: There's a whole knowledge management movement in business that hasn't been tapped (in) very much in education. Merlot is one good example. Another is Marco Polo.

RobertMck joined the room.

BjB: SIGTC is doing a presentation on Marco Polo next week

BjB: Hi, Robert

LesleyF: Hi, Robert.

RobertMck: hey

RobertMck: this is my first time in a room, just looking

LesleyF: Have any of the rest of you seen projects or trainings or events co-sponsored by school and public libraries?

JaneGst4: Not in my area, and not in my school since we, as a court school, are relatively isolated.

JeffC: nope

LesleyF: Let me show you a couple of sites that talk about this issue:

LesleyF: http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/profdev/schoolpublic.htm

LesleyF: Just click on the the URL

JaneGst4: Thank you, Lesley, it's not working and I just broke my glasses so have to go find a spare.

LesleyF: Wisconsin also has guidelines: http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/pld/comblibs.html

JaneGst4 left the room (signed off).

LesleyF: Know that you can archive this session and see the websites later, right, BJ?

BjB: right, Lesley

LesleyF: One more to try is Massachusetts. Just a moment - it's a long URL.

LesleyF: http://mblc.state.ma.us/advisory/trustees/trustees_handbook/apes02.php

LesleyF: One of the issues of collaboration is joint policies -- they can make or break you. Here is a good site with several such policies that might be useful:

JaneGst6 joined the room.

LesleyF: http://www.onlinepolicy.org/research/schoollibrary.html

BjB: wb, Jane

JaneGst6 smiles

LesleyF: got glasses in hand, Jane?

JaneGst6: Yes, sort of!

LesleyF: We have been looking at some guidelines and policies that facilitate school-public library collaboration.

JaneGst6: I am not able to open the link, sorry

LesleyF: other people have had problems, even though I cut-and-pasted from the site in real time. You can try later...

JaneGst6: But after I get the transcript I can check them out

BjB: Jane, you won't get the transcript if you're logged in as a guest

LesleyF: Hi, Elizabeth.

JaneGst6: I would like to see if our main branch library would consider a collaboration with our site. They have some excellent literacy programs for at-risk young adults.

LesleyF: one of the best efforts have been community technology centers.

LesleyF: Here is a good site about it; hope it works for you:

LesleyF: http://www.ncrel.org/tech/child/child3.html

LesleyF: try it. I'll talk about it too in a minute.

JaneGst6: I'll check it out later, it's not working?

MargaretTK: Got to hand over my computer to my son. He evacuated from Katrina--his computer didn't.

MargaretTK left the room (signed off).

LesleyF: So to explain.

LesleyF: More than 2000 community tech centers and related community tech project exist in low-income and underserved populations. They are often funded with government money. They tend to be housed in rec centers and libraries, both public and school.

LesleyF: They tend to be used after school, and may focus on youth or all ages.

LesleyF: They often include training and production.

JaneGst6: What kind of outreach do these libraries provide so kids really can get there? Just wondered

LesleyF: they provide a safe place for studying too -- with access to the Internet -- and those DBes that we were talking about earlier?

LesleyF: sometimes they contact schools, rec centers, youth groups, social workers, church folks, employment offices, shopping centers, etc.

JaneGst6: At-risk kids would need to have huge support to study, but would be so fantastic. Juvenile hall kids would be so intimidated by that setting, for the most part so I wonder what we could do?

LesleyF: Yours might be one case where the public library would think that it was OK for the students to use their DBes online -- however, they might fear that kids would hack elsewhere...

JaneGst6: I will definitely check it out for our community school kids, who are released from incarceration and cannot return to comprehensive school.

LesleyF: I would think IMing or use of cellphones would work. But there are probably checks on that too...

JaneGst6: Unfortunately our site would not allow the kids to use the Internet that way, but best hope is for the huge pop. of kids in CDS's

JaneGst6: I could see our released kids getting excited about a project that began in court school and now want to pursue on the outside. Esp. in such a supportive setting.

LesleyF: When I was a HS LMT and worked with "alternative" schools, I let them use our catalog and DB. They could request materials, and we'd send them to them. I agree that a good choice is CDs -- when the new CD magazine index arrived, I would send the old one to the alternative school.

JaneGst6: I will definitely find out about this in S. Bernardino----CDS = community day schools!

LesleyF: It might be worth checking with the DB publishers to see if they could burn DVDs of the basic periodical articles.

LesleyF: In fact, the entire youth court system could check into that possibility.

LesleyF: You can also download public library bibliographies for the students, I would think (check...)

JaneGst6: I will check that out, but here is a thought----our kids are really such RELUCTANT readers, and so the focus needs to be on those materials.

JeffC runs off to the Language Arts Forum... thanks Lesley (and Jane!).

LesleyF: ciao!

JaneGst6 smiles

JeffC left the room.

LesleyF: I would think that for SOME, the tech angle would be attractive.

JaneGst6: YES, yes it would be and I will check it out. It is so great to always find another tool, another door to open, another place to explore that might just might capture attention!

LesleyF: anything else for the good of collaborating, since it's just us core folks left..

LesleyF: I love your enthusiasm -- as always.

JaneGst6: Thank you!

JaneGst6: Do you have time for one quick thing

LesleyF: BTW, did I tell you folks that my newest book -- Librarians, Literacy, and the Promotion of Gender Equity -- arrived last week?

LesleyF: Yes, I have time...

JaneGst6: NO<!!! Congrats! I will order it asap!

LesleyF: It's published by McFarland.

BjB: did I announce that book in the newsletter, Lesley?

JaneGst6: That is an exciting topic!

JaneGst6: Okay, here is what we're doing

LesleyF: not yet -- it's a NEW one. It has a chapter on visual lit, on aural lit, on tech lit, on info lit, and orthographic (reading) lit.

LesleyF: and numeracy...

LesleyF: here's the site: http://www.mcfarlandpub.com/book-2.php?isbn=0-7864-2344-7

JaneGst6: Tomorrow our first literacy volunteer is coming to read to the kids! She chose the Tupac collection and attends school at U of Redlands where we might link up with their community service program so many others will join in. So far we have three readers who will come on regular basis to read for reluctant readers! It is a huge first because it is sooo hard getting someone inside!

JaneGst6: Sorry to interrupt about your book but I already started writing!!

LesleyF: that is very cool.

JaneGst6: Because no one has ever read to these kids and they LOVE the attention and the stories!

LesleyF: Did you read about the librarians in the East Bay (North Cal.) who would read bedtime stories to the kids in juvenile halls?

JaneGst6: So, do you have another book in progress, a silly question?

JaneGst6: OH WOW< who is reading?

JaneGst6: The police??????

JaneGst6: How do librarians get to be there at bedtime?

LesleyF: public YA librarians.   Just sent in the manuscript for one on LMTs collaborating with administrators and service personnel.

LesleyF: They drive to the place and got clearance.

LesleyF: Am working on a book on info lit and assessment -- with an Australian librarian.

JaneGst6: Fantastic...I hope you will consider a book for alt ed librarians/teachers at some pt.

LesleyF: oooh, that would be useful.

BjB agrees

JaneGst6: Put it on your list!

BjB: you could market to CEA

BjB: correctional ed assn

LesleyF: OK, Libraries Unlimited wants me to write a book, so I'll make that the topic, OK?

LesleyF: both of you can give me good pointers.

JaneGst6: Okay!

LesleyF: what do you see as the scope?

JaneGst6: So it has been so good spending time with you both, and will see you next time

LesleyF: . Ideas for next time??

JaneGst6: The scope for alt ed

BjB: thanks for joining us, Jane. Next time log in with your username

LesleyF: shall I make that the topic for Nov. too?

JaneGst6: Something for reluctant readers and learners

BjB: I would like that also

LesleyF: tech for reluctant readers and learners, it is.

LesleyF: That will be Nov. topic.

JaneGst6: Terrific!

BjB: got it

BjB: thanks, Lesley!

LesleyF: take care, folks, as always.

JaneGst6: Okay, so will get back to my user name and Lesley thank you for being an incredible mentor