

Training your student librarians

The best schools provided a good programme of training for pupil librarians, sometimes through the SLS, and often accredited.

Good School Libraries: making a difference to learning Ofsted March 2006



Student Librarians at St Luke's Science & Sports College, Exeter

Most secondary schools have teams of student librarians, some more effective than others (bless 'em!) and some of them very good indeed. Just as adult library staff benefit from training and continuing professional development, so do the students.

Aileen Hamer at St. Luke's Science & Sports College realised this and contacted SLS for help. **Nicola Cowling** and **Christine McFarlane** worked with Aileen and other school librarians to develop a training programme at two levels, basic and advanced.

The programme provides thorough, practical training in running a school library and is a valuable work experience in its own right. Advanced training will count towards the skills section of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. The training materials can be adapted by schools and tailored for their particular setting. The school's own library staff manage the scheme but our SLS School Library Advisers are available to support the programme.

Thanks to **Pam Symons** of South Molton CC and **Christine Wade** of Holsworthy CC for their contribution to the project. The training materials will be on the new SLS website in September. Contact your local School Library Centre for more details.



VIRTUAL POST 14 EXHIBITION 2007

You'll be aware by now that this year's Post 14 Exhibition is a "virtual" collection rather than a physical one. This was partly because we lost our transport (the "spare" mobile library we used has gone) and partly because we could not justify the purchase cost of the collection against the actual sales to schools. Something had to change.

Working the **Peters Bookselling Services**, SLS staff have taken the same amount of care as always in seeking out resources to support 14 different subject fields. The annotated lists are organised into subject groups on **Petranet** and accessed through a password issued to your school librarian.

The downside is that you can't physically handle the books as previously, but there are **benefits** to compensate:-

- 😊 **a wider range of subjects;**
- 😊 **more titles included in the lists;**
- 😊 **exhibition available from May to end of October;**
- 😊 **access from any computer via the internet;**
- 😊 **user-friendly website to browse and create a shopping basket;**
- 😊 **all titles are usefully annotated and show front cover, contents, page layout, text, etc.**
- 😊 **more staff (and students) can be involved in selecting the books;**
- 😊 **20% discount (net books only) supplied with SLS servicing and plastic jackets at 40p per book;**
- 😊 **free delivery direct to your school, usually with 2 - 4 weeks.**

Go reading! a fun way for primary schools to promote wide reading



Don't stop reading! just because this says "primary" - it's **useful for year 7** too.

We have developed a promotional tool to encourage students to read a wider range of texts / genres and you will find this **useful for transition activities**.

Go Reading! is a series of attractive leaflets or "trackers" with original designs themed to appeal to 7-12 year olds. The trackers can be printed off in full colour or black & white, so not too expensive to produce copies for everyone. The CD Rom also has templates for stickers and a certificate, and includes booklists on the disk to help suggest titles, authors and series under the various genre headings.

Go Reading! costs **£20 to subscribing schools and £25 all others**.

Our School Library Advisers will have the materials at the SLRAs / SLMs meetings, or you can click into the information sheet and order form on the SLS website.

Books 'n' Blogs



There will be a new look to our website in September and more interesting content. One of the new services to check out will be **Books 'n' Blogs**.

Being involved with successful Carnegie shadowing groups, we know just how much students enjoy sharing and talking about books, in their own school and with students from other schools. And we also know that a number of school librarians would like to start a book group in their school but don't have the time or the wherewithal to get one going.

Working with a couple of schools, we have developed the idea of a 'blog' for students, school staff and SLS staff to talk about books which they have enjoyed (or not!) online.

The **Books 'n' Blogs** package

- 😊 Book ideas and activities to run a library-based book group, plus online blog for the Autumn and Spring terms
- 😊 A different theme each term, with four selected titles available via *Petranet*.
- 😊 Activities for six fortnightly sessions through the term.
- 😊 An online blog managed by SLS for students and adults from different schools to share opinions.
- 😊 The theme for the Autumn term will be 'Chills and spills'.
- 😊 **Books 'n' Blogs** - helping young people sharing their enthusiasm for reading!

For more information contact Janet Broomhead on 01271 388623 or email janet.broomhead@devon.gov.uk

Staff news

We're losing a couple of well-known SLS folk this summer. **Kathryn Slack** has already taken early retirement and **Marie Payne** is leaving at the end of term. Many of you will have worked with Kathryn in her ICT role or as one of the School Library Advisers. Marie is known to literally *thousands* of children and school staff across North Devon and beyond as one of our intrepid Mobile Library Assistants, zooming around dispensing good books and cheerfulness in all weathers. Marie and Kathryn have been brilliant ambassadors for SLS and we shall miss them lots.

Recommended websites

www.podcastrevision.co.uk A great teen-friendly site for revising English literature for GCSE. Students can download poetry, help with writing styles and reading skills etc onto their MP3 players.

www.thepowerof5.co.uk Anthony Horowitz site with extracts from the books, introductions to the characters etc. Students can also download screensavers and email signatures.

Book reviews

Zusak, Marcus

The book thief

"When Death tells a story, you really have to listen". This crossover story of a young girl's life in Nazi Germany is indeed narrated by Death. With superbly crafted writing, this is a powerful and poignant novel which will stay with the reader for a long time. Brilliant. *KS3/4*

Landy, Derek

Skulduggery Pleasant

There is entertainment all the way in this original and humourous fantasy adventure. The characterisation is good, particularly that of Stephanie, the feisty and courageous 12 year old heroine who teams up with Skulduggery Pleasant (a living skeleton of a dead wizard turned detective!). Witty asides, along with some exciting and scary moments, make this book a must-have for the school library. *KS3*

Fletcher, Charlie

Stone Heart

Will George and his strange companion Edie survive the warring statues that come to life, and why is everyone else oblivious to their plight? An action-packed fantasy adventure with a plot that twists and turns through the streets and sites of London. Great book for younger teens. *KS3*

ALSO

Ranson Publishers have produced six new titles by **Helen Orme** which feature a group of friends known as 'The Sisters'. With clear text, short paragraphs and pacy storylines that are relevant to today's teenagers, these books will look attractive to less able girl readers. Titles include *Stalker*, *Odd one out* and *Boys!*

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