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Electronic Research Guides

The proliferation of electronic resources and databases for secondary students presents a great advancement for Teacher-Librarians, Teachers, and of course, the students themselves. More and more companies, including Library Webs, are providing high quality online resources which are becoming easier to access from the school library and classroom.

Where once Teacher-Librarians prepared pathfinders for students which contained advice on how to find the best library books, and which sometimes listed a few selected Internet sites, now these pathfinders can be transformed into Electronic Research Guides with deep links into databases, so that students are taken to collections of Internet sites, reference material, and newspaper and magazine articles immediately. Students are given direct access to authoritative, relevant research material and are set up for success from the moment they begin their research.

Six Easy Steps

Creating Electronic Research Guides with Library Webs is a simple procedure.

1. Ask Teachers to email a copy of upcoming assignment topics to the Teacher-Librarian.
2. Simply copy and paste the assignment topic into Word, Frontpage, Dreamweaver, or whatever program you use to construct your Library Homepage.
3. Browse or search the Library Webs collection to select the most appropriate topics or sections to support the assignment.

4. Highlight the individual keywords or phrases in the assignment for which resources are available and make a hyperlink from the assignment page to the specific section or topic in Library Webs. The persistent link to each topic or section in Library Webs is found at the bottom of each page. These persistent links are unique to each client school and cannot be accessed from anywhere else apart from the client school's IP address.
5. When all the relevant hyperlinks are completed, make a link to this new webpage from your main Library Homepage.
6. Students are then able to use the Electronic Research Guide and link directly to the collection of links which addresses the particular aspect of the assignment they are dealing with.

Alternatively, using the same procedure, create a hyperlinked list of the Library Webs topics or sections which relate to the assignment, together with advice on how to find other suitable print and online resources.

(If you need further assistance in creating an Electronic Research Guide or Library Homepage, contact Library Webs or your school IT Co-ordinator.)

Enhance your CPT

Creating Electronic Research Guides is another method by which Teacher-Librarians can co-operatively plan and teach with other members of staff. With very little effort, the Electronic Research Guide provides an instrument for uniting the efforts of Teacher-Librarian, Classroom Teacher and students in the research process.

Electronic Research Guides assist the Teacher-Librarian and Classroom Teacher in introducing students to new subjects and topics for research. They can also be used as exemplars to teach students how to search databases for themselves.

Students and teachers at schools using this method of resource delivery are benefiting enormously from the rapid accessibility to quality resources. The advantages of new technologies are enthusiastically received by students whose motivation to work on research assignments increases with the ready availability of target information.

One Step Ahead

School libraries which offer relevant resources to students and teachers have always been busy, thriving places where the Teacher-Librarian is an integral participant in the achievement of learning outcomes. Teacher-Librarians and Library staff have always needed to be one step ahead of the needs and requirements of their clients, and so it continues now with the increasing availability of electronic resources.

Providing Electronic Research Guides places Teacher-Librarians at the forefront of the education process. Online information will be the primary information source in the future. Teacher-Librarians who are familiar with databases and with the creation of Electronic Research Guides will be well-placed to lead students and teachers into new ways of seeking knowledge in the 21st century.

We are here to help

Library Webs provide Teacher-Librarians with the facility to create Electronic Research Guides with ease.

Always remember that if an assignment topic is not yet covered by Library Webs, a new topic can be created to meet your needs. Just email Library Webs a copy of your assignment two weeks in advance and we will do our best to have material ready for you when your students need it. If a particular aspect of a topic is not covered in an existing title entry, we can always add another section to the collection. The Library Webs team takes pride in working together with Teacher-Librarians to provide high quality electronic resources for Australian secondary students.

New Topics April 2005

Social Sciences

Food Safety

Created especially for Year 11 Home Economics, this topic covers many aspects of keeping food free from contamination. The first section covers the topic comprehensively, and is followed by other sections which deal specifically with food laws and regulations in Australia and New Zealand, cross-contamination, food and temperature control, hygiene for people working with food, food poisoning, staff training, Australian food outlets and food safety, genetic engineering in food technology and food irradiation. The For Teachers section contains quizzes, tests and other materials.

Literature

Joseph Conrad: Heart of Darkness

This title, prepared for senior students of literature, presents a wonderful array of sites dealing with the principal aspects of Conrad's novel. Beginning with biographical material and comprehensive sites on the novel, the collection unfolds with the following sections: Character analysis, Themes and symbols, Racism and Heart of Darkness, Leopold and Belgian Congo, Joseph Conrad - Other works and Film adaptations of Heart of Darkness. Teachers will find a range of lesson plans, essay topics and web quests in the last section, For Teachers.

Australian Literature Series

What a fine literary tradition Australia has! We have commenced our new series with the following topics. You

can expect to see more as time goes on, plus new sections added to the topics described below.

Contemporary Australian Poets

The first section of this topic, Contemporary Australian Poetry, contains reviews, articles and interviews which discuss the current trends in poetry writing in Australia. Prominent poets then have sections devoted to themselves and their work: Peter Porter, Bruce Dawe, Les Murray, Chris Wallace-Crabbe, Mark O'Connor, Andrew Taylor, John Kinsella, Kevin Hart, Thomas Shapcott, John Tranter and Dorothy Porter. Materials especially for teachers are found in the last section.

20th Century Australian Poets

The first section, Modern Australian Poetry, contains a broad range of material dealing generally with the development of Australian poetry over the last century or so. Some of the resources are quite scholarly, while others are readily accessible by Middle Schoolers. Several major poets are listed in chronological order, demonstrating the changes in style and subject matter of Australian poetry over the years. The poets currently highlighted are A.B. (Banjo) Paterson, Mary Gilmore, Henry Lawson, C.J. Dennis, Dorothea Mackellar, Kenneth Slessor, A.D. Hope, Rex Ingamells and The Jindyworobaks, David Campbell, Judith Wright, Ern Malley, Oodgeroo Noonuccal, Gwen Harwood, Philip Hodgins, and others. The For Teachers section contains teachers' notes and schedules of lessons for teaching Australian poetry.

Contemporary Australian Novelists

This topic is designed for Senior English students. The section entitled Contemporary Australian Fiction starts off the collection and is followed by others which highlight specific authors currently producing work. The authors listed are as follows: Elizabeth Jolley, Shirley Hazzard, David Malouf, Rodney Hall, Thomas Keneally, Peter Carey, Robert Drewe, Garry Disher, Peter Goldsworthy, Tim Winton, and Nick Earls. Teachers' notes, lesson plans and questions on various novels are listed in the final section.

20th Century Australian Novelists

The section entitled 20th Century Australian Fiction contains sites which set the 20th century Australian novel in context. This is followed by resources on the various literary awards which have been initiated in recent decades. Several significant authors are covered in some depth. Currently the list contains Miles Franklin, Christina Stead, Xavier Herbert, Alan Marshall, George Johnstone, Patrick White, Morris West, Amy Witting, Thea Astley, and Barbara Hanrahan.

Teachers of George Johnson novels will find some classroom resources in the final section.

New sections have been added to several existing topics:

Australia in Global Economy:
For Teachers

Legal Issues in Australia:
Adversarial System and Alternative Dispute Resolution

Air Pollution: Global dimming

Earthquakes: Indonesia (covers the recent March disaster)

19th Century British Novelists:
Thomas Hardy

History of India: For Teachers

Modern Iraq: The Iraqi Elections 2005/For Teachers

Afghanistan: For Teachers

Our ongoing checks and updates have resulted in many new sites being added to the entire collection. We are increasing the number of sites for teachers so that lesson plans, web quests, and other classroom materials are available for teachers together with the resources required by their students.

Previous Library Webs newsletters are available at:
<http://www.librarywebs.com/news.htm>

