

# **LIBRARY SCAVENGER HUNT**

## **Information Literacy Orientation**

Submitted by Jennifer Climenhaga

**Subject:** English Language Arts 9  
Information Literacy  
Library Skills

**Grade:** 9

**Duration:** One 50-minute session

### **Description:**

Designed in part with the NBCHS Technology Integration Project, this information literacy orientation will introduce and review the NBCHS library catalogue, the Dewey Decimal System, and searching strategies used. In itself, this orientation targets all six of the Common Essential Learnings by Saskatchewan Learning.

### **Objectives:**

- Through planned library activities the student will recognize that the library has a specific physical arrangement.
- Through planned library activities the student will locate the fiction, non-fiction, short story and reference collections.
- The student will identify and use the front and back cover, as well as the spine label and call number of the library books to select sources.
- The student will recognize that non-fiction books in our school library are arranged numerically according to the Dewey Decimal Classification System.
- Through planned library activities, the student will use the WEBPAC to search by author, title, subject, and keyword.
- The students will examine Boolean search strategies.
- By looking at both online databases and Google, the students will recognize the importance of proper search strategies.

**Materials:**

- A brown bag containing miscellaneous items such as small stuffed animals, elastics, paper clips, cards, pencils, magnets, etc.
- Data projector and screen
- Access to the WEBPAC catalogue
- The physical library (which you might want to close to others as this can be a bit noisy.)
- The library scavenger hunt assignment
- Finding your way in the library sheet
- The individual questions cut out on paper
- The answer sheet
- Bookmarks for the assigned books
- Set examples to use while searching
- Access to the Internet
- Access to on-line databases
- A tolerance for some noisy teenagers! (Who said learning in a library has to be quiet!)

**Vocabulary:**

Dewey Decimal System  
Database  
Author search  
Subject search  
Browsing

Call Number  
Keyword search  
Title search  
Library catalogue  
Searching

**Procedures:**

Before you start, it would be a good idea to double check the answers to the questions you plan to hand out. For example, if the book they are searching for is out to a patron, they will not find it in its typical location.

**Step 1:** In the classroom, have 3 or 4 students volunteer to come to the front and stand by the desk, but don't tell them what they are doing until after you dump out the contents of the bag. Dump out a brown bag containing all of the miscellaneous items. Ask the students to sort the materials in a way that makes sense to them, but don't tell them how you want them sorted; the idea is to have them make the decision on their own. Tell them they have only a certain amount

of time to complete the assignment. (I gave them 90 seconds.) Be prepared to have the rest of the students who are still sitting down to yell out instructions. After they have sorted the materials, have the students return to their seats. Ask the other students to observe how the volunteers sorted items. Most often, students will have grouped like items together. For example, magnets with magnets, animals with animals, etc. However, sometimes they will have another method, which is fine, as long as they can state their reasoning behind how they sorted.

- Step 2:** Explain that the library is sorted the same (or different) as well. Non-fiction books are sorted by subject, and fiction books are sorted by author. Introduce that you are going to be talking about the library, and how to find books in the library. Mention that a lot of students (and teachers) search for books by going to the shelves, and not always going to the library catalogue. Discuss when it is okay to search for books by browsing the shelf, and when it is better to start with the library catalogue. See if the students can come up with examples. Have set examples prepared if students struggle with coming up with examples.
- Step 3:** Hand out the “Finding your way in the library” sheet.
- Step 4:** Using a data projector, open the library catalogue over the Internet, and demonstrate how you would use the library catalogue to search for different items, including fiction, non-fiction, reference, short stories, eBooks, etc. Have some examples set up ahead of time to ensure that you “find” items in all of the collections. For example, reference or short story.
- Step 5:** Go over keyword, author, subject, and title searches. Explain call numbers. It’s also useful to have a few books from the library to pass around for students to look at as well – that way they know what they are looking for on the shelf. Mention the advanced/multiseek searches if you have that feature..
- Step 6:** Explain the Library Scavenger Hunt to the students; ask if they have any questions & explain the consequences of sabotage. (Out of the six classes that I did this lesson with, we had one student try

to sabotage the others, however the honesty of the other kids stopped the individual before any damage was done.)

**Step 7:** Pair up the students. You might want to talk to the classroom teacher about this ahead of time, as you won't always know the students yet.) I like doing this randomly, but having students pick their own partner sometimes will work as well. I've also had some students work independently, it is up to them.

**Step 8:** Hand out the assignment, have one student from each pair pick up the assignment. Hand out a question to each group, but don't give each group the same question at the same time. (Start group 2 with question #2 etc. Hang around for questions – there will be lots and it will be very fast, as the students really get into the assignment

**Step 9:** The winners get a prize! (I gave them cafeteria coupons for a free lunch.)

**Assessment:** By completing the Library Scavenger Hunt you can informally assess which students are struggling with the skills necessary to search effectively.

# **NBCHS Library Scavenger Hunt**

## **Directions:**

Working in pairs, use the library catalogue and the books on the shelves to complete the scavenger hunt.

Some of the questions do not have a physical item to collect, so you need to write your answer down on this piece of paper (corresponding with the number of the question) and present it for your next clue.

This is a competition, so try to keep your answers hidden from other teams. Not every team will start at the same place, but the first team to have all of the answers wins!

## **Questions:**

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

## Finding your way in the Library

A lot of people find books by walking to the shelves and **browsing**. This is good, but what if you are looking for a particular book? Browsing is good if you just want to find something to read and don't care what it is, but if you want to find a particular book, **searching** the library catalogue is the way to go.

To get to our library catalogue, go to the school homepage, and select the **Library** link. You can then select the **L4U Library Catalogue!**

On the library catalogue homepage, you can search by:

- Keyword
- Sounds Like
- Subject
- Title
- Author
- Series
- Editor Illustrator

The most common searches are **keyword, subject, title, and author**.

Type in what you are looking for, and select the way you want to search for it. (Remember that spelling is important – so double check that you've spelled everything correctly.)

There are other ways to search too. When you have time, check out the **Multiseek** and the **Advanced** search options. They allow you to search for more than one thing at a time, and also in different ways (like the place of publication.)

**Hint #1:** Our library catalogue only displays 15 hits at a time, so make sure you look the bottom of the screen. If it says "Next or Last" and a number of hits, then there are other pages to look at.

**Hint #2:** You can choose how you see the search results. Click on "Title," "Author," "Status," or "Call Number" to organize your results.

### **Printable Questions:**

1. Using the library catalog, find a list of books on Canadian music (hint: use a SUBJECT search). Using the Call Number, go to the shelf and look at the back of each of the books until you find the one with a bookmark.
2. Using the library catalog, find the location for Elie Wiesel's Night. Who is quoted on the back of the book? Record the name on your piece of paper to receive your next clue.
3. Using the library catalog, list two books by author Paul Wilson.
4. Using a Keyword search, find a book by Sinclair Lewis that deals with stereotypes. Retrieve the bookmark from the book and present it to receive your next clue.
5. Find the Reference book Bartlett's Familiar Quotations. On what page can you find the quote "Out, damned spot! out, I say!" Where is this quote from? Bring your answer to Mrs. Climenhaga to receive your next clue.
6. Using the library catalog, find out how many titles the NBCHS library has by author Gail Bowen.
7. Which book by W.O. Mitchell is in the story collection? Write down the title and the call number to receive your next clue.

8. Find the book on printing and bookmaking. Collect the bookmark from the back and present it for your next clue. (Hint: it's a non-fiction book in the 600's.)

9. Search for "Ghosts" using a keyword search. How many books that come up are lost or checked out?

10. Using the library computer catalog, find out how many books have the call number Fic Fic ATW.

11. List the name of one "e-book" that you can access through the library catalog.

12. Pick a subject you are interested in. Type it in a keyword search, and then a subject search. Record how many resources you find during each type of search. Do they differ? Why?

13. For a bonus, create 3 of your own original questions that can be used in next year's library hunt!

## Questions & Answers (Sample Page)

1. Using the library catalog, find a list of books on Canadian music (hint: use a SUBJECT search). Using the Call Number, go to the shelf and look at the back of each of the books until you find the one with a bookmark.

1. Answer

The question should bring up five titles

The bookmark will be in Twentieth Century Canadian Composers

780.971 BRA

2. Using the library catalog, find the location for Elie Wiesel's Night. Who is quoted on the back of the book? Record the name on your piece of paper to receive your next clue.

2. Answer

Alfred Kazin

3. Using the library catalog, list two books by author Paul Wilson.

3. Answer

The Sims

The Fire Garden

The Select

4. Using a Keyword search, find a book by Sinclair Lewis that deals with stereotypes. Retrieve the bookmark from the book and present it to receive your next clue.

4. Answer

The book is Babbitt by Sinclair Lewis. It is on the Fiction Shelf

(Fic Fic Lew).

5. Find the Reference book Bartlett's Familiar Quotations. On what page can you find the quote "Out, damned spot! out, I say!" Where is this quote from? Bring your answer to Mrs. Climenhaga to receive your next clue.

5. Answer

Page 199a (from MacBeth)

Hint, need to use the index

6. Using the library catalog, find out how many titles the NBCHS library has by author Gail Bowen.

6. Answer

There are 9 titles (but 15 records)

7. Which book by W.O. Mitchell is in the story collection? Write down the title and the call number to receive your next clue.

7. Answer

According to Jake and the Kid: a collection of new stories SC MIT

8. Find the book on printing and bookmaking. Collect the bookmark from the back and present it for your next clue. (Hint: it's a non-fiction book in the 600 section.)

8. Answer

The Book: The Story of Printing and Bookmaking by Douglas c. McMurtrie  
655 MVM

9. Search for "Ghosts" using a keyword search. How many books that come up are lost or checked out?

9. Answer

5 books on ghosts are checked out

2 are lost

10. Using the library computer catalog, find out how many books have the call number Fic Fic ATW.

10. Answer

There are nine books under Fic Fic Atw, and one under Fic Atw

11. List the name of one “e-book” that you can access through the library catalog.

12. Pick a subject you are interested in. Type it in a keyword search, and then a subject search. Record how many resources you find during each type of search. Do they differ? Why?

13. For a bonus, create 3 of your own original questions that can be used in next year's library hunt!

*Congratulations*

*(Return this bookmark for your next clue)*

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