

Online Literacy Workshops

Saskatchewan School Library Association

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Last winter, four Saskatchewan School Library Association executive members were enrolled in the University of Alberta's *EDES 501: Introduction to Contemporary Literacies*. The course focused on literacy in the 21st century and the role of the teacher and teacher-librarian as a literacy leader. Students examined the theories and research on contemporary literacy, discussed issues related to online reading and multimedia experiences, and discovered ways that technology can be used to support and enhance literacy practices in schools.

The culminating assignment for the class was to work in a group to create an online professional development workshop for teachers and teacher-librarians. The workshops were intended to provide participants with useful skills and information for literacy leaders. Each online presentation provides background information on the topic, applications for teachers and teacher-librarians, and a virtual handout with an annotated list of print and multimedia resources on the topic.

Exploring the following presentations is an excellent professional development for teacher-librarians, and the presentations can also be used to share ideas and information with your colleagues.

Book Clubs Website

<http://bookclubs.squarespace.com/>

This website provides a wealth of information on school book clubs. It provides background on the history of book clubs and gives research and guidance on creating book clubs for primary, intermediate, and secondary students. There are also pages that highlight digital book clubs and book clubs for professionals. The virtual handout provides a great selection of research and websites that would be useful for educators looking to lead a book club in their school.

Building a Reading Culture: A Digital Workshop

<http://readingculture.wikispaces.com/Homepage>

This workshop encourages teachers and teacher-librarians to find ways to create a reading culture in the school. The workshop includes background information on importance of a reading culture and then suggest classroom and school-wide applications. There is also a page

that examines the role that technology can play in creating a reading culture in the 21st century. The handout recommends books, blogs, and articles that would be valuable sources for any literacy leader.

Digital Kids, Digital Readers: Exploring the World of eBooks

<http://digitalkidsdigitalreaders.pbworks.com/w/page/50334260/1%20Home>

This in-depth wiki explores the issue of eBooks in education. It weighs the pros and cons of eBooks, suggests uses in the classroom and library, and outlines tips and tricks from choosing the right tools for setting up circulation options. Resource pages suggest articles for further research, a great selection of blogs and Twitter handles to follow, and some great links to videos and websites. This wiki is an excellent resource for anyone looking to implement eBooks in their school.

Transliteracy Workshop

<http://transliteracy.wikispaces.com/>

Transliteracy is defined as the ability to read, write, and interact across a range of platforms, tools, and media. This workshop assists teachers and teacher-librarians in understanding transliteracy and provides ways to incorporate it into current practices. The workshop discusses the role of participatory culture in modern learning, suggests ways to provide students with transliterate opportunities, and includes links between transliteracy and inquiry. The resource page gives some examples of transliteracy in the classroom and provides links to a variety of blogs, presentations, videos, wikis, and websites.