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Library Literacy

Managing the Information
Explosion



By
Sharon Szczecinski



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Rationale

Library Literacy is aimed at upper primary school and lower secondary school students. It aims to encourage students to develop information literacy skills through use of the school library. Its intended use is by classroom teachers in the weekly school library session.

This book presents explicit skills required in the information literacy process. It enables students to recognise the need for information and to begin to obtain it from a range of sources. Through the activities in the book students will have the opportunity to investigate the purpose of their school library and then use the resources available to them to collect information, organise it and use it in a variety of ways.

With a major focus on the information literacy process, **Library Literacy** covers a wide variety of topics ranging from the beginnings of libraries, the invention of the printing press and Internet, the Dewey Decimal system, researching in the library and on the web, fiction and non-fiction and the inquiry learning process.

All activities are outcomes based with cross-curricular application to all learning areas. Activities are designed to use a variety of learning strategies and learning styles including Internet research, critical thinking, class games, graphic organisers and mind mapping.

Internet References

For ease of use, all websites referred to in this book can easily be accessed through the **Library Literacy** links page at

▶ www.readyed.com.au/urls/Various/

Accessing this site saves students from typing in complicated addresses and also allows us to update any links that may move or disappear from the World Wide Web altogether.

This page is regularly updated so check the site frequently!

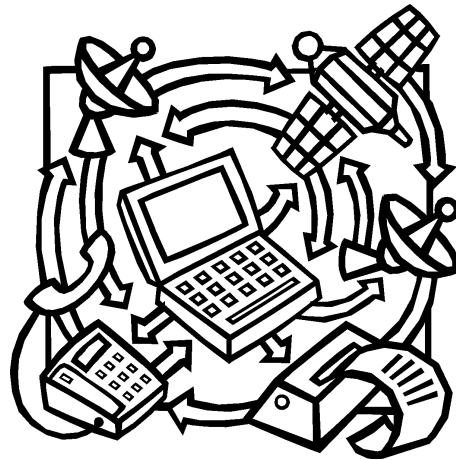


The Quest for Knowledge

Student Fact Sheet

Has anyone ever told you that life used to be simpler in the past? Maybe your parents or grandparents have said 'when I was your age we didn't have the Internet or email'. Can you imagine what that would be like?

In the 21st century we live in a rapidly changing world. Communication methods such as the World Wide Web, email and mobile phones have sped up how we keep in touch with other people, and transport methods such as jumbo jets have meant we can travel around the world quicker than ever before. This means that new ideas are constantly developing and we are able to access more and more information. Every day we receive more new information than our grandparents possibly received in a whole month. We are bombarded by new ideas and ways of doing things in rapid succession, many careers we might like to do have not even been invented yet. How can we keep up? If information is constantly changing then how can we ever hope to manage it and find out what we need or want to know? How will our quest for knowledge be achieved?



In the past accessing what you needed to know was certainly simpler. Buying a set of books called encyclopedias meant you could reasonably find out 'the facts' from looking it up in a book. Today life is a little more complicated. Of course there are still books but in addition we have many more ways of finding out information. Today our 'quest' is not to find out the 'facts' because often these change too quickly, but to learn, firstly, information and research skills that can be used in any situation and, secondly, how to manage the vast amounts of information we have available to us. We have to sort the wheat from the chaff, or the useful information for our purposes from the advertising and the misinformation and the inappropriate or irrelevant, so we can decide what information is useful.

How can this be done? The information age we live in has been described as being like a library where all of the books have been torn from the shelves and thrown into random piles on the floor. It will certainly take some sorting to be able to find what we need!



Sorting the Wheat from the Chaff

Read the 'Quest for Knowledge' student fact sheet and then complete the brainstorm below.

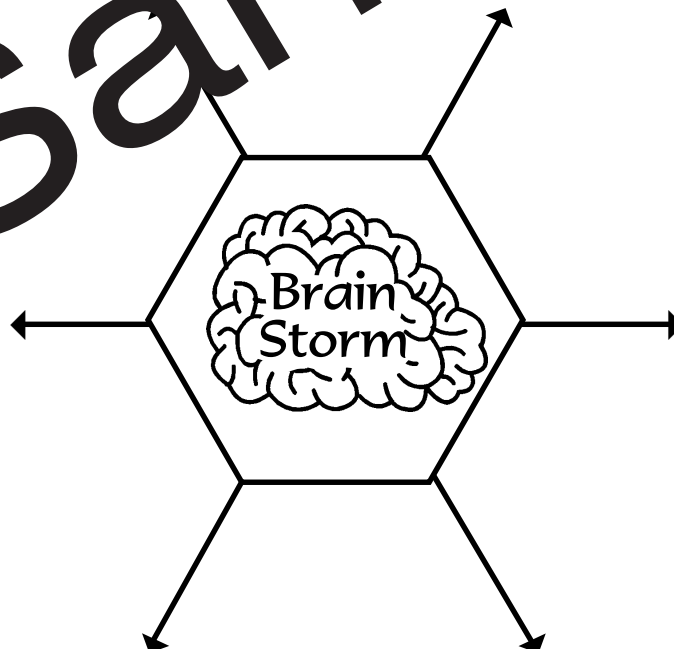
Student Activity Sheet



Your Task

- In pairs discuss and then list a question you would like to find the answer to (for example, *who were the AFL premiers for the grand final in 2000?*). Write this in the centre of your brainstorm.
- Now brainstorm all of the possible sources of information you could use to find out this information (*ask Mum and Dad, use the AFL website, etc.*).
- Once you have finished use a highlighter or different coloured pen to indicate which sources you think you would be the best to use (*i.e. the most reliable or the easiest*).

Sample





Locating the Best for the Quest

Your Task

In pairs examine the table of topics and then match each to the most appropriate source of information.

Student Activity Sheet



I want to find out ...	The best available source might be ...
■ About Corfe castle in England	A street directory / online directory
■ How to make a cheesecake	A book / online encyclopaedia
■ The latest weather in Perth, WA	A family member
■ How to get to the Melbourne Cricket Ground	A cookbook
■ The latest movie times	The Internet
■ The most water efficient washing machines	Comparison website
■ What time the family picnic starts on the weekend	A newspaper



What's the Deal with Libraries?

Student Fact Sheet

So when you're on a quest to find the answer to something it seems like the best source of information could be any number of things – it could be a book, an Internet site, a newspaper or even a person. Where to start?

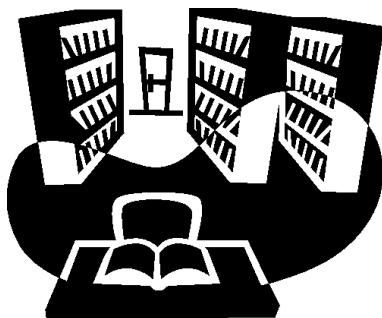
Libraries are a good source of information all in one place. A bit like a one-stop-shop for your information needs!

Generally a library is defined as a collection of information resources and services, which are organised for use. There are a number of different types of libraries including public libraries, school libraries, academic libraries and company libraries. There are also many more special libraries such as toy libraries, dance libraries, photo libraries, medical libraries and law libraries.

The books in school libraries are generally divided into two groups:

- Fiction – a book, which is made up from imagination, for example a novel.
- Non-fiction – The name given to books about real people, places and things.

A librarian is a person trained in library and information science.



World libraries

There are some amazing libraries throughout the world including:

- The British Library in London;
- The Royal Library of Alexandria in Egypt which was once the largest library in the world and is thought to have been started in the 3rd century BC;
- The Bodleian Library at the University of Oxford, which is one of the oldest libraries in Europe. The Bodleian keeps a copy of every book published in England and now has more than 8 million items on 188 kilometres of shelving! As a result it has a severe shortage of places to store its resources and more than a million items are stored outside of Oxford including in an old salt mine;
- The New York Public Library in the USA which is one of the leading public libraries of the world and one of America's most significant research libraries;
- The National Library of Australia in Canberra.



Finding Your Way Around

Student Activity Sheet

Your Task

- a. Have a detailed look at your school library.
- b. Imagine you are producing a brochure for new students to the school. In the space below draw a map that shows the resources in your library. Be sure to include all of the resources, e.g. the fiction and non-fiction sections, the reference section, the location of the computers, the magazines and newspapers, and any others.
- c. See if you can colour code your map into different sections using a key.



Sample