

Learning Center Annual Report 2006-2007

The 2006-2007 school year has been a rewarding one on many fronts. The Annual Report highlights the activities of the Learning Center. Each of the activities meets a Library Guideline and Benchmark or indicator and is so designated at the end of each entry. Also included in this report are the statistics for this year which are found in the attachments.

Parent Workshops

As school librarians we recognize the critical role parents play in the education of their children. To this end the Parent Workshops we organized during the school year were designed to help parents discover and use the powerful electronic resources available to them through INFOhio and through the school district so that they can, in turn, work with their students. The workshops were held in the Learning Center classroom and CLFF from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on September 6, November 1, January 10, and April 25. Two of the workshops were canceled because of inclement weather.

Volunteers Matter

Thanks to Library Advisory Committee member and parent volunteer, Amy Armstrong, we had a core group of 20 parent volunteers who undertook all kinds of projects. Marilyn Paulsen is an invaluable volunteer – whether it's shelving books or organizing the videos and periodicals – she is on top of it! Throughout the year, Judy supervised the Circulation Desk volunteers and Laura supervised the LC Workroom volunteers. On June 5, we held a Volunteer Luncheon in the LC Classroom for parent volunteers and each volunteer received a loaf of Fresh Harvest bread.

We also trained LC Helpers to work behind the Circulation Desk. Some of the students worked for credit; others for service hours.

Library Guideline: Library Management
Benchmark: Engage education stakeholders in the process of identification of essential school library services

School Library Media Specialists' Professional Activities for 2006-2007

Susan Yutzey

Co-presented at the Ohio Educational Library Media Association Conference (OELMA) with Laura Piazza;
Co-presented at the Ohio Educational Library Media Association Mid-Winter with Laura Piazza;
Wright State University instructor for the OELMA Central Region workshops;
Secretary for the Ohio Educational Library Media Association (OELMA)
Attended the American Association for School Librarians (AASL) Fall Forum in Providence, R.I. on assessment
Representative to the Ohio Library Summit meeting on May 21, 2007 at the Fawcett Center for Tomorrow
Attended Library 2.0 Workshop, June 12 and 13, 2007, Longaberger Alumni House, OSU
Teacher Leader (with Laura Piazza) for the school library media specialists
Representative to the Leadership Advance, Quest Center, May 16, 2007
Served on the Library Course of Study Committee
Served on the Board of Directors of the Upper Arlington Community High School
National History Day Judge, UAHS, May 23, 2007
Committee participation: Career Development, Building Technology, Department Chair, Building Planning Team, PLC

Laura Piazza

Co-presented at the Ohio Educational Library Media Association Conference (OELMA) with Susan Yutzey;
Co-presented at the Ohio Educational Library Media Association Mid-Winter with Susan Yutzey;
Attended the American Association for School Librarians (AASL) Fall Forum in Providence, R.I. on assessment
Attended 6 OELMA Central Region workshops
Participated in Evidence-Based Practice workshop, (Session 1)
Participated in OhioLINK User's Group conference
Attended 2 OCC Librarians Meetings
Attended Library 2.0 Workshop, June 12 and 13, 2007, Longaberger Alumni House, OSU
Teacher Leader (with Susan Yutzey) for the school library media specialists
Served on the Library Course of Study Committee
National History Day Judge, UAHS, May 23, 2007
Committee participation: Faculty, Building Technology

**Library Guideline: Library Management
Benchmark: Identify and participate in library-oriented professional development activities.**

Fundraising & Grants

In November, we applied for a PTO Mini-grant and were awarded monies for the purchase of audio books. The audio books

that were purchased included: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Things Fall Apart*, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, *Night*, and *The Jungle*.

Library Guideline: Literacy and Reading Support Indicator: Provide reading material in a variety of formats and reading levels.

Reading Initiatives

Student winners of this year's Teen Read Week Favorite Book Contest were all seniors and they were: Zac, Tommy, Ashley, Bridget, Rachel, Samantha, and Chloe. This year's faculty committee read over 80 Teen Read Favorite Book Contest essays. A reception honoring the students was held on December 12. Frank Tuttle took the photographs and designed the posters. Betty Sheridan, YA librarian at Upper Arlington Public Library, joined us for the reception.

Library Guideline: Literacy and Reading Support Benchmark: Participate in state and national reading activities such as Teen Read Week...

On Sunday, March 25, *Speak* author Laurie Halse Anderson visited Upper Arlington High School. Over 130 people attended her presentation in the Little Theatre and stayed afterward for dessert and a book signing. Author John Green was scheduled to present to the freshman language arts classes, but an unexpected snow day prevented his appearance. Kevin Stotts, Betty Sheridan, Laura, and Susan drove to Cover to Cover Bookstore and met with John while he signed copies of *Looking for Alaska* and *An Abundance of Katherines*.

Library Guideline: Literacy and Reading Support Benchmark: Provide readers advisory services Indicator: Promote award-winning books

Media Literacy

According to a recent poll by SETDA (State Educational Technology Directors Association) in its report entitled "The Changing Media Landscape: Ensuring Students' Safety and Success in School the Future Workplace" just over half of the

states have media literacy standards. The Ohio K-12 Library Guidelines include media literacy. This year as part of the Joseph J. Conley Media Literacy Lecture series, we invited Frank W. Baker, a nationally-known media education consultant who advises parents and families on making informed decisions about computer, Internet, television and other media use, to Upper Arlington High School. Mr. Baker presented "The Role of Media in the Lives of Kids – Learning to Navigate the Media Rich Landscape" to parents and students. He advised us on resources to purchase for the Joseph J. Conley Media Literacy Collection which was funded by a grant from the PTO. Mr. Baker also held a professional development opportunity for teachers and met with students. Monies for Mr. Baker were provided by the International Baccalaureate Programme, Time Warner Cable, and the Joseph J. Conley Media Literacy Special Activity Fund.

Library Guideline: Media Literacy

Empowering Teachers to Just Say "No" to Googling Continues

In an article by Justin Appel that appeared in *eSchool News* on November 28, 2006, he reported that Educational Testing Service's ICT (Information and Communications Technology) Literacy Assessment was given to 6,300 students (seniors and college students) from 63 institutions across the country. During the 75-minute test students were asked to perform tasks such as using information from a database and create a spreadsheet or summarize research results in an e-mail. The three areas that the test is designed to assess include: 1) the ability to identify trustworthy and useful information; 2) the ability to manage overabundant information; and 3) the ability to communicate information effectively. Among the interesting findings that Appel cited included: 1) 52% could not identify web site bias; 2) 65% could determine the authority of a web site; 3) 40% knew how to search with multiple terms; and 4) 44% "properly identified a statement that captured the demands of the assignment."

Although many students use Google, Yahoo, or Ask.com as their search engines of choice, as a result of librarian and teacher collaboration we are observing more and more students using subscription databases such as those provided through INFOhio and those provided through District funds. Everyday students stopped by the Circulation Desk and ask for the gold sheet (Homework Helpers from the UAHS Learning Center 2006-2007).

The Technology Committee, under the direction of Jay Powell, continues to support the Learning Center's efforts to provide quality online databases for students and teachers. In 2006-2007, the Committee funded eLibrary Curriculum Edition, AccuNet/AP Multimedia Archive, and Opposing Viewpoints. In addition, 64 percent of the LC's budget this year went to the purchase of quality subscription databases such as: Oxford's African American Studies Center; CQ Researcher; CQ Congress Collection; CQ Supreme Court Collection; CQ Encyclopedia of American Government; CQ Weekly; CQ Congress and the Nation; CQ Historic Documents Series Online; Congressional Digest Pro-Con Online; Greenwood Daily Life Online, MAPS 101, NewsBank: Access World News; Science Resource Center; and Student Resource Center Gold (see **Attachment 2**). IB funds enabled students to access Grove Art Online; Grove Music Online; Columbia International Affairs Online (CIAO); and Country Watch. Through district educational technology funds students were able to access World Book Encyclopedia Online; CultureGrams; and WebFeet, a directory of pre-selected web sites. Usage statistics are included in **Attachment 3**. Take a close look at the hours during which the students access information. The Learning Center is a 24/7 virtual library.

Library Guideline: Collection Development and Curriculum
Benchmark: Provide access to resources located within and outside the walls of the school building.

LC Website Gets New Look

Last fall, the LC website at <http://school.uaschools.org/UAHS/library/lcnews.html> underwent a major change. In addition to a list of subscription databases, it includes the following links: new books with summaries; pathfinders, LC facts, research links, copyright and plagiarism, best book lists, and more. For the 9th grade students, the LC website has a tutorial that is used for the 9th grade orientation program. Take a tour and see if you can answer the questions.

Library Guideline: Library-based Technology
Benchmark: Develop a virtual school library presence that students may access remotely.

Pathfinder Project: A Research-based Process

The goal of the LC Pathfinder Project is to teach all 9th grade students a research process model to conduct research and meet information needs. Students develop a research question related to a required reading such as *Rocket Boys*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*; find information by using a prescribed set of resources from among print and nonprint materials; answer questions related to the resources; cite the sources using MLA format; and annotate the sources. Four-hundred and twenty-three (423) 9th grade students out of 486 submitted pathfinders. **Attachment 4** shows the outcome of the pathfinder project.

For our PLC, we created a FileMaker Pro database. For each student we recorded the scores of each of the four skills that were part of the pathfinder assessment as well as the pre- and post-assessments for each 9th grade student who took the TRAILS-9 Information Literacy Skills survey developed by Kent State University.

Library Guideline: Information Literacy
Benchmark: Apply a research process model to conduct research and meet information needs.

