

SCHOOL SERVICES ANNUAL REVIEW 2008/2009

CONNECTING LIBRARIES AND
EDUCATION TO SUPPORT LEARNING



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WELCOME TO THE ANNUAL REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

E ngā iwi, e ngā karangatanga, te iti me te rahi, tēnā koutou,
tēna tātou.

Welcome to this year's edition of highlights from the team at the National Library that supports teachers and learners in New Zealand schools.

These pages provide a snapshot of some exciting initiatives undertaken over the year from our centres across the country and some wonderful illustrations of how these services have worked in classrooms and school libraries.

Selecting just a few stories to include is always difficult. However I believe the stories included provide a sense of the possibilities that libraries offer for creating a nation of passionate, active learners equipped with the skills and attributes to thrive in the 21st century.

» ...this year has seen a real move forward to enhanced online access to National Library resources

We work alongside many other agencies in delivering both front-line services and strategic developments to achieve this goal. The School Library Association New Zealand Aotearoa (SLANZA) and our public library partners in **AnyQuestions.co.nz** for example, are very valued partners in developing school libraries and information services for young New Zealanders.

Making these services easily accessible, relevant to changing needs and sustainable into the future has been a real driver for us in 2008 and will continue to be so in 2009. This provides us with constant challenge but this year has seen a real move forward to enhanced online access to National Library resources. Much more information is now available directly from our web page at **www.natlib.govt.nz/schools** and we have plans to grow this content even more over the coming year.

Developing the new generation services needed to support learners and educators into the future will continue to shape our services and to deliver support for learning in all our schools.

Nāku noa nei, nā



Geraldine Howell, Director
Services to Young New Zealanders



CREATING READERS

JUNIOR LITERACY SUPPORT – JuLS

TWO-YEAR LITERACY PROGRAMME



New books we love

- » Maraea and the albatrosses / Patricia Grace
- » Duck, death and the tulip / Wolf Erlbruch
- » Pepetuna / Denise Whitmore
- » Bone by bone by bone / Tony Johnston
- » Piano rock: a 1950s childhood / Gavin Bishop
- » Tales from outer suburbia / Shaun Tan
- » Home and away / John Marsden & Matt Ottley
- » Blood red, snow white / Marcus Sedgwick

JuLS is a two-year literacy professional development programme for teachers of Years 1 – 3 students, based in Northland. It is innovative for its co-operative development and delivery by the Northland Literacy Group, which comprises the Ministry of Education Literacy Development Officer as facilitator, advisers from TEAM Solutions, Early Childhood and National Library, Reading Recovery tutors and Resource Teachers of Literacy.

The pilot for JuLS was in 2007 and the second intake is about to get underway this year with groups in Kaitiaki and Whangarei, meeting for a day twice a term, along with buddy visits to other schools for collegial support, and to local early childhood centres to enhance transition-to-school relationships.

Effective Literacy Practice, Years 1 – 4 is the key document for planning the workshops, and National Library advisers bring a library perspective to this resource, integrating the school library with classroom literacy programmes with a particular focus on engaging learners with text and instructional strategies. There have been good changes in practice reported by the JuLS teachers, such as visiting the library more often with their class, increasing borrowing limits and including non-fiction, teaching strategies for book selection and library skills generally, much more book promotion and reading aloud, and developing home – school reading partnerships to foster reading to, with and by children at home. We have explored online and Web 2.0 resources, how the library collection can support writing programmes, the “summer slump” phenomenon, visual literacy in picture books, and more, all the while encouraging and supporting the JuLS teachers to share the information back at their schools.

» National Library advisers bring a library perspective to this resource, integrating the school library with classroom literacy programmes with a particular focus on engaging learners with text and instructional strategies

Most importantly, we’re finding JuLS is meeting the primary goal of improved literacy achievement, along with the development of a community of practice between schools and early childhood centres, between teachers in participating schools, and also between the various support agencies delivering the programme, who are gaining better knowledge of each other’s roles and approaches.

CREATING READERS

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY'S CREATE READERS BLOG [HTTP://CREATEREADERS.NATLIB.GOVT.NZ](http://createreaders.natlib.govt.nz)

The blog provides readers with regular postings of book reviews and links to events of interest, new research findings and ideas to promote reading – anything that helps our readers get and keep children reading.

During the early stages of the development of Create Readers, School Services staff identified that in order to engage readers with the blog we needed to be able to provide regular postings. To achieve this we set targets and appointed editors based in Auckland, Napier, Palmerston North, Wellington and Christchurch to encourage colleagues from the Curriculum Information Services and the Advisory service to contribute posts. Altogether in 2008 we posted 219 items, almost one per working day.

» A competition run around the NZ Post Childrens Book Awards proved very successful

First of all we made sure that we had reviews of all the New Zealand Post Childrens Book Awards finalists on the blog. We then asked our readers to post their own comments about the book in response to the reviews. We encouraged comments by promising a draw for a box of books to go to any school which was identified in the comment.

We were overwhelmed (and over the moon) with the hundreds of comments received, one book, *The Kings Bubbles* by Ruth Paul, received over 90 comments and not surprisingly went on to win the Children's Choice Award on the big night.

This great comment from Normandale School shows the power of using picture books to contribute to learning in the classroom.

» *The King's Bubbles* was very appropriate for us. We were in the middle of planning a bubble festival. All the children became bubbleologists for two days. They discovered bubbles in all forms and shapes and were even inside giant bubbles. The story kept the children entranced as well as being able to relate to it. The graphics were entertaining. Well done.

The winners of our prizes, two beautiful, big boxes of books were Ohuka School and Heretaunga College.



DEVELOPING SKILLED USERS OF INFORMATION

ANYQUESTIONS.CO.NZ AND UIANGĀPĀTAI.CO.NZ



Designed for both primary and secondary students, **AnyQuestions.co.nz** and **UiaNgāPātai.co.nz** puts them in touch with a skilled and friendly online librarian.

Using interactive software and an agreed information literacy approach these librarians are able to help school students identify the information they need then guide them to quality online resources. Our librarians work with over 10,000 students every year.

» What the students say about the services

- » It's friendly and very helpful
- » The links the librarians give you are very helpful, and never the first options you receive from google
- » It's just ...brilliant
- » It's cool
- » They get you the right information you need
- » It helps us with our homework

» Tips students learned during AnyQuestions.co.nz sessions

- » Use keywords
- » There are some good sites out there if you just look for them
- » Use the define tool on google
- » To make sure the website is genuine

» Some interesting questions asked by students

- » How long does it take for mummies to decompose?
- » I need to find out all the names of the waka that migrated from hawaikii to Aotearoa. And name the captain, tohunga, iwi, and hapu of each waka.
- » Do cats have eyebrows?

» Using interactive software and an agreed information literacy approach these librarians are able to help school students identify the information they need then guide them to quality online resources

DEVELOPING SKILLED USERS OF INFORMATION RESOURCING AND SHARING ONLINE

Last year, Jody Hayes, a teacher at Our Lady of Lourdes School in Palmerston North, started planning for her term inquiry focus "Fragile Earth". Her year 5 and 6 children were to look at the three basic types of rocks; where these rocks were found, and what caused them. Jody needed resources to support her programme.

A frequent user of the National Library's Curriculum Information Service, Jody emailed a topic request to the Palmerston North centre for a loan of resources and received a wide selection of books, audiovisual resources and website links that her class devoured.

Jody is particularly skilled at using today's technology to communicate, share and interact both with her class and their families/whanau. This Year 5 and 6 class, called 'Navigators', have their own Blog called 'Set Sail' where the children record class activities and interact with other schools on the web.

The class added links to the websites relevant to their topic "Fragile Earth" to their blog.

For their 'rock' unit, updates were put on the 'Set Sail' blog to encourage parents and caregivers to contribute. As a result the class received rocks from all over the world.

Related links on the website lead the viewer to a wiki for the other teachers in her syndicate with links to websites suggested by National Library staff. There are also links to the National Library online request form, and the Create Readers Blog.

The 'Navigators' Year 5 and 6, Our Lady of Lourdes website may be viewed at: <http://tiny.cc/Jodyblog>

Curriculum Information Service Enhancements 2009

Finding suitable digital/online resources has now become easier with three service enhancements for 2009.

» **Digital/Online resources only**

An online search is completed, and links to relevant resources are emailed within one working day

» **Books Plus loan**

A selection of books and audio visual resources relating to the requested topic is posted, and links to related websites are emailed at the same time

» **"Hot" topic links**

Links to current or "hot" topics are listed on the National Library website. www.natlib.govt.nz/schools



CONNECTING YOUNG NEW ZEALANDERS WITH THEIR CULTURE AND HERITAGE

DIGITAL NEW ZEALAND



Digital New Zealand, a nation-wide project to help make New Zealand digital content easier to find, share and use, was launched by the National Library in December 2008. The launch was opened with a video presentation by the children from Room 5, Nelson Central School.

The children of Nelson Central School were one of the first to create and share digital content using the 'Memory Maker' tool from Digital New Zealand. They shared their stories of that experience by producing a video which was broadcast at the event.

Evie, Room 5, Nelson Central School said, "I loved making my own movie at home and I was very excited when Digital New Zealand asked us if we could make a video to show at their launch."

The 'Memory Maker' tool was one of two online experiences released by Digital New Zealand to mark the 90th anniversary of Armistice Day. Working with members of the National Digital Forum to collect special and unique New Zealand content relating to the end of the First World War, Digital New Zealand built a search widget (the Coming Home search) that lets people explore this content, and a video remix tool (the Memory Maker) that lets them create and share a multi-media clip using video, music, still images and more.

» I think it's clever how children can learn about World War I by having fun with the 'Memory Maker' on the Digital New Zealand site

Thomas, Room 5, Nelson Central School said "I think it's clever how children can learn about World War I by having fun with the 'Memory Maker' on the Digital New Zealand site. It took me a few goes to get my part of the video right but it was worth it in the end. It was fun being involved in it."

Digital New Zealand is a collaborative project, led by the National Library and funded by the New Zealand Government.

CONNECTING YOUNG NEW ZEALANDERS WITH THEIR CULTURE AND HERITAGE

VIDEOCONFERENCE WORKSHOPS HIGHLIGHT HISTORY RESOURCES

In November 2008 staff from School Services in Wellington worked with Alexander Turnbull Library staff to develop and deliver a videoconference workshop for history teachers. This successful collaboration has led to further initiatives in 2009 with the development of a programme for secondary school history teachers and school library teams that will be delivered through the Ministry of Education's Virtual Learning Network (VLN). The VLN is an established online learning community which is accessed by schools from throughout New Zealand.

This pilot programme will use video conferencing to work with secondary school teachers and library staff; connecting educators and their students with a diverse range of resources that reflect our culture and heritage. The programme will highlight digital and print resources for senior secondary school history, focusing on New Zealand soldiers in World War I.

The National Library of New Zealand holds a wealth of resources relating to New Zealand in World War I. Soldiers' diaries and oral history interviews with World War I veterans, biographies, and digital photographs and maps all provide the opportunity for students and teachers to develop an understanding of New Zealand soldiers' wartime experiences.

» The video conferences will also enable us to showcase many relevant digital resources

Videoconference participants will be able to see original diaries and letters from the Turnbull Library Manuscripts and Archives, and gain awareness of the rich store of primary sources that are available for students to use when studying New Zealand history.

The video conferences will also enable us to showcase many relevant digital resources such as Manuscripts and Pictorial collection items available through <http://mp.natlib.govt.nz> as well as those held by other New Zealand institutions including the Auckland War Memorial Museum and Archives New Zealand.

Utilising different technologies to showcase National Library resources and being able to deliver our professional development sessions to a wider audience is a particular highlight of this programme. It has been a wonderful opportunity for staff from School Services and the Alexander Turnbull Library to share their knowledge and develop new ways of working together.



ENHANCING LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES IN ALL SCHOOLS



Supporting the establishment of library and information services in new schools is a consultancy service provided by National Library's School Library Advisers.

The goal of this service is to provide expertise to assist the development of innovative and effective library and information services and facilities to support 21st century learners.

The process

Our work begins at the very early stages of development, liaising with Ministry of Education property staff to ensure the Establishment Board for the new school has support to develop the school's master plan, including thinking about the plan and aspirations for the school library.

At this early stage the Adviser will assist the new school's board, Principal, senior management team and architectural team to plan the requirements of the library building as well as the collection, technology, furniture and staffing needs. Planning for the library is based from the foundation of a strong vision for the contribution the library can make to learning for the school community.

» The goal of this service is to provide expertise to assist the development of innovative and effective library and information services and facilities to support 21st century learners

The Adviser also assists with the more practical aspects of shelving layout and ordering of shelving, the purchasing of the library collection, the purchase of the library management system, online cataloguing options, access to databases including EPIC and advice on role descriptions and staffing.

Once a new school library has opened ongoing support is provided to get the library off to a good start, including:

- » Establishing connections with ongoing advisory support and with school library networks
- » Access to resources through the Curriculum Information Service
- » Provision of professional development opportunities for library staff

Many of the issues with new schools require ingenuity and initiative on the part of all those concerned. Each site and school is different, as is the library design.

For example, Albany Senior High's vision is to develop a learning community that will help students to succeed in the 21st century. It emphasises students engaging enthusiastically with their learning and on making wise choices and a contribution to the world. This vision can be seen by the use of flexible learning spaces/commons instead of single cell classroom blocks.

» It emphasises students engaging enthusiastically with their learning and on making wise choices and a contribution to the world

The National Library Adviser worked with the Albany Senior High's Library team to choose an open source Integrated Library System. It was chosen because of the Web 2.0 features it contains including tags, item reviews, booklists and 5-star ratings.

Each new school is a project within its own right, with differing timeframes. Some projects begin two or three years prior to the school opening for instruction, whereas others have had a much shorter timeframe, but all can benefit from the advice and support that is provided by the National Library on the journey to establishing effective school library and information services.



NATIONAL LIBRARY SCHOOL SERVICES

NORTH ISLAND

» KERIKERI

Advisory Service

T: 09 407 6718

F: 09 407 6719

» NORTHLAND

Advisory Service

T: 09 437 7744

F: 09 437 7745

» AUCKLAND

Advisory Service, Walk-in and distance CIS**Freephone:** 0800 356 000**Freefax:** 0800 356 001

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» HAMILTON

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T: 07 856 9135

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» GISBORNE

Advisory Service

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» NAPIER

Advisory Service

T: 06 845 2500

F: 06 845 2503

» NEW PLYMOUTH

Advisory Service

T: 06 353 0475

F: 06 350 0961

» WANGANUI

Advisory Service

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F: 06 345 9667

» PALMERSTON NORTH

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Advisory Service

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» GREYMOOUTH

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» CHRISTCHURCH

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