

ONLINE NEWSLETTER

Number 6

April 2, 2002

From Larry Nesbit:

I have finished reviewing the Spring 2002 survey results and 81 of you have already responded. This is an excellent response rate and I appreciate your willingness to answer the questions and your comments are particularly helpful as we plan for the future of the School Library Program.

It is gratifying for all of us to see that we are doing well as judged by your scores to the specific questions. I am particularly pleased at the high scores you give the course content, the instructors, the bookstore, and library services. I know that we can always do better and we occasionally miss the mark with some of you on a specific item, but 80-85% of you rated the program and services as either very good or excellent.

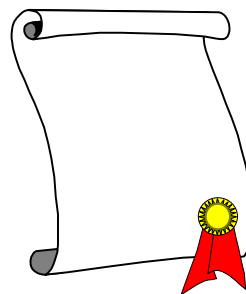
We certainly want to keep this high level of satisfaction and so we are investigating ways to fund a total curriculum review opportunity for the faculty, integrate additional OCLC services and products, and keep our courses current and appropriate for the K-12 milieu. The OCLC opportunity is particularly intriguing because they offer an incredible array of products so our task is going to be to identify ways which will help you learn about these items without eliminating other necessary content. This is definitely a challenge for us and you'll be hearing from your instructors as we make appropriate changes in the future.

Please contact me if you have any specific suggestions.



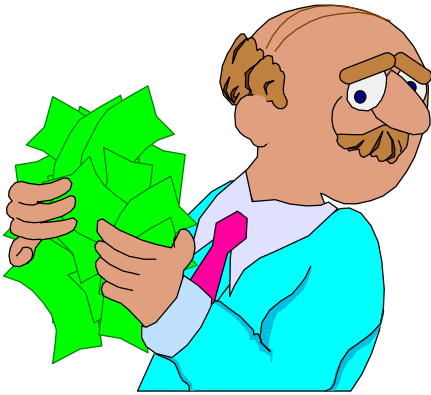
PARTY TIME

Don't forget to attend Mansfield's reception that will be held during the Pennsylvania School Librarians Conference Friday, April 19, 2002 from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM in the BiLevel Suite of the Hershey Lodge. Stop by to enjoy delicious treats and great conversations! Call Chris Swanson, 717-662-4872 or email her at cswanson@mnsfld.edu and let her know we can count on you. See you there.



As a Mansfield student, you are expected to follow the MLA format style for bibliography, citations and general style. As the LMS in your building, you will be called upon as the local expert for citing works and for developing bibliographies. Students and teachers alike will look to you as the authority. You need to be as up-to-date and

knowledgeable on the formats as possible. For a link to Epharta High School's MLA style manual, go to <http://library.mnsfld.edu/schoolib.html> and click on "Style Manual. A direct link to this manual is http://www.easd.k12.pa.us/ehs/mediacte/Bib_Style_Manual/style.pdf.



WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR ME LATELY? By Beth Wolff

As the Department of Education unveils new standards and requirements for districts to follow, districts and educators can become increasingly frustrated and confused. Left with the burden of funding and implementing these programs, districts may question what the Department of Education has done for them lately. Well, as the schools enter a new era of education, information centered and driven by creating life-long learners, the State Library of Pennsylvania strives to serve the schools with innovative new projects, utilization of resources, and sharing of information.

The State Library of Pennsylvania, which operates under the Pennsylvania Department of Education, has heard the cry of the schools and is working to respond to their needs. The State Library operates the Office of Educational Resources and Learning

Technologies. This department encompasses the responsibility for promotion and strengthening of library services in the schools of Pennsylvania. Asserting the Library's responsibility for performing these functions, the Library is working to create programs that serve students and promote quality library programs.

The Library has a wealth of information available including a wonderful, unique, and valuable collection housed in the Rare Books Room. This Room stores an amazing collection of titles that mark the beginning history of library collections within the Commonwealth. Due to the nature of the collection and the location of it, very few educators or students have access to these fabulous resources. With the great advances in technology, access to the resources is now available to the masses. The Library is beginning to dabble in electronic exhibits, which allow sharing these resources with the public.

How does help teachers and librarians? Well, the State Library recognizes the State Standards and realizes the specific standards to be met by students. The State Library resources, specifically the Rare Books Room Collection, cover many of the detailed standards, particularly within the History Standards. Thus, the idea was born to make these resources usable by students across the Commonwealth.

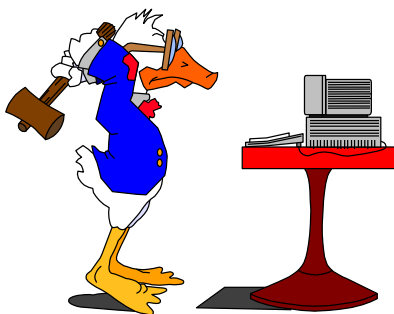
The final product is digital exhibit projects that allow access to these unique resources. The first project completed is a project on Fort Necessity. This exhibit includes information and images covering the Fort. The second project completed is the project I feel so blessed

to have taken part in creating. It is an exhibit accompanied by a WebQuest on the topic of the movement of Pennsylvania's Capital. This is a topic students are expected to cover sometime between fourth and sixth grade. Both projects are available at <http://www.statelibrary.state.pa.us/libraries/cwp/view.asp?a=11&Q=41877&g=164&librariesNav=|1222|3115|&librariesNav=|2511|>.

Both projects are available to students in all educational settings including public, private, charter, and home schools. These projects represent just one small way that the State Library of Pennsylvania works to support the educational needs of students across the Commonwealth.

For additional information on the State Library including its history, visit <http://www.statelibrary.state.pa.us/libraries/cwp/view.asp?a=2&Q=37467&librariesNav=|1221|1228|>

HAVE A PROBLEM?



WAIT! CONTACT LARRY SCHANKMAN

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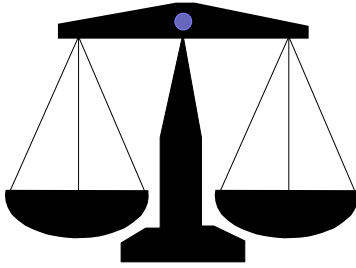
ANNOUNCEMENT ... COMING ATTRACTION

Great news! By our Fall semester, we will have a Student Online Manual ready for your use. Students will now have a truly "One-Stop -Shopping" place for all they want to know about the online program. It will be filled with helpful advice on a wide range of topics such as registration procedures, accreditation information, submitting assignments, grading procedures, dropping and adding courses, withdrawals and incompletes, information about LSC 560 Seminar/Residency and Practicum and lots more. As soon as the Student Online Manual is ready, you will receive information that will allow you to browse its contents.



OUTSTANDING MANSFIELD STUDENT!

We are pleased to report that the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association has invited Mansfield University to join the other higher education institutions that honor their outstanding school library students at the PSLA conference. The Mansfield University representative for 2002 will be Elizabeth Wolff who will receive her honor at the breakfast meeting on Friday, April 19, 2002. Congratulations Elizabeth!



**ARE YOU TRYING TO BALANCE
THE SCALES BETWEEN
JUSTIFYING HAVING ACCESS TO
THE INTERNET AND
APPROPRIATE LIBRARY
RESOURCES?**

Some decision-makers assume that if your library has access to the Internet and its vast array of resources than you don't also need more books. The American Libraries has a wonderful article entitled "10 Reasons Why the Internet Is No Substitute for a Library". This article provides arguments that you can give to fight those misguided notions.

<http://www.ala.org.alonline/news/10reasons.html>

SUMMER DROP DATE!

Anyone desiring to drop a summer course must do so by May 14th. We encourage students to register as soon as they can since seats are filling up rapidly. Anyone needing help in choosing a course, or registering for a course, please contact Doris Dorwart d.dorwart@worldnet.att.net.



**State Information Literacy Standards,
Separate or Integrated
My opinion, Jean Tuzinski**

As state organizations adopt content area academic standards, library media specialists are concerned that some states have not developed information literacy standards. In my opinion, based on an historical perspective, we do not need separate and distinct standards. There are several reasons not to have State developed information literacy academic standards. Focusing on an integrated curriculum, an historical perspective and the reality of today's state testing program, it seems futile for the library media specialist to devote time and energy worrying about not having our own.

We have the nine information literacy standards for student learning, set forth in *Information Power; Building Partnerships for Learning*. Furthermore, *Information Power* provides all the action plans necessary to implement these standards and ensure student learning. It is a powerful call to action.

Individual states would find it difficult to prepare better standards.

The Pennsylvania School Library Information Specialist Tool Kit for Implementing Information Literacy in Schools is another model document showing how one state's academic standards link with the information literacy standards. By examining the *Tool Kit*, the library media specialist can see quickly where the skills can be integrated. Then, the library media specialist needs to collaborate with teachers to teach the skills in an integrated setting. It makes sense to be able to show teachers, in the *Tool Kit* or similar documents, where their content area standards align with the information literacy standards. The *Tool Kit* validates teaching the information literacy skill.

By examining the state's test for student performance, one will readily see that the information literacy questions are, in fact, there. Three years ago, the Pennsylvania Reading Assessment Advisory Committee (whose mission is to prepare test questions and advise the Pennsylvania Department of Education regarding the PSSA tests) added three library media specialists to its membership. This ensures that all questions concerning the information literacy skills reflect the current status of our school library media centers and their technologies.

A final reason not to be concerned about not having information literacy standards in a state is that academic standards are created for political entities based on current educational trends. State education boards are filled with appointees serving to fulfill an

administration's agenda. It only takes one reading of the history of the Pennsylvania Academic Standards at the Pennsylvania Department of Education's website. The Advisory Commission's Report on Academic Standards; Foundations for our Children's Future <http://www.pde.psu.edu/connections/pde/standard/report.htm> to realize that academic standards will become tomorrow's dinosaur. While the winds of government blow, our profession must be stalwartly rooted in our own standards.

Works cited:

The Advisory Commission's Report on Academic Standards; Foundations for our Children's Future. Pennsylvania Department of Education. 15 June 2000
<<http://www.pde.psu.edu/connection/pde/standard/report.htm>>.

American Association of School Librarians and Association for Educational Communications and Technology. Information Power: Building Partnerships for Learning. Chicago: American Library Association, 1998.

The Pennsylvania School Library Information Specialist Tool Kit for Implementing Information Literacy into Schools. Harrisburg, PA : Pennsylvania Department of Education, 2000.