



Web Seal of Excellence: Tricia London

School Librarian at Avon Middle High School

<http://www.avon.k12.ma.us/librarymedia/ahlibraryhome.htm>

It goes without saying that the web is such a large part of our world, but this is even more applicable for teens. According to the standards, I should be using technology “to communicate with teens virtually,” and my library’s webpage is supposed to be “attractive and functional.”

I am a self-taught web designer. When I accepted the position at Avon Middle High School five years ago, and began to create a website I used Dreamweaver. First lesson – don’t create a website before checking with your internet provider to learn that I must use Frontpage.

The great thing about the web is that it is meant for sharing. The idea of including a catalog tutorial was borrowed from Rachael Costello at Pentucket Regional High. My print instructions about how to use the OPAC, were in turn, borrowed from Joanna, at Archbishop Williams High School. Librarians are by nature good sharers and good communicators. Why create a pathfinder or webquest when there are wonderful ones out there already?

However, the web does allow you the opportunity to pull together resources in a unique way. When playwright Melinda Lopez was coming to visit our school and our drama classes were trying to investigate Operation Pedro Pan, I couldn’t find a webquest on this time in history so I simply created one.

The standards mention that web content should be “changed and updated frequently.” This is where I am truly blessed at AMHS. I have the best district technology director in the whole world, who allows me access to my page and lets me do my own updates. In a larger district, I might not be so lucky. How do librarians without this access manage? They create links from their “official” website to places they have control over.

Other librarians use NewVibes, create free Google sites, or just blog. I don’t change or update my website nearly as frequently as I’d like. In fact I had to change the page “W.O.W – Website of the Week” to Website of “Whenever” because I was always three weeks late in my weekly update. My colleagues are terrific about emailing me links to include. Last summer my principal sent me a homemade video of an Irish library that I posted on my site.

The thing I like about my website is that it fits our school and our curriculum. If you look at my Social Studies page in the subject directory you’ll notice twenty-two links for the Victorian era, fifty links to Civil Rights pages and only two or three links for World War I because that’s what we teach. Another thing I like about web pages is the ability to include documents.

I do a lot of teaching. This doesn’t leave me much time for traditional librarian activities like book talks. This is why I’ve included lots of Book Trailers on my site. I do it mainly because I don’t

have a lot of time to booktalk but posting Book Trailers also follows the standard that enjoins me to promote my young adult collections.

I like linking kids to books; that’s why I do what I do. The standards tell me I should use annotated booklists and book reviews, and with the web I can in turn, link these titles to my OPAC so students can get instant gratification and know if a book is available. I use the web to connect. On my summer reading page I included a link so students could become a fan of “My Most Excellent Year - a story of love, Mary Poppins, and Fenway Park” on Facebook. Hey, did you know that messaging on Facebook is a very efficient and effective way to get overdue books returned? But I guess that’s a different story for a different day...



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Web Seal of Excellence

DESCRIPTION: A school library's web presence is an important tool for teaching, learning, communication, advocacy and public relations. This award will recognize excellence in a school library's use of web tools: webpage, ning, wiki, blog, etc.

CRITERIA / ELIGIBILITY: School Library webpage maintained by the Library Teacher who has been a member of MSLA for at least two years; must hold a professional library degree or be a state certified library teacher. Nominations will be evaluated using a rubric with specific criteria for judging the web devices.

APPLICATION / NOMINATION PROCESS: Application for this award can be made by the Library Teacher or other member of MSLA, submitting their school library web tools. Judging panel may involve non-Massachusetts school librarians, using the rubric with specific criteria for school library web devices.

AWARD: Up to five awards per year: Certificate; Graphic, MSLA "Seal of Excellence" to be displayed on their webpage /blog/ning/wiki

RESPONSIBILITIES: Article for the Forum



2010 Deadline is August 31