Empowering Researchers Prepared for Life Ahead

Jennifer Hootman

Do you struggle to get students to use relevant library resources for their classes?

How do you teach your students to use Google and library resources for research?

Check out my newly created website that takes a look at these tough questions and provides resources for discussing an approach to and tools for teaching online research.

This website has sprung from a presentation I originally created for a small group of school library media specialists. Since that time, I have presented this material via webinars, conference, and workshop presentations to a wider audience. This information is intended to assist library staff and educators in their research instruction to students of all ages. Please feel free to contact me with your questions, suggestions, and ideas.

http://referencenotes.minitex.umn.edu/category/january-2015/
Top 10 Tech Tools for Educators

Matt Lee

For some, the end of the year brings along with it self-reflection, and perhaps pledges to do things differently in the new year. Not to mention tons and tons of “best of” lists. Whether you’ve been meaning to bring more technology into your interactions with students and library users, or if you’re simply open to considering some possible tools to do so, a School Library Journal listing of “Top 10 Cool Tools 2014” is worth a look. From assignment management tools like Otus, to classroom response tools like Plickers, to game-based quizzers like Kahoot, the list is full of tools that may help educators do things differently in the new year.

History Day Research Help!

Jennifer Hootman

Minitex, the University of Minnesota’s Wilson Library, and the Minnesota Historical Society have created a short video to prepare students throughout the state to conduct History Day research at Wilson Library. Librarians from Minitex Reference Outreach & Instruction (ROI) and Wilson Library have been
Collaborating on History Day for the past six years. Each year, Wilson Library staff facilitates library visits for thousands of Minnesota middle and high school students. Meanwhile, Minitex’s ROI unit visits libraries and classrooms to show teachers, librarians, and students how to use the Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM) and the University Libraries catalog (MnCAT) to do research for History Day and prepare them for their Wilson Library research trip.

ROI has also created a companion tutorial for searching MnCAT.

And don’t forget about our other History Day research aids:

- ELM databases for History Day
- History Day Research in Minnesota tutorial
- ELM Learning Center Course: ELM for History Day

Back to January 2015

General Science Collection – Upgraded!
Gale has upgraded ELM's *General Science Collection* to include more than 600 peer-reviewed journals, providing researchers with the information needed to stay current on the latest scientific developments. Key subjects covered by the database include biological sciences, computing, engineering, and technology.

To provide access to the upgraded *General Science Collection*, you will need to update your library's direct link to the following:

http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/location_id?db=PPGS

(Replace the “location_id” portion of the URL with your library's location ID.)

Please contact ELM support with any follow up questions you may have.

Back to [January 2015](http://referencenotes.minitex.umn.edu/category/january-2015/)

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**New Resources in LearningExpress Library**

*Edited from LearningExpress*

**New Practice Tests and Tutorials**

Real Estate has returned to the *Career Center!* It features practice tests for both the Salesperson and Broker Exams. LearningExpress also added practice tests for the Praxis® Core exams, and Advanced Placement (AP) Chemistry and U.S. History exams. In addition, there are tutorials in Spanish for each of the 2014 GED® subject tests.

**New eBooks**

The library of downloadable eBooks continues to grow, with new titles and/or editions for the GED® test, Praxis® Core, and Praxis II® exams.

**New Common Core Resources**
Parents will appreciate the help they get from the new eBook, Middle School Math for Parents. LearningExpress also updated the tutorials for Middle School Reading and High School Algebra, and added a tutorial for High School Geometry.

New Computer Tutorials

LearningExpress has added Outlook 2013 courses for basic, intermediate, and advanced levels, and an “Outlook 2013: What’s New” tutorial. This completes the collection of Microsoft Office 2013 products for libraries that have Computer Skills and Popular Software Tutorials.

New MARC Records

New custom MARC Records are available through the Administrator link on your LearningExpress Library homepage. They include the 856 field, making resources more discoverable for your patrons.

AskMN: Best Transcript of 2014

Carla Pfahl

In December I sent out a call out to AskMN participating libraries to send in chat transcript(s) from 2014 that they felt exemplified exceptional service. The chat session could have taken only five minutes or fifty minutes or it could have been a very involved interaction or quick and easy. We received several submissions that highlighted the quality work we all do every day. Similar tones were illuminated in all the chat transcripts: The librarians were considerate, patient, willing to work with the patrons, and personable. Alas, there had to be a winner.

The winner of Best Transcript of 2014 is Normandale Community College! This chat session was selected because the librarian took the time to understand what it was the patron needed by clarifying the patron’s responses and asking where they had already looked for information. The librarian provided thoughtful responses and guided the patron to the best resources and suggested good search terms to use with clear and understandable instructions. Here is the winning transcript of 2014:

Patron: Qwidget: Would you be able to tell me how to find a biography on Jim Carrey
Librarian: Hi. I'm librarian from Minnesota. Your library and my library work together to answer questions. I am helping out your librarians by answering questions for them right now. I'm reading your question and will be right with you.

Librarian: Hi! Are you looking for any particular kind of information on Jim Carrey?

Patron: I'm writing a paper on his personality and traits that define who he is. I need to find information on his life when he was younger as well as his personality and also anything on his battle with depression.

Librarian: Ok, great! What class is this for? And are you looking for books or articles?

Patron: It is for Psych of Personality. I need to find scholarly articles (that way I know it is true) so it could be in any form as long as the information is backed up

Librarian: Got it. And where have you tried looking so far? (so I don't repeat anything you've tried already)

Patron: I'm on EBSCO currently and I haven't found anything on here and so far that is where I have looked

Librarian: Ok, did you go to the library's page and use the search in the middle of the screen?

Patron: I am actually in the process of that now

Librarian: Great. Well one thing to keep in mind is that the library databases look for the words you type in, not articles about what you search. So, you'll want to think about your keywords before you start, such as Jim Carrey, personality, depression, etc. You can mix and match the words. And every time you change the words you'll get different results.

Librarian: If you want to keep looking there I am going to look to see if I can find something else that will help

Patron: okay, thank you!

Librarian: What are some of the words or phrases you've tried searching so far?

Patron: I've tried "Jim Carrey" and "depression" I have also tried "biography of Jim Carrey"

Librarian: Ok, sounds like you're on the right track. I would probably also try jim carrey and personality.
Librarian: But let me show you a couple other things that might help.

Librarian: The search box on the library's homepage searches a number of databases all at the same time so you have to be pretty specific.

Librarian: Sometimes it's good to try a specific database to look for articles.

Librarian: Let's start back at the library's homepage: <link>

Patron: okay I am there now

Librarian: Great! This time click on Start My Research on the left.

Patron: okay I'm there

Librarian: This is a page of links to guides on lots of different subjects.

Librarian: For your topic you could click on Humanities and Arts, Media and Communication or Social Sciences. Since you're looking at psychology, maybe start with Social Sciences

Librarian: A new menu will open and you can click on Psychology

Librarian: If you click on Psychology it will take you to a guide with resources specifically for Psychology research. I would click on Articles in Journals to see databases you can try searching for scholarly articles.

Librarian: But you could also try looking at the Media and Communication guide to find resources specifically on media.

Librarian: Does that make sense?

Patron: wow I've never seen this before, thank you!

Librarian: No problem!

Librarian: And remember: with any database you go to, you'll want to try different combinations of keywords. Although just searching for Jim Carrey is pretty specific. But you could also try comedians or actors to make your search more broad.

Patron: thank you so much for your help!
Librarian: What do you think, do you have enough to continue on your own? Or can I help you with something else? You can always come back if you have more questions.

Patron: I think I am all set for now!

Librarian: Ok, great! 😊

Librarian: Feel free to come back if you need more help, though

Patron: thank you so much! 😊

Librarian: You’re welcome! Have a great night!

Librarian: Librarian ended chat session.

Back to January 2015

New in Your Minitex MyLibrary Account: File Manager

Anne Hatinen, Minitex CPERS

Minitex is pleased to announce that we are now able to share files with you via your Minitex MyLibrary account. The Cooperative Purchasing and Electronic Resources Services (CPERS) unit is taking advantage of this new functionality to share cost savings reports with Minnesota library directors and usage statistics for certain databases with libraries in our region. You’ll receive a message when a file is uploaded to your account, and when you visit your account, you’ll see File Manager as an option. Simply click on that, and you’ll see any files we have uploaded for you, along with the date uploaded, and once you've opened a file, the date last accessed. We'll be sharing several years of past cost savings reports with you via the File Manager over the coming months.

Back to January 2015
MEMO Is Now ITEM

Mary Mehsikomer of TIES, and ITEM President

Beginning July 1, 2014, the Minnesota Education Media Organization has now formally changed its name to Information and Technology Educators of Minnesota (ITEM). We feel this name more closely reflects our members, who come from school library media, technology integration, classroom teachers, and others interested in how literacy and technology can positively impact students. If you would like to know more about ITEM or would like to join us, visit http://mnitem.org. For questions on the ITEM mission, activities, or membership, please contact Mary Mehsikomer, 2014-2015 President at mary.mehsikomer@ties.k12.mn.us or by phone at (651) 999-6510.

Back to January 2015

One-Second Poll: Fiction or Nonfiction?
One-Second Poll: Fiction or Nonfiction?

What do you prefer for your own reading?:

- Fiction
- Nonfiction

Submit

And here are the results of last month's poll:
What is your favorite emoticon?

- :)
- ;) (I avoid using emoticons)
- Other: ;( (=) ;:) :P
- "(_(つ)_.")"
- :(

(75 responses)