INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW

FIRST QUARTER LIBRARY WRAP-UP

What a fabulous first quarter it has been at the Academies of Loudoun! The amount of research being done in this building is out of this world - and that's with only having access to the majority of your collection for one month! To date we have:

Downloaded and accessed over 1,000 articles using EBSCO, GALE, and Taylor & Francis.
Checked out 25 books (about 10% of the physical collection) and borrowed 12 through ILL.
Presented research and citation lessons to 18 out of 36 individual courses offered at the Academies.
Avoided 45 paywalls by obtaining articles through interlibrary loan.
Collaborated with NVCC and Loudoun Public Library to promote access to their library resources.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hour of Code pop-ins December 6 and 7
Used Book Sale December 17 and 18

WHAT WE'RE READING

The Other Wes Moore by Wes Moore

"One name - two fates." The story of two men with the same name, who coincidentally grew up in the same town not too far from each other. One turns into a convicted felon, serving a life sentence for murder. The other, a Rhodes scholar and White House correspondent. This thought provoking biography is one that came about by coincidence (both Wes Moore's made the paper the same day) and left the one needing to know more about the other. The way their lives parallel, twist, and turn will definitely spark some conversation.

A Very Large Expanse of Sea by Tahereh Mafi

This is a powerful and heartrending novel about first love and the devastating impact of prejudice. Shirin is a lonely 16-year-old Muslim girl who finds herself in a hostile world when she starts at a new high school shortly after 9/11, an extremely turbulent time politically. There she encounters rude stares, degrading comments – even physical violence – all because of her race, her religion and the hijab she wears every day. Shirin drowns her hurt and anger in her music and builds up walls to protect herself from the outside world, but cracks begin to appear when her new lab partner, Ocean James, seems to want to get to know her, a terrifying prospect when the two come from such irreconcilable worlds. This is a novel filled with longing, pain, resentment, and ultimately hope. Tahereh Mafi is the bestselling author of the Shatter Me series.
Students today are growing up in a world where digital technology pervades every aspect of their lives, and so, it's become incumbent on educators to leverage such technology to help them learn more effectively. “Digital Natives” is the term used for today's students, whose lives are so entwined with information technology and digital media that a tool like Google has become verbs. So, one has to wonder if the time has arrived to replace printed textbooks with digital textbooks, and can this transform the way students learn by means of an immersive experience?

Simply replacing printed textbooks with access to digital ones will not do much more than lighten students' backpacks. With paper textbooks, students are passive consumers of information. Digital textbooks, on the other hand, will ensure that the information contained within is not only relevant to students but the information is kept up-to-date and that different real-life examples are used to help students draw links between what they are learning with the world outside their school walls.

Three things need to happen to unleash the potential transformative powers of digital textbooks.

1. THEY PRESENT INFORMATION IN RICH FORMATS.

Digital textbooks will allow students to learn from multimedia resources, such as illustrative videos, animations or 360-degree visual images.
2. THEY PROVIDE INTERACTIVE FEATURES.

At the most basic level, digital textbooks will have hyperlinks embedded into the text, which can offer immediate assistance to students and help scaffold learning for those who need it. For example, a difficult vocabulary could be linked to its definition with just a click. These hyperlinks can also allow students to delve deeper into a subject providing a personalized learning trajectory. Students that might need extra assistance might benefit from features such as text-to-speech. Finally, the digital textbooks can provide timely feedback using interactive quizzes, which can help them check their understanding of a topic.

3. THEY PROVIDE CONNECTIONS WITH ONLINE COMMUNITIES.

Digital textbooks can turn students into producers of knowledge. Students can learn and share this knowledge through Google documents, discussion forums or instant messaging chat groups. Digital tools will allow students to express their understanding of the subject in many ways, such as through creating photographs, mind-maps, and audio or video recordings.

By using technology to create interactive and individualized learning experiences, American students will have the opportunity to develop such core competencies as collaboration, digital literacy, critical thinking and problem solving, skills necessary to compete and succeed in the 21st century workforce.

SOURCES:


NEW ACRONYM: ONLINE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OER)

With the push for more creativity in the classroom the traditional classroom textbook is playing more of a minor role with the rise of apps, ebooks, and online resources. How do you even begin to start finding all these resources?

Your library catalog of course!

From LCPS GO - access your library resource folder and select Follett Destiny.

Scroll to High Schools and select Academies of Loudoun.

From the left-side menu, select Destiny Discover. You are now searching our library catalog. Type in any keyword to obtain results.

Once your result pages comes up you can now move between books, databases, collections, and OER. Look for additional resources to be added in 2019 as we move to individual logins for Follett!

PRO TIP: Within the OER section of Follett you can filter your results by type.

Want more OER? Don't forget you have access to Britannica and WorldBook encyclopedias through your library resources folder.