MEET YOUR LIBRARY STAFF

MS. FRAN ROBERTS - LIBRARY ASSISTANT

Ms. Roberts is currently a second year Master’s degree student in School Librarianship at Longwood University in Farmville, Virginia. She is delighted with this opportunity to start her practice of school librarianship at the Academies of Loudoun.

She also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature and a Bachelor of Science degree in Operations Research from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. She was a computer programmer both here and abroad before working for many years as a sales manager at Oracle. She also is a freelance writer.

Ms. Roberts likes to spend her free time with her three teenage children and her Pembroke Welsh Corgi named Scout. She enjoys cooking, playing tennis, making her way through the stack of books on her bedside table, and travel both near and far.

MRS. JENNIFER HILTNER - RESEARCH LIBRARIAN

Mrs. Hiltner is thrilled to be opening the Academies of Loudoun this year as your research librarian. This is her 12th year in Loudoun County Public Schools.

She also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Ecology from the College of the Atlantic and a Masters of Education in Secondary Science (Biology) from George Washington University. She will finish her second Masters in School Librarianship this spring at Longwood University.

As a former science teacher, Mrs. Hiltner is no stranger to the research process. The transition from traditional classroom to library was driven by her desire have a larger impact on the school community and expand her walls. In the library she is able to interact with all students and staff and promote 21st century learning.

Ms. Hiltner likes to spend her free time with her family and all her pets. She enjoys animals, especially chickens, home renovation Pinterest projects, a good science fiction novel, and being a librarian.
WHAT CAN I LEARN IN A RESEARCH LIBRARY?

- Information Literacy
- Boolean Searches
- Database vs Search Engines
- APA and MLA Citations
- Primary vs. Secondary Sources
- Digital Note-Taking and Organization
- Annotations

- Resume Writing
- Interview Scenarios
- Application Navigation
- Digital Tools and Web 2.0 Technologies
- Genres of Literature
- Process Models
- Networking Skills

WHAT SERVICES DOES MY RESEARCH LIBRARIAN PROVIDE?

- Book Checkout and Interlibrary Loan
- Database Assistance and Article Retrieval
- Productivity Assistance
- Book Clubs and Book Recommendations
- Community Outreach and Events
- Collaboration and Instruction
- And so much more!

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August Statistics

- 11 Escape Rooms
- 8 Collaborations
- 7 Interlibrary Loans
- 10 Article Retrievals (currently at a 100% success rate)
FOLLETT FUN FACT
COLLECTION CURATION

Hopefully at one point in time your librarian created a Pathfinder for you to navigate through the resources best suited to the project you were working on. Maybe it was a handout or simply a quick presentation on which websites and databases would really help you out. Follett Destiny allows your librarians to take the traditional Pathfinder one step further and curate a collection within the library catalog.

1. Start at icps.org/acl - Library

Welcome to the Academies of Loudoun Research Library!

Library Hours: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Monday - Friday

2. 

Welcome to Academies of Loudoun

Collections

Check out a collection made for an Environmental Science collaboration

3. 

Have your librarian curate a collection for you!

Already have ideas for a collection/collaboration?
Fill out a request form here:

Request
SOCIAL MEDIA - HONING YOUR DIGITAL LITERACY SKILLS
BY FRANCES ROBERTS, ACL LIBRARY ASSISTANT

Do you remember the first time you created a social media account? Maybe it was on Facebook or Instagram or Snapchat? More importantly, can you imagine your life now without any social media at all? Probably not. If one thing is clear today, it’s that social media has taken hold in our lives and in our society at large, and it’s here to stay.

There has been a recent spate of books asserting that social media is changing everything. Greta Van Susteren defines the magnitude of these changes in her new book, Everything You Need to Know About Social Media (Without Having to Call a Kid), in her opening paragraph:

“We are living through a revolution. The revolution is bigger than the Industrial Revolution, bigger than the automotive revolution, bigger than the great space race. This revolution is changing how we do things, or where we can go, or how we work. It is fundamentally changing how we communicate and relate to one another.”

Social Media’s Impact
Social media’s impact can be felt across the global spectrum, completely transforming the way businesses and governments are run to how we produce and receive the news and entertainment to how we relate with our families and friends.

A Rasmussen poll in October 2016 found that almost half of all adults under age 40 got their news primarily or exclusively from the Internet and social media. For better or worse, Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter have become constant news sources for Internet users. Twitter, in particular, has become known for breaking news ahead of the traditional news media and often becomes part of the story. Classic news formats can’t deliver the immediacy of news events that social media can with its video and Twitter update capabilities, often from witnesses who are now potential news sources.

In essence, with a smartphone in hand, everyone is now a reporter. The voices of the people around the globe are now being heard, building more awareness of issues and actually breaking the news themselves. Social media has created a more democratic space. It’s all about the content you create and, if it’s good, you will attract followers and be heard. Possibly you will also become rich. Felix Kyellberg, a Swede who goes by PewDiePie, has been YouTube’s recent top earner. With 53 million subscribers, he was pulling in $15 million a year from his popular channel “playing video games with your bros.”

But, let’s also look at the flip side. Anyone who engages with a social media site will be on the receiving end of a tremendous amount of information without regard to its value or relevance or veracity. It will be hard, if not impossible, to keep your mind clear of clutter in this social media age. It can all be distracting, to say the least, and we can easily fall victim to information overload.
Smartphone Use
The renowned psychologist and author Dr. Jean M. Twenge’s recent book, iGen: Why Today’s Super-Connected Kids Are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy - and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood, offers a fascinating portrait of this first generation to pass their entire adolescence with a smartphone in hand. The device dominates everything from how they spend their time to their mental health. Social media, video games, and texting have begun to replace other activities that once defined teen life.

According to Twenge:

“The advent of the smartphone and its cousin the tablet was followed quickly by hand wringing about the deleterious effects of ‘screen time.’ But the impact of these devices has not been fully appreciated, and goes far beyond the usual concerns about attention spans. The arrival of the smartphone has radically changed every aspect of teenagers’ lives, from the nature of their social interactions to their mental health. These changes have affected young people in every corner of the nation and in every type of household. The trends appear among teens poor and rich; of every ethnic background; in cities, suburbs, and small towns. Where there are cell towers, there are teens living lives on their cell phones.”

Education is Key
Education is key to teaching the young to be digitally literate, as well as mindful about maintaining responsible habits when it comes to technology use. That’s where your school librarians come into play. Mrs. Hiltnor and I will be using various means to promote digital and information literacy skills in all students at the Academies of Loudoun.

Digital Footprint
One thing to keep in mind always is your digital footprint. You need to understand that your activity online, from posts on social media accounts and comments left on various sites to tweets and retweets, accumulates over time to create an individual digital footprint, which by its very permanence can have serious repercussions for you down the road, both professionally and personally. This online portrait is more public than most of us realize. It is used today by companies to target their products at specific markets and consumers, by employers wanting to look into an applicant’s background, and by advertisers to track a user’s movements across websites. It’s vital, therefore, that we all understand that tweets and Facebook comments and the like all leave a record, and it’s imperative that we take the time to occasionally check the privacy settings on any social media accounts that you may have.

Digital and Informational Literacy Skills
You must keep in mind that just because you read something on the Internet doesn’t mean that it’s true. The Internet is not only immense but, according to Hobbes’ Internet timeline, it’s been doubling in size nearly every year, with a monthly growth rate of 10% to 15%. Anyone can publish on the Internet. Though the Internet certainly can be a valuable tool to obtain information and learn about things, we all need to keep in mind that there’s also a lot of rubbish and misinformation published on the Internet. I tell my own children to discern between the “trash and treasure,” and there is sometimes a good deal of trash to sort through to find the treasure. The ability to critically question the information and media you’re seeing, hearing, and using, then the more likely you are to make informed decisions and to be learned digital citizens.

Check out Factitious to see you are a discerning digital detective!
What We're Reading:

This timely book weaves the stories of three refugee children who are driven from their homes by war, violence and unrest. Josef must escape Nazi Germany with his family on the ill-fated SS St. Louis only to cross the Atlantic and be turned back by the Cuban government. It’s the 1990’s when Isabel and her family set sail from Cuba on a makeshift raft, and it’s a more recent time when Syrian boy Mahmoud and his family are forced to flee the violence and war in Aleppo to try and cross the Aegean Sea from Turkey to Greece in a dinghy. This powerful book connects the stories of refugees from not so long ago with the similar stories of refugees today.


This new release is the second anthology published by the We Need Diverse Books movement. Fresh Ink contains twelve short stories from a diverse group of today’s notable YA authors. Some of my favorites so far have been:
- “Eraser Tattoo” by Jason Reynolds – a sweet story of having to move away
- “Meet Cute” by Malinda Lo – the nerdiest girl meet girl story that’s just super adorable
- “Super Human” by Nicola Yoon – this story is going to pair so well with The 10th Year for Loudoun this year – more on that coming next month!


Below is our featured App of the Month
Check out the AASL website if you can't wait to see what may be featured next!

GOOSE CHASE

GooseChase combines scavenger hunts with mobile technology to create exciting learning activities. In minutes, GooseChase lets you create and facilitate a customized scavenger hunt. Create a game on the GooseChase website and add missions from the mission list or make your own missions. Students use the app to join your game and submit clues.