# **School Library Websites**

The Bricks and Mortar of the Virtual Library Space



**Moving Forward with Together for Learning Implementation** 



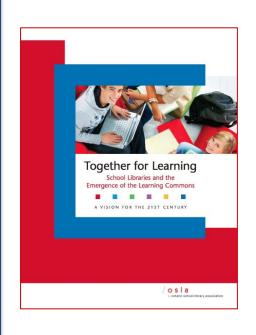
### **Anita Brooks Kirkland**

Consultant, ITS, K-12 Libraries Waterloo Region District School Board

http://library.wrdsb.ca



# PHYSICAL SPACE



A Learning Commons becomes the physical and virtual catalyst where inquiry, imagination, discovery, and creativity come alive and become central to growth – personal, academic, social and cultural.

Together for Learning (2010)

# VIRTUAL SPACE



Physical Library

**Space** 



Resource-rich & organized to support...

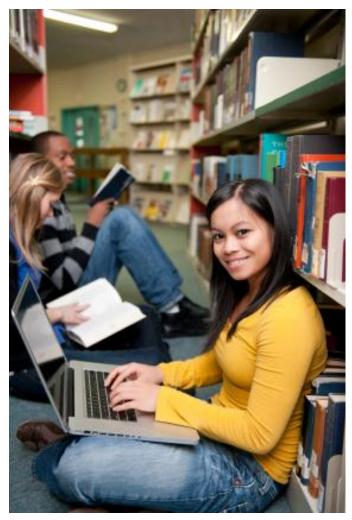


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the messy business of learning that takes place within its walls.

### **Virtual Library Space**



Resource-rich & organized to support...

...the messy business of learning that takes place in collaborative online spaces AND everywhere else.



**Knowledge-Building Centres** 

**AND** in the physical learning commons.

### PHYSICAL SPACE

**Tangible** 

**Organized** 

**Good Signage** 

**Easy to Access** 

**Easy to Use** 

**Flexible** 

**Collections** 

### **Learning Supports**

- Reading Engagement
- Inquiry & Research
- Information Literacy
- Information Ethics

**Learning Spaces** 

Intangible

**Engaging** 

**Stimulating** 

Useful

**User-Friendly** 

**Empowering** 

VIRTUAL SPACE

# One Place to Look











Access

Visibility

Marketing

**User Experience** 



# Library Websites: School and Central Board





### **School Library Websites**



Earl Haig CI, Toronto DSB

### **Central Board Library Websites**



### **Central Board Library Websites**



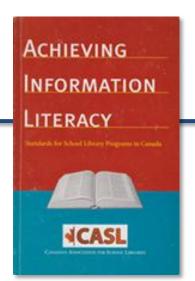
### So what's the problem?

Extensive informal exploration of school and school library websites in Ontario revealed that:

- Many (most) school libraries have no web presence, especially elementary
- Where sites exist, they often have minimal content
- Lack of attention to design factors renders many websites difficult to use
- No visible links to online resource collections
- Central school district library websites only exist in a few instances
- Schools frequently not connected to central site
- Little imagination has been used in many cases to scaffold access to online resource collections for learning success.

Standards set in 2003 not robust enough in defining technology needs for today's school libraries.

**Infrastructure & Program** 



### **Learning from Our Library Colleagues**

The library has to be somewhere and everywhere.

We need to be better when users are in the virtual library space than when they cross the threshold of our physical library space.



# **Joseph Janes**

Dean, The Information School University of Washington

OCULA Spotlight Speaker, Super Conference 2008



#### Welcome to the Virtual Library

The WRDSB Virtual Library connects you to a wealth of information. From encyclopedias, ebooks and audio books to newspapers, magazines and scholarly journals, this collection has it all. Resources are organized by appeal to elementary and secondary students, and to connect teachers to a full range of professional resources.



Elementary Resources Secondary Reference

Secondary One-Stop Secondary by Subject

Secondary eCollections

Primary Source Materials Professional Resources Research Helpers

#### Virtual Library

#### Welcome to the Virtual Library

About the Virtual Library

Elementary Resources

Secondary Reference

Secondary

Secondary Secondary

Primary S

Profession

Research

# Virtual Library

Learning Commons

**Find Books** 

Virtual Library

eVideo S

Staff Resources

Secondary One-Stop

#### Secondary One-Stop

#### Delve more deeply into your topic with these comprehensive databases.

Access magazine articles, popular and professional journals, and newspaper articles and peer-reviewed academic journals.



Canadian & International content.
User-friendly search interface.



Canadian & International content.



Canada's provinces, people and perspectives.



Academic & professional sources.



Popular journals & magazines.



Comprehensive journal & newspapers sources. Extensive backfiles to 1980.



Current & historical perspectives on global issues.



Look at both sides of current, controversial issues.

Virtual Library: Database Access

# **The Problem: Secondary Libraries**

- ✓ Sixteen teacher-librarians working in isolation at sixteen schools
- ✓ Duplication
- ✓ Need to be able to collaborate
- ✓ Varying levels of comfort, time and ability to support library web presence
- ✓ Want common research guide, based on resources developed over past few years

# **The Problem: Elementary Libraries**

- ✓ Six teacher-librarians working centrally, supporting 102 schools
- ✓ Still have mandate to support instructional role of libraries and support teachers
- ✓ Need common resources
- ✓ Need to be able to collaborate
- ✓ Varying levels of comfort, time and ability to support library web presence

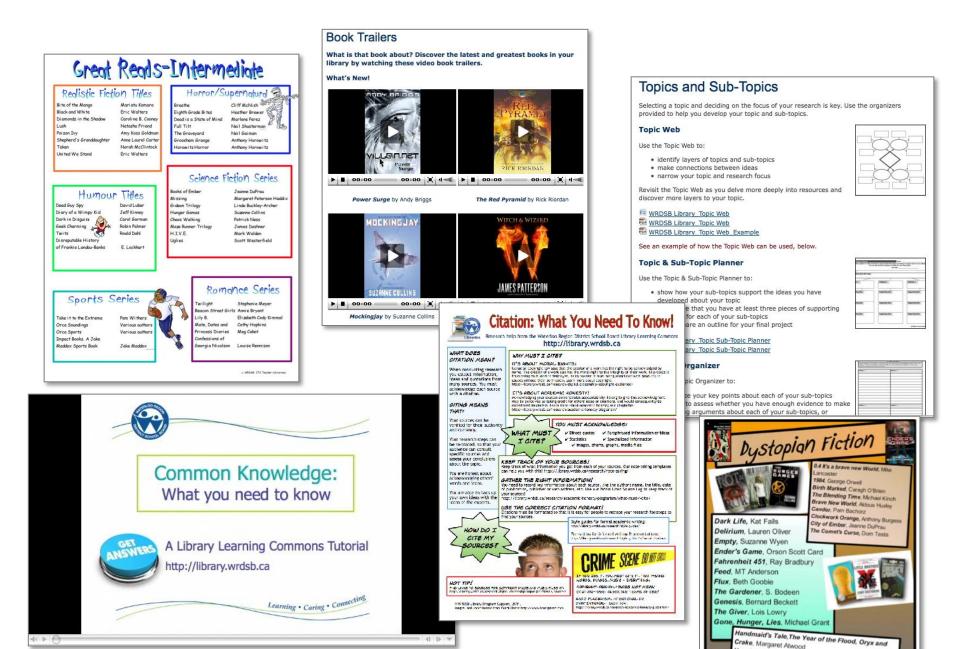
### The Problem: Need One Place to Look

- ✓ Instructional Resources
- ✓ Procedures & Policy
- ✓ Library Catalogue
- ✓ Virtual Library
- ✓ Central Libraries
- ✓ Promotion & Marketing

# Large-scale collaboration: Elementary & Secondary Teacher-Librarians



**Launched in April 2010** 



### **Library Learning Commons**

Crake, Margaret Atwood How I live Now, Meg Rosoff

Little Brother, Cory Doctorow

Life as we knew it, The dead and the gone, Susan







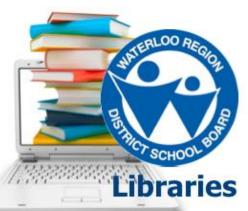
A Staff Development Event for Elementary Library Clerks

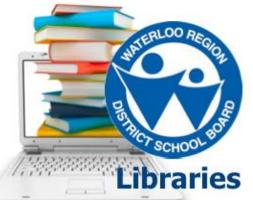
#### Own Your Learning in the 21st Century

**Professional Development for Te** Monday, April 11, 2011

learning

**Professional Learning** & Staff Development









Goes 🛜

Wireless

**Building Capacity for Connected Learning** 

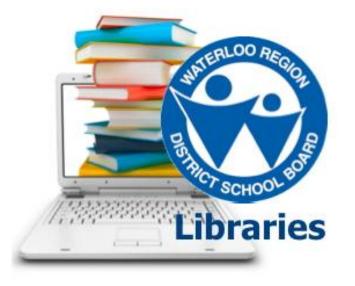
Survey Results: May 2012

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