

# info@SLA

www.sla.org.uk

summer 2017

the newsletter of the School Library Association



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



2017 marks our 80th birthday – it seems amazing that our organisation has seen so much change in its lifetime – in practical terms – IT changes, no more Brown issue systems (or very few anyway!) the huge range and variety of quality books and resources now available. But, it is also quite amazing that in some respects we are no further forward – school libraries have still got no statutory basis, are not inspected as a matter of course by Ofsted – though we do have more and more examples of libraries playing a part in inspection reports – and such tight funding formulas for schools that they see the only way forward is to retire or make redundant their school librarian. We will continue to press for schools having librarians, and libraries and collections being available in every school for all pupils, not a postcode lottery! It may take us another 80 years – but I really do hope that government – whoever they may be after the election this year – sees the value and opportunities that a school library and librarian offers to the young people in this country.



The really exciting news just announced is that **Chris Riddell**, the retiring Waterstone's Children's Laureate, author and illustrator extraordinaire, is to become our next **President**. Throughout his Laureateship he has been a champion of libraries, and school libraries in particular, so it is a delight to welcome him to this role where he can continue to be active in his support of school libraries and reading for pleasure. Our previous President, author and poet Kevin Crossley-Holland, has been such a positive and supportive President so it is great that we have another champion to take over this very important role, especially in this our 80th year.



I am really looking forward to our sell out joint conference with Youth Libraries Group in Harrogate this year. I hope I'll meet you there – do come over and say hello! The programme is packed with so many gems I hope everyone who attends finds many things they will take home and use in their libraries.

Watch out for the announcement of the Information Book Award Children's Choice voting – you can start now as the short lists have been out for some time. A superb set of really excellent books that I am sure you will love in your schools. Remember – you don't need to vote in every age group – just whichever is the best fit for your school.

*Tricia Adams, Director*

P.S. Take a look also at our latest Publications Catalogue which is enclosed with this Summer mailing – some great new titles have been added to our list – or visit <http://www.sla.org.uk/publications>

## Getting Involved in Your Local Branch

**Sally Dring writes:** I first became involved with the SLA Yorkshire & Humberside branch when I was pretty new to school librarianship and, indeed, to librarianship as a whole. There was a call out for people who were interested in helping to set up the branch, so I took a deep breath and volunteered. I ended up on the steering committee and so was involved from the inception – and I'm still there!

I have found the experience so useful, both in terms of learning about the role of the school librarian and also for networking. I now feel that I have school library 'friends' all over the country whom I can contact for advice or for ideas.

I have now been the Chair for around six years and it's been fabulous having an input into the sort of training we can bring to our area to help our school librarians develop their skills. If you are working towards Certification or Chartership, being involved in your local branch is invaluable CPD, apart from which, it's great fun. If you are wondering whether to have a go, don't hesitate!

*Yorkshire & Humberside*

*Sally Dring is Learning Resources Manager and Literacy & Numeracy Co-ordinator, Ripon Grammar School*

# Information Book Award 2017

## CHILDREN'S CHOICE VOTING NOW OPEN



Our Information Book Award shortlist has now been announced – congratulations to all our shortlisted authors, illustrators and publishers. For more information, see [www.sla.org.uk/iba](http://www.sla.org.uk/iba)

**INFORMATION**  
*Book Award*



**Children's Choice** voting for the 2017 Information Book Award is now open and is a great way to get your pupils engaged in judging the merits of a varied range of information books.

The voting page can be accessed via [www.sla.org.uk/vote](http://www.sla.org.uk/vote) and is also linked to from the SLA home page. Voting will remain open until noon on Friday 17 November 2017. The Award Ceremony will take place on 22 November 2017 in London. We are planning to have a set of tickets available for librarians who would like to attend – these will be available on a first come, first served basis – watch our website and social media for announcements!



## SLA trial with RM Books

### SLA E-BOOK EDITIONS

<https://books.rm.com/sla>

RM Books is delighted to be offering the new digital editions of the SLA's publications.

RM Books is the UK's only ebook platform designed specifically for schools. The platform is free to use, with no support or subscription fees, so every penny spent can go on books. A range of flexible rental periods ensure you only pay for books while you are using them, helping budgets go even further. Students can access their e textbooks, curriculum set texts, and a wide range of fiction and non-fiction titles at any time and from anywhere, while teachers can add their own overlays of relevant articles, videos or quizzes to customise and enhance the learning experience.



To find out more about RM Books and to register your school for a free account, visit the RM Books website (<https://books.rm.com/sla>). If you would like to know more about how other schools are using RM Books, there are a number of great case studies to

look at (<https://books.rm.com/case-studies/>). We have also produced some user guides and quick start guides to help you get started (<https://books.rm.com/manuals>).

Discover how you can support your students' reading and learning with RM Books today.



# Supplier Information

## WIN FREE BOOKS!

European Schoolbooks Ltd sells European-published books for readers of all levels. It sells books in many languages, particularly in French, Spanish, German, Italian and Russian.



Items available include:

- European-language fiction including board books, picture books, fairy tales, easy readers, parallel texts, abridged and unabridged classics, contemporary fiction and set texts for the new AS and A Level curricula.
- Translations of popular children's books such as *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *Harry Potter* and *The Lord of the Rings*, as well as titles by bestselling authors such as Roald Dahl, David Walliams and Patrick Ness.
- European-language non-fiction such as language games, activity books, songbooks, monolingual and bilingual dictionaries, grammars, course books, biography and history.

European Schoolbooks' staff includes language graduates and native speakers of French, German, Spanish, Italian and Russian. If you would like advice on books or on collections of books for particular educational purposes, European Schoolbooks' expert staff will be pleased to help. For more information about European Schoolbooks Ltd email [direct@esb.co.uk](mailto:direct@esb.co.uk) or browse [www.eurobooks.co.uk](http://www.eurobooks.co.uk)

## FREE BOOK OFFER

For your chance to win £50 of free books, simply browse [www.europeanbookshop.com](http://www.europeanbookshop.com), select 3 or more books on the website that you would particularly like in your library, and email details of the items to [gjn@esb.co.uk](mailto:gjn@esb.co.uk) with the email subject 'info@ Book Selection'. Email entries will be gathered into a draw, and the winner will be presented with a £50 voucher for use on European Schoolbooks' website. Entries must be received by 30 June 2017.

# MLS Top 3 Latest System Updates

## 1. All Hosted School Library sites are now fully HTML 5

We have made substantial investments in upgrading our hosted architecture so that we can provide an even more responsive experience, and an important element of this process has been to create a HTML 5 experience for all customers. All of our hosted products now have a HTML 5 interface option for both the student and management interfaces. The default interface settings can be adjusted manually and the library system can now be accessed easily through any web-browser on PC, laptop, mobile or tablet devices.

## 2. Project Boxes – a flexible way of managing resources

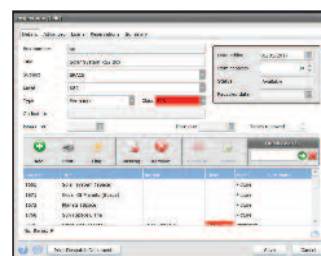
We have implemented an innovative Project Box loan feature which enables school librarians and School Library Service customers to create their own collections of resources which can be circulated en masse with ease. This is Phase 1 of a wider project to add a variety of new Management tools so look out for further developments in this area.

## 3. Advanced Search – even more versatile

We have broadened the number of searchable fields and implemented true Boolean logic into the student interfaces for our library systems. This empowers students to build their

own multi-criteria searches to hone in on the correct resources for their projects.

Naturally MLS are always making improvements and other new features include enhancements to the reservation system and community dashboard and password reset facilities. Coming soon will be the release of a suite of brand new student interfaces and mobile app upgrades, which will incorporate a whole range of exciting new technologies for the next generation!



## Supporting our System Users

Get in touch via [mlsadvisory@microlib.co.uk](mailto:mlsadvisory@microlib.co.uk) if you would like to learn more about how to best exploit the full potential of the software as we are planning a webinar programme focusing on different aspects of the system and don't forget to join our lively MLS online users support forum **Edoocoo** [www.edoocoo.com](http://www.edoocoo.com)

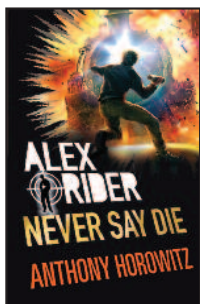


## \*Poster Offer\*

### ALEX RIDER RETURNS

**Never give in. Never give up. Never say die.**

Alex Rider is back in this brand new, explosive mission in Anthony Horowitz's number one bestselling series, coming June 2017. Alex Rider is trying to get his life back on track after the traumatic events of his last mission. But even Alex can't fight the past ... especially when it holds a deadly secret.



For your free *Never Say Die* poster, simply contact [jo.humphreys-davies@walker.co.uk](mailto:jo.humphreys-davies@walker.co.uk)

## Reading Champion

### SAVE 20% ON NEW INDEPENDENT READING PROGRAMME READING CHAMPION!

**Reading Champion** from Franklin Watts is a brand new series providing fantastic independent reading books for primary school children to practise and reinforce their developing reading skills. Featuring over 200 exciting, original stories covering a range of topics and cultures, and vibrant, appealing artwork, these books are ideal for building confidence in reading independently.

The first titles in the series are out now and Franklin Watts are delighted to offer you a 20% discount on sets of 6 books! Plus get a free Reading Champion poster for your library when you make an appointment with your Hachette Children's Group representative. Find out more and contact your rep via Jackie Quinn at [Jackie.quinn@hachettechildrens.co.uk](mailto:Jackie.quinn@hachettechildrens.co.uk).



## SLA AGM

Just a reminder that the **Annual General Meeting** of the School Library Association will be held at the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate, North Yorkshire on Sunday 25 June 2017 at 9:20 am.

The AGM will include the announcement of the results of the Ballot to elect members to the three vacant places on the Board (Executive Committee) for 2017–2020. Thank you to all those who participated in the Association's online ballot.

## ANNUAL REPORT

The SLA's **Annual Report and Accounts** for 2016–17 will be distributed via the SLA website at [www.sla.org.uk/about-the-sla](http://www.sla.org.uk/about-the-sla).



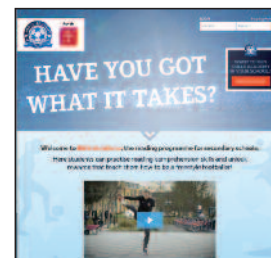
## Reading Resource

### SKILLS ACADEMY

The National Literacy Trust's brand new Skills Academy reading intervention uses football skills and tricks as motivation to improve reading comprehension skills and confidence. The 10-week programme rewards students for their reading progress with the chance to learn how to master amazing freestyle football tricks.

<http://skillsacademy.literacytrust.org.uk/>

Sign up and you'll receive a range of resources, including 10 curriculum-linked lesson plans, a set of 20 books, membership of the National Literacy Trust Network and one year's access to the Skills Academy microsite which includes all programme content.



## SLA Event

### DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

The SLA and Heath Educational Books have joined forces to offer a **School Librarians' Day** on Thursday 5 October. Further details will be added to the SLA website shortly. All the latest information on SLA training courses is available at [www.sla.org.uk/training-courses](http://www.sla.org.uk/training-courses)



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