

info@SLA

www.sla.org.uk

summer 2016

the newsletter of the School Library Association



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



The last few months have been both inspiring and difficult in a variety of respects. The position for some school librarians being made redundant after long and exemplary service is heart-breaking; not only for the individual involved, but also for the hole their loss will create in the lives of the students left in schools with no librarian support available to them. As an organisation we will continue to make the case for librarians in schools as being vital for the education of all students.

Meanwhile the motion at the ATL conference in support of libraries (April) was fantastic – to have a large union offering support is vitally important, and leads to other supportive connections that we are following up. Whichever union you belong to do consider becoming active in supporting their members (i.e. you) as the larger the voice we speak with the more influence we should be able to create.

I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the Weekend Course, as well as in the opportunities I have had to see some of you in Branch meetings too. We have a great programme planned for the two days – and do watch the website as we announce additions to the programme. If I haven't visited your branches recently do get in touch – I still have some availability later in the year!

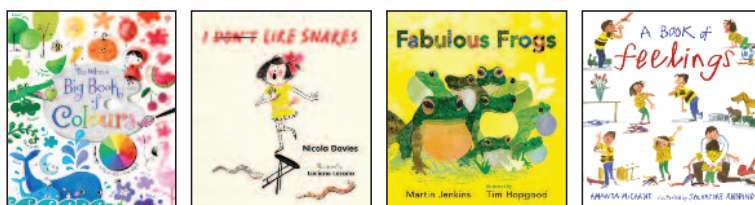
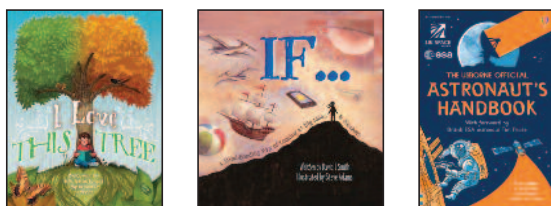
Tricia Adams, Director

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>



INFORMATION BOOK AWARD 2016

INFORMATION
Book Award



Our Information Book Award shortlist has now been announced – congratulations to all our shortlisted authors, illustrators and publishers. For more information, see <http://www.sla.org.uk/information-book-award-2016.php>

Children's Choice judging for the 2016 Information Book Award is now open and is a great way to get your pupils engaged in assessing the merits of a varied range of information books.

The voting page can be accessed via www.sla.org.uk/vote and is also linked to from the SLA home page.

Voting will remain open until noon on Friday 4 November 2016.

Peters Books & Furniture are offering a generous discount on books for the Award – check out their website for details (<http://petersbooks.co.uk/>).

Libraries in Action

WHY I CHOSE THE READING CLOUD

In these times school libraries cannot afford to be digitally disengaged therefore when I took over at my new School Library I started looking seriously at online engagement and resources. Part of the solution was to investigate how to expand the Library's online presence. After looking at several options we decided to go with the Reading Cloud partly because it directly links in with the Library catalogue and makes it available online but mostly because it promises a safe social network built around books and reading that is very attractive. Especially since recent research has found that students enjoy reading and read more when they communicate with each other about their reading likes and dislikes. I'm also looking forward to the functions that allow students to write and post on their own blogs and reviews which we are hoping will directly tie in with our reading and whole school reward systems as well as encouraging writing as well as reading. I was worried about the safety aspect of the social network aspect but there is also a lot of latitude to turn aspects of the service off if they don't work in our school which is reassuring.

Amanda Ball, Librarian, Morpeth School and Sixth Form

For further information, see www.microlib.co.uk/home/ReadingCloud.aspx



2017 Calendar

Peter Sheldon writes...

The next Friends Calendar – 2017 – is already in preparation... well, we've all had lunch together, discussed the monthly schedule, and the fact that we are running with "Farms for City Children" after a successful 2016, for us and for them.

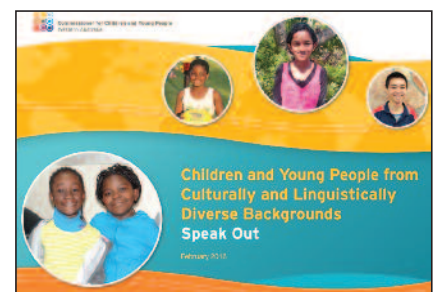
Who's in? Well Quentin Blake (he of the knighthood) is happy to maintain his presence along with Anthony Browne, Jane Ray, Nicholas Allan, Arthur Robins and Michael Foreman – spot his leaping Michael Morpurgo. Ruth Brown has promised an Autumnal delight, and Emma Chichester Clark is back with *Plumdog*, whilst a warm welcome awaits Posy Simmonds thanks to *Tamara Drewe*. Then we have Jacqui Hawkins who has uncovered a hidden treasure, oh, and there's bound to be some illustrative shenanigans from Tony Ross and Colin McNaughton... so I think we have another winner to keep you company throughout the events of 2017.

Can't wait? No, neither can I! But we'll all have to, so look out for more information about ordering your copies in the next issue.

Research Report

DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS

Australian research on Children and Young People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds



– some interesting insights that are also applicable in other countries. The Report is available to download: <https://www.cyp.wa.gov.au/media/1411/report-cald-children-and-young-people-from-culturally-and-linguistically-diverse-backgrounds-speak-out-web-version-february-2016.pdf>

Libraries in Action

MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE TO A PRIMARY SCHOOL LIBRARY IN MIDDLESEX

All children deserve access to great books at school to ensure they become confident and passionate readers. Whether a reading area is big or small, every school needs a library space that will inspire their pupils to pick up a book. Peters Books & Furniture believe that a school library should be a place children love to visit, and this idea is at the heart of all of their library designs.

With this in mind, when Buckingham Primary School in Hampton approached Peters to redesign their library spaces, they quickly set to work creating a fun design that was full of colour. The new library space also features practical ways to display books in order to help inspire the pupils to develop a passion for reading.

The designers took on board all the requirements from staff and pupils and set about creating the perfect reading environment. Joseph Gale, Assistant Head Teacher at Buckingham Primary School, praised Peters' approach, stating that '...the whole process was tailored to our school and the designs could be changed according to our staff and pupils' ideas. The actual installation took little time and we are very happy with the quality of the shelving and seating.'

Using a bright Elmer rug and striking flying book mats, an engaging reading corner was created, and comfy curved seating and playtime pods were dotted amongst the Tortuga two-tone shelving to entice children to settle down with a book.

Thanks to the changes, Mr Gale said that the 'new library space is bright and inviting and a popular place for our children to visit'. Fulfilling Peters' belief that all children and young people should have access to great books, as well as inspiring spaces to enjoy them in, Mr Gale went on to say that he would highly recommend Peters for 'the knowledge and experience they have of making a real difference to school libraries'.

In addition to designing engaging library spaces for schools, Peters Books and Furniture stocks one of the widest ranges of children's books in the UK – www.peters-books.co.uk.



Softlink
Powering Knowledge Performance

Come & visit us at
the SLA Weekend
Event on the 24th-
25th June in
Gloucestershire

Softlink has supported school libraries for more than 30 years. Our school library software provides the latest innovation to meet the needs of all schools.

With a Softlink library system you can enable easy discovery of books and learning resources, as well as managing library services, eBooks and digital and curriculum resources, making your school library a centre for learning and innovation.

Our software is developed to meet the specific needs of school libraries supporting engagement with students and the entire school community.

"We chose Scout for our primary school as it delivered everything we needed to engage our pupils in the library and enable us to easily track reading progress and resource levels. As a bonus the staff at Softlink were more than helpful and supportive throughout our decision process and we were pleased with the assurance of local support"

"Oliver is very easy for our pupils to use, they can find books and resources so much more quickly from anywhere in the school. With home page customisations, book carousels and embedded videos the library seems so much more exciting and interactive for pupils"



Contact Us
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Web: www.softlinkint.com



Libraries in Action

SCHOOL LIBRARY AUTOMATION ENHANCES THE LEARNING PROCESS

by Nick Hunt, Managing Director of PSP Asset Protection

Studies show that reading for pleasure from a young age leads to greater academic attainment yet many school libraries are struggling to fulfil their potential because they are not recognised as strategically useful, essential resources which can play such a key role in delivering educational outcomes.

Ofsted reports that 'many of the imaginative programmes to encourage reading that inspectors see are inspired by a good librarian' yet libraries do not form part of their inspection process. In fact, schools can currently be rated as outstanding even if they do not have a library at all. This may be about to change after the Libraries All Party Parliamentary Group recommended that the school library be embedded in the Ofsted inspection framework.

It has been demonstrated that properly resourced and organised school libraries can make a real difference to academic performance and many schools are now re-evaluating the level of investment they are making in these facilities.

When budget is available, schools must ensure that a clear return on investment can be achieved from deploying new systems. This can only be achieved when working with technology vendors that can demonstrate a successful track record of working with the education sector and understand the requirements of school libraries.

One such technology deployed in libraries across the UK is RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) which is commonly used as a security solution to reduce losses. However, this technology can provide schools with higher levels of functionality and can help to automate some of the main tasks performed within the library. This will give librarians more time to focus on enhancing service provision.

The latest version of this technology speeds up the detection and reading of items, helping to reduce queues and deliver significant time savings. It also offers security antennas that can be configured to automatically send notifications of alarm incidents to a dedicated PC giving greater control and monitoring of stock movements, something that is particularly useful if libraries are ever left unstaffed.

The accessibility and availability of stock is also enhanced by providing greater control and management of the whole collection. In particular, stocktaking can be quickly and easily completed in days rather than weeks using a hand-held

device to scan every book on display or in the storeroom without having to physically handle a single item. This enables stock levels to be reviewed and losses ascertained without ever having to shut the library. Improving stock control will deliver savings that can either be reinvested in the library stock to extend access to resources, both hard copy and online, or in other areas of the library space to further enhance the learning process.

Fully utilising the technology and the high levels of statistical data available enables detailed reports to be generated that provide library staff, senior management and teachers with a greater perspective of the important role played by the library in enhancing the learning process. These reports can include:

- number of visits
- alarm incidents
- book issues
- peak times
- stock losses (known and unknown)
- stock refreshed
- stock value and cost of losses.

This data can be used to improve the weeding process to maintain quality levels by identifying items that have either not been issued for a defined period or are over a certain age. Most school libraries could potentially rationalise their collections by around 30% if only they knew which titles to take off the shelves. RFID-enabled books can be located in seconds allowing librarians to free up shelf space for bookshop-style displays that encourage greater interaction and multiple usage.

Such systems will reduce the administrative burden and allow librarians to spend more time interacting with students. This will be time well spent fostering a love of reading as well as teaching and encouraging children how to find, analyse, reference and use information held in the library and online as part of the learning process. It will also enable librarians to support individual teachers more proactively and gain a better understanding of current teaching issues.

Conclusion

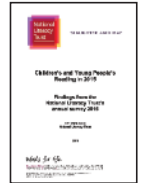
Well run school libraries with professional, knowledgeable and enthusiastic staff can have a significant impact on improving literacy standards. Providing them with the right tools and support will ensure that they are not marginalised and remain connected with the acknowledged educational priorities of literary and skills supporting knowledge acquisition. A greater understanding of the contribution that libraries play to the progress of students will also enable librarians to be better integrated into school management structures. As well as helping to influence debate, this will ensure greater visibility for libraries and help reclaim their unique role at the heart of every school.

Research Articles

NATIONAL LITERACY TRUST

New research highlights a gulf in reading enjoyment and attitudes between primary and secondary school pupils

The National Literacy Trust's sixth annual survey of 32,569 children and young people reveals a gulf in reading enjoyment between primary and secondary schoolers. In 2015, just 40.2% of Key Stage 4 pupils (age 14 to 16) say they enjoy reading either very much or quite a lot, versus 72.6% of Key Stage 2 pupils surveyed (age 8 to 11). This disparity has been sustained since 2010 with the annual percentage gap in enjoyment of reading between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 pupils over the last six years averaging 31.1 percentage points.



Huge differences in attitude to reading between the Key Stages

The new research shows that secondary school students also feel much less positively about reading than primary school students. Pupils at Key Stage 4 are hugely less likely to say reading is cool: 24.1% versus 70.5% at Key Stage 2. In addition they are much less likely to see the relevance of reading to employability than younger students with only 36.4% at Key Stage 4 feeling that being good at reading will lead to a better job, compared with 71.3% at Key Stage 2.

This gap in enjoyment and attitudes exists despite similar daily reading patterns, with 41.4% of Key Stage 4 pupils and 45.5% of Key Stage 2 pupils reading daily outside class.

Additional research findings

The survey found that overall, levels of reading enjoyment and frequency have increased again, year on year and are at their highest for a decade. In 2015, 54.8% children and young people enjoy reading very much or quite a lot, a slight increase from 54.4% in 2014. Pupils reading daily outside class increased to 43% in 2015, up from 41.4% in 2014.

Pupils spend more than twice as much time reading online than they spend reading books, reading online for on average 100.42 minutes per day, compared with 41.59 minutes reading books.

The gender gap persists with 61.2% of girls enjoying reading versus 47.8% of boys. Half of girls (49.5%) read daily outside of school, compared to a third (36.0%) of boys.

The research shows a clear correlation between attainment and reading enjoyment, frequency and attitudes. Children and young people who enjoy reading very much are three times as likely to read above the level expected for their age as young people who do not enjoy reading at all (32.7% versus 10.1%).

The full report can be found here:

http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/assets/0003/0949/Children_s_and_Young_People_s_Reading_in_2015.pdf

PROFOUND IMPACT OF LEARNING ENVIRONMENT CONDITIONS ON PERFORMANCE

Creative project developer, Kickstarter has announced the findings of its Learnometer research report. The report explores and measures the optimal environmental conditions for learning. These findings could also be relevant to designing school library environments for better performance and concentration.

Following a week in which children have been sitting the new maths, reading, spelling and grammar tests, the research project highlights the effects of various conditions, including temperature, CO2 volume, noise and sound on the performance of students.

The research, carried out over a number of months, invited schools to measure their own learning environments, while the Kickstarter team measured over fifty examination rooms across the world.

Professor **Stephen Heppell**, project leader and professor at Centre for Excellence in Media Practice, Bournemouth University, said, 'The research clearly identified that various conditions have a profound impact on performance. The results show how these conditions can unfairly skew the outcome of children's hard work. In so many cases they will perform below their best, simply because the environment they are in is damaging to their performance. It can be compared to trying to run 100 metres in heavy boots.' He continues, 'It was fascinating to see so many teachers' shock to realise from their own data gathering, why groups of children are disengaged, not concentrating, or underperforming. As we approach GCSE and A level exams, it is time to give everyone the best chance possible. This isn't currently happening.'

For further information please visit: www.learnometer.net

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1181731207/learnometer-better-learning-by-tracking-environmen>

Poster Offer

LOOKING FOR LAUGHS?

MEET TIMMY FAILURE!

His name is Failure. Timmy Failure. And his detective agency is on the verge of global domination...

The world's most clueless detective is back in award-winning author Stephan Pasis's fourth book in the *New York Times* bestselling series, perfect for fans of Wimpy Kid and Tom Gates. In *Timmy Failure: Sanitized For Your Protection*, shenanigans abound as Timmy finds himself on a road trip with none other than notorious criminal Molly Moskins. Travelling halfway across the country to help your mother's boyfriend settle into his new job would be inconvenient for any detective, let alone the founder, president and CEO of Total Failure Inc, the world's greatest detective agency. Timmy has a case to solve, and nothing can stand in his way.

Described by the Guardian as 'riotously funny' and by Philip Ardagh as 'original and quirky, with real heart', the *Timmy Failure* series are sure to have you laughing out loud! To watch a video of Stephan drawing the entire *Timmy Failure* cast, to read extracts or for other fun activities, visit www.timmyfailure.com.

For your Timmy Failure poster, simply contact jo.humphreys-davies@walker.co.uk



ATL Report

Lin Smith writes:

Having been drafted in to assist with providing a case against a proposed job deletion, I was delighted when the Derbyshire branch of ATL took up the issue of the closure of school libraries. After local discussion the Branch decided that the whole issue should form a motion at the annual national Conference in Liverpool. The motion was then taken up by the national executive and approved as an issue for debate.

Members of the SLA Board and CILIP SLG were cordially invited along to Conference to man stands and be the resident experts for colleagues who wanted to discuss the issue. Informal discussions showed us just what a mixed picture there is across the country with some news of new library development along with the much less welcome view that senior managers did not always appreciate the value of a good school library,

Put simply as 'Stop shutting school libraries', the case for the motion was eloquently and passionately promoted by Cathy Tattersfield the Derbyshire Branch Secretary. More details are available here: <https://www.atl.org.uk/policy-and-campaigns/conference/2016/conference-2016-wednesday-am.asp#tcm:30-113883> and there is a full resume of coverage on the SLA blog here: <http://www.sla.org.uk/blg-atl-union-says-stop-shutting-libraries.php>

Once seconded by Andrew Bradley, Derbyshire president, the motion was carried by almost a hundred percent using the electronic system available at Conference. Collaborating with a teaching union was a positive experience giving us a wider forum for promoting our role in schools. The survey which has now been undertaken by ATL has also provided interesting data for us all.

SLA Conference

CARDIFF 2016

Join us on Monday **14 November 2016** at the inspiring and creative venue of the Doctor Who Experience in Cardiff Bay for our One-Day Conference entitled **Reading Outside the Box**. A day packed with fantastic speakers and sessions giving practical strategies for promoting reading awaits!

Delegates might consider booking an extra night beforehand and spending a lovely Sunday exploring the many interesting things Cardiff has to offer.

Make a note in your diary and look out for more details on the programme coming soon on the SLA website and via Twitter.



SLA AGM

Just a reminder that the **Annual General Meeting** of the School Library Association will be held at Tortworth Court Hotel, Gloucestershire, on Saturday 25 June 2016 at 9:00am.

The AGM will include the announcement of the results of the Ballot to elect members to the four vacant places on the Board (Executive Committee) for 2016–2019. Thank you to all those who participated in the Association's online ballot.

ANNUAL REPORT

The SLA's **Annual Report and Accounts** for 2015–16 will be distributed via the SLA website at www.sla.org.uk/about-the-sla.

Printed copies will be available for those attending the AGM and by request to the SLA office.



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