Developing a Culture of Information Literacy

a discussion

Andrew J Stark
The Southport School, Australia
The Southport School

Founded in 1901, The Southport School is an Anglican day and boarding school for boys from Prep (Reception) to Year 12.

The School's student population is 1630. There are 1000 boys in the Senior School of whom 305 are boarders.

The vision of the School is to be acknowledged as a world-class boarding and day school for boys as it aims to create a balanced and holistic learning community.
A ‘User Centred’ Approach

Figure 1: Integrated Customer Knowledge Management Model (Daneshgar and Parirokh 2012:12).
Usercentredness encourages participative leadership and empowers library staff to respond to and solve problems.

Usercentredness requires intra-school connection.

Usercentredness recognises patron goals and requires staff to provide high-level service that is reliable and appropriate.

Usercentredness means you know all your users.
Figure 2: Which of (your) subjects do you believe might require you to access TSS library facilities?
Figure 3: How do you usually find resources for assignments? (multiple options)
Figure 4: How do you usually find resources for recreational reading? (multiple options)
Five Year Plan … to enhance user-centredness

* Reassess and review the structure and use of space
  • Revitalise the approach to information literacy

* Establish a series of School-wide projects
  • Highlight the professional role of library staff

* Extend Head of Library’s role to include PD Co-ordinator
  • Review resources to reflect academic, social and cultural needs
Change at TSS… the library building
Change at TSS...circulation
Change at TSS… reading space
Taking a revised approach to Information Literacy …

Literacy, particularly in electronic format, may have more to do with the production and consumption of images than the reading and writing of linear prose. The information literacy skills required for successful visual analysis are often similar to those required for effective comprehension and analysis of written texts.

Benjamin Harris, Trinity University, San Antonio (2010)

While positive education may be defined as ‘education for both traditional skills and happiness’ another working definition for positive education is ‘the development of educational environments that enable the learner to engage in established curricula in addition to knowledge and skills to develop their own and others’ wellbeing’.

Oades and Alexandra, University of Melbourne (2017)
Critical Life-Literacies Program

Visual and Perceptual

Wellbeing and Emotional

Information and Digital
Visual and Perceptual Literacy
Visual and Perceptual Literacies…
Hobo-Dyer Equal Area Projection portrays the relative size of countries and continents more accurately.
Hobo-Dyer Equal Area Projection #2
Images of Australia

In most instances, the Australian colonial landscape narrative in art was essentially an imagined occupation of the regions prior to their actual settlement.

At Moulting Lagoon, East Coast, Tasmania
John Glover
c.1860
Oil on canvas

Ferntree Gully in the Dandenong Ranges
Eugene von Guerard
1857
Oil on canvas.
Later Images of Australia

*The Olgas for Earnest Giles*
Brett Whiteley
1985
Oil and mixed media on board

*River Landscape*
John Olsen
2003
Oil on board
Crucifixion
Peter Gertner (1537)
Christ with Shopping Bags
Banksy 2004

Piss Christ
Andreas Serrano 1987
Boosting visual literacy through …

* Perspective (assumption vs conclusion)

* Story telling

* Narrative construction

* Social and cultural enquiry

* Challenging political agendas
Wellbeing and Emotional Literacy
Sources of Stress for Students

- Foreseeable but unavoidable
- Unforeseeable and unavoidable
- Foreseeable and avoidable
… the use of books as therapy in the treatment of mental or psychological disorders.

… a creative arts therapy modality that involves storytelling or the reading of specific texts with the purpose of healing.

*Life’s too short for bad books.*
Recent acquisitions with a wellbeing theme…
Habits of Mind

Intelligent Dispositions: Intelligent Attitudes and Behaviours

- Stick at it
  Practice commitment and persistence as they lead to success.

- Have self discipline
  Practice self-control and managing your impulses. Think about the consequences before you act.

- Be clear when you communicate
  Use clear language as fuzzy language reflects fuzzy thinking. Intelligent people strive to communicate accurately.

- Use all your senses to gather data
  Use your mind to gather information from touch, movement, taste, smell, sight and sound.

- Be creative
  Imagine new ideas and alternative ways of doing things.

- Understand other people
  Listen and try to understand others and empathise with them.

- Think of different ways of solving a problem
  Try new approaches as you receive additional information. Be flexible.

- See the wonder, mystery and awe in the world
  Be intrigued and passionate about the world and enjoy figuring things out.

- Understand your thinking
  Think about a plan, reflect on how it is going, and evaluate the quality of your thinking. This is called metacognition.

- Move out of your comfort zone
  Take responsible risks by trying new activities, accepting challenges and finding your limits.

- Be precise and accurate
  Review (check over) and correct your work. Aim for excellence.

- Laugh and enjoy life
  Develop your sense of humour. Laugh at your own strange ways, but don’t find humour in ways that hurt others.

- Be curious
  Ask questions and seek solutions to problems.

- Cooperate together
  Work together to be more clever and powerful. Look after other people. Be compassionate and humble.

- Learn from your experiences
  Use what you know from the past and apply it in new situations.

- Keep learning
  Be eager to learn. Intelligent people are always learning, improving and developing.

- Learn to lead
  Look for ways to make things better for others. This shows good character.

The Southport School
A Home for the Mind
1. Be Loving
Live abundantly! Give of yourself to others by creating positive relationships that inspire and build up the health of all people. Care deeply and act generously for the wellbeing of all in creation.

2. Be Grateful
Be thankful! Reflect on the good things you find in your own life. Find joy in all the ways that your life and relationships are wonderful today.

3. Be Faithful
Be a person who can be trusted! Value people for their positive qualities, for their abilities, for their vulnerability. Respect people in their difference.

4. Be Patient
Let things happen in their time! Don’t unnecessarily force events or rush others to make progress. Be calm and collected.

5. Be Compassionate
Show kindness and empathy to others! Reflect on the hardship and suffering of others and seek to ease their pain and serve their needs.

6. Do Good
Act in ways that benefit life and health! Look for opportunities to do things that make the world a better place for all of creation.

7. Serve Sacrificially
Be a person who can be trusted! Value people for their positive qualities, for their abilities, for their vulnerability. Respect people in their difference.

8. Be Patient
Let things happen in their time! Don’t unnecessarily force events or rush others to make progress. Be calm and collected.

9. Be Wise
Use knowledge in life giving ways! Think about how what you know can be applied to the world in ways that are healthy for yourself, others and the world.

10. Be Honest
Believe in yourself, in your place and impact on the world.

11. Be Courageous
Don’t be afraid to do the right thing! Act in ways that reflect your inner self. Stand up for and for the good of others.

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Information and Digital Literacy
Library as mentor and motivator program...
Triangulated Approach

Phase One
Students

Phase Two
Staff

Phase Three
Parents

LIBRARY
Phase One … Students

“It’s not the same. I was caught stealing office supplies. You, on the other hand, got caught stealing ideas.”
HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS

CONSIDER THE SOURCE
Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.

READ BEYOND
Headlines can be outrageous in effort to get clicks. What's the whole story?

CHECK THE AUTHOR
Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?

SUPPORTING SOURCES?
Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.

CHECK THE DATE
Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.

IS IT A JOKE?
If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.

CHECK YOUR BIASES
Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.

ASK THE EXPERTS
Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.
Types of Knowledge

• **Common Knowledge** ... refers to information that could be reasonably understood or known to the majority of people. For example, *Several countries, including France, Belgium and Britain, have great museums dedicated to World War One.*
  - Common Knowledge doesn’t need to be referenced

• **Not Common Knowledge** … refers to information that is not generally understood or known to the majority of people. For example, *The immediate trigger of World War One was the assassination of the heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire on 28 June 1914.*
  - Not common Knowledge needs to be referenced
For example: referencing a borrowed idea …

Darlington (2012, p.229) suggests that Germany sought an alliance with Austria-Hungary and Russia because Germany feared France would want revenge for the loss of Alsace and Lorraine provinces.

Or, a better, more academic way …

To ensure Germany’s domination in Europe, noted historian Robert Darlington suggests Germany sought an alliance with both Austria-Hungary and Russia. This was mainly owing to Germany’s concern that France might seek revenge after Germany’s annexation of the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine. (Darlington, 2012, p.229).

Credential … what makes the provider of information noteworthy?
A Bibliography needs six things:

- Author surname and first initial
- Year
- Title
- Place of publication
- Publisher

Phase Two … School Staff

Librarian as Staff PL Coordinator and Provider
Digital Literacy vs Digital Fluency
How is digital literacy different from digital fluency?

With the study of a foreign language, literacy is the ability to speak, read and write in that language. Fluency is being able to create something using that language.

Similarly, digital literacy is an understanding of how to use the tools; fluency is the ability to create something new with those tools.
Clint Lalonde
School of Education, British Columbia University, Victoria

While *digital literacy* may focus on the development of *basic digital skills and competencies*, *digital fluency* goes further. It focuses on the *metacognitive skills required to transfer those digital skills* from one technology to another.

*Literacy* is on the pathway to *fluency* - you cannot become fluent until you become literate; Digital Literacy is not the end-point.

A *digitally fluent* teacher compares, contrasts and analyses differences in technologies while striving to understand how those differences influence pedagogy. A *digitally fluent* instructor continually focuses on the *pedagogical use of the technology*. 
To encourage *digital fluency*, we ask our staff:

**Why** are you using the technology and **what** are the **benefits**?

What are the **drawbacks** and how might some students struggle with the technology?

How are you hoping this technology will **help your students’ learning**?

What is the **pedagogical value** to the technology being used?

The teacher who asks these questions of him/herself is well on the way to achieving digital fluency.
All educators, including librarians, must become multi-literate.
Phase Three … Parents

Melvil Dewey … the *library shared with the school* the responsibility of educating people; the school teaches people how to read and the library must supply them with reading material that will serve to educate and inform …
Study Skills Orientation Program for Parents

Healthy Body … Great Mind

The English Course, assignment writing and reading

Using the Internet and Online Resources

How best to help your son succeed at school
Why focus on parents?

‘A child’s education is the shared responsibility of the school and the home. Outside the school, the home is the most salient source of learning, encouragement and support for a child.’

Records suggest the great leader and army strategist, Hannibal, executed this manoeuvre in 216 BC. This is viewed by military historians as one of the greatest battlefield manoeuvres in history.

*The complete book of military science, abridged.* (Retrieved on-line 2006)
Study Skills Orientation Program for Parents

Healthy Body … Great Mind

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Using the Internet and Online Resources

How best to help your son succeed at school
Nutrition

Exercise

Sleep

Plasticity
Study Skills Orientation Program for Parents

Healthy Body … Great Mind

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Using the Internet and Online Resources

How best to help your son succeed at school
What is it about boys and reading?

Girls, generally, are not kinaesthetic learners and as a result do not usually require the learning process to be a ‘physical’ experience.

‘Ignore her. It’s just another attention-getting device.’

‘We’re very proud of our little Charlie. His reading age is far in advance of his chronological age ...’

What happens at home is crucial in developing a boy’s relationship with reading.
Styles to Consider..

- Picture Books
- Graphic Novels
- Wordless Texts
- Short Story collections
- Non-Fiction
- Fiction – general
- Diary format
Genres to Consider...

- Comedy
- Fantasy
- Drama
- Crime/thriller
- Historical fiction
- Biography
- Realism
- Action
Picture Books of Note ...
Literary Alternatives ...

Instead of...

How about...

THE LORD OF THE RINGS
J.R.R. TOLKIEN

HARRY POTTER
and the Philosopher's Stone

Bored of the Rings
THE HARVARD LAMPOON

BARRY TROTTER
and the Unnecessary Sequel

MICHAEL GERBER
Literary Alternatives ...

Instead of ...

How about ...

Pride and Prejudice

Sense and Sensibility

Pride and Prejudice and Zombies

Sense and Sensibility and Sea Monsters
Not a definitive list … but a great start.

Set up your BorrowBox Library account to borrow audio books and e-books!

To access the collection of over 400 titles, either download the green BorrowBox App from the App Store, or follow the link from the Senior Library webpage.
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HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS

1. CONSIDER THE SOURCE
   Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.

2. READ BEYOND
   Headlines can be outrageous in effort to get clicks. What’s the whole story?

3. CHECK THE AUTHOR
   Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?

4. SUPPORTING SOURCES?
   Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.

5. CHECK THE DATE
   Reposting old news stories doesn’t mean they’re relevant to current events.

6. IS IT A JOKE?
   If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.

7. CHECK YOUR BIAS
   Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.

8. ASK THE EXPERTS
   Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.

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The Blue Cloud

Facts On File Online Databases
Regardless of the complexity or style of the answer required, the process of seeking the answer will always be the same. Remember to...

1. Define
2. Locate
3. Select
4. Organise
5. Present
6. Evaluate
Also Check Out …

http://reffor.us/ - APA Reference Generator

….oooo0000oooo…. 

Gold Coast Libraries
My online library
Library Online Resources …
Essentially, we are trying to improve our look and become more accessible to our patrons...
Our focus on:

Visual and Perceptual

Information and Digital

Wellbeing and Emotional

... is helping develop a culture of Information Literacy.
Thank you

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References


