

Currents



Colleen Foley
*is Leader, School
Libraries and
Information Literacy
Unit (SCIS/Scan).*

<colleen.foley@det.nsw.edu.au>

Laptops4Learning

We have reached another of those exciting and challenging watershed moments, with the momentum of the Commonwealth Government's Digital Education Revolution National Secondary School Computer Fund. In NSW public schools, the Connected Learning, Secondary Schools Laptop Program is working to provide a wireless laptop and supportive environment for students in Years 9 to 12 by 2012.

Information about this *Laptops4Learning* initiative, and ongoing updates in regular Bulletins, is available on the Department's intranet <<https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/deptresources/majorprojects/laptops4learn/index.htm>>. Information and updates are also provided on the internet <www.schools.nsw.edu.au/news/announcements/yr2009/apr/laptops.php>. A range of support is being provided by various Directorates in the Department, including curriculum and resources support being developed by Curriculum K–12 <www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/> and the Centre for Learning Innovation (CLI) <www.cli.nsw.edu.au/cli/index.shtml>. Additional Connected Classrooms Program information is also available <<https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/lists/directoratesaz/ccp/index.htm>>.

Envisioning school libraries

Bulletin 2 indicates that the first phase of wireless installation in schools will be 'a set of classrooms in close proximity and the library'. School libraries and teacher librarians are essential in supporting critical and

digital literacy in the connected learning environment. The *Laptops4Learning* initiative offers new opportunities for collaborative partnerships supporting student learning through project and resource based, knowledge creation learning adventures.

What practices can we further build on, and how can we prepare to support quality pedagogy in a wireless or connected environment for meaningful, purposeful learning? Consider the following:

- Does your school library have an online internet or intranet presence? For ideas see *Scan 27(4)*.
- How are you using selected Web 2.0 tools to engage students and teach information skills? *Scan* articles, including Linda Sneddon's (pages 4–7) and Ben Jones' (page 34) contributions this issue, and Raps and book raps offer ideas.
- Are you making the most of *OASIS Web Enquiry*? <www.curriculum-support.education.nsw.gov.au/schoollibraries/index.htm>
- Balancing the collection – are you downloading websites to your library catalogue for easy access through *OASIS Web Enquiry*? The newly added scannable barcodes for SCIS numbers accompanying the website reviews in this issue will assist.
- How are you supporting digital information literacy? For ideas see any issue of *Scan* and go to School Libraries and Information Literacy <www.curriculum-support.education.nsw.gov.au/schoollibraries/index.htm>
- School Libraries and Information Literacy is developing a package of *Links4Learning* to be delivered as clickable links via *OASIS Web Enquiry* and as part of the support package for *Laptops4Learning*.

School libraries 21C

How do you envisage that school libraries and teacher librarians can harness the available technologies, integrate them with relevant traditional resources, and build on good practice to develop creative, collaborative knowledge constructors for the future? A common vision is essential as we move towards 2020.

Research columns (pages 16–31) has a special focus on envisioning school libraries, and capacity building for school libraries in a digital age. Included is a paper by Lyn Hay and Colleen Foley, *School libraries building capacity for student learning in 21C*. This paper is offered as background reading for school communities to consider and discuss.

Some questions you might like to consider are:

1. Why have a school library?
2. What would the ideal school library look like in our school?
3. What kind of learning do we want to take place in our school library?
4. What are the teaching and learning partnerships that foster quality school libraries?
5. How does our school library impact student learning? How would we like it to impact student learning in 5 years? towards 2020?
6. What planning and strategies are needed to ensure our school library provides the best for our learners and for their future in a digital world?
7. What is our vision for an effective school library in 5 years? towards 2020?
8. What support would you like the School Libraries and Information Literacy Unit to provide to assist school libraries build capacity into the future?

An open discussion will be coordinated and hosted by School Libraries and Information Literacy Unit, Curriculum K–12 Directorate, at <www.curriculum-support.education.nsw.gov.au/schoollibraries/index.htm> from 1 June 2009. Dr Ross Todd and Lyn Hay will join us in this process.

Anne Dowling, Cataloguing Coordinator, a valued member of our School Libraries and Information Literacy team has now retired. Anne's contributions to statewide support for school libraries over more than 20 years are greatly appreciated. We wish her well. ■