

Media Matters



this issue

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LMC Facts and Figures for October 2011

Classes brought to
the LMC
62

Independent Student
Use
2436

Books Circulated
504

Avg. Students per
day (including
classes)
190

Emails received
about scheduling
classes
78

Classes scheduled
online:
10

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Infographics—a growing trend

Information graphics, or infographics as they are more often called, are a great way to convey complex information clearly and concisely. Infographics can be anything from annotated maps, timelines, flowcharts, graphs, Venn diagrams, size comparisons, charts, or data presented with snazzy typography to a gorgeous amalgamation of several of these techniques. (Turner)

Reading information graphics would be a great way to expand your students' 21st Century learning skills! Making them would be an ever further extension of those skills. To learn more, visit the blog post cited below and see tons of examples and suggestions on what to look for in well-made info-graphics.

Here is a partial example of one. See the whole thing at <http://bit.ly/swafwN>



Turner, Kimberly. "Blogosphere Trends + Using Infographics." *ProBlogger*. Ed. Darren Rowse. N.p., 16 Sept. 2011. Web. 15 Nov. 2011. <<http://bit.ly/ulbBYo>>.



BEHS
Library Media Center



This month's collaboration corner is being replaced by a great article from *Wired* magazine that demonstrates how poorly young people search the internet. I implore you to consider the evidence provided below when planning your instruction. You don't need to be the expert. I am, and I am happy to collaborate with you on incorporating search savvy-ness into your lessons!

Clive Thompson on Why Kids Can't Search

We're often told that young people tend to be the most tech-savvy among us. But just how savvy are they? A group of researchers led by College of Charleston business professor Bing Pan tried to find out. Specifically, Pan wanted to know how skillful young folks are at online search. His team gathered a group of college students and asked them to look up the answers to a handful of questions. Perhaps not surprisingly, the students generally relied on the web pages at the top of Google's results list.

But Pan pulled a trick: He changed the order of the results for some students. More often than not, those kids went for the bait and also used the (falsely) top-ranked pages. Pan grimly concluded that students aren't assessing information sources on their own merit—they're putting too much trust in the machine.

Other studies have found the same thing: High school and college students may be "digital natives," but they're wretched at searching. In a recent experiment at Northwestern, when 102 undergraduates were asked to do some research online, none went to the trouble of checking the authors' credentials. In 1955, we wondered why Johnny can't read. Today the question is, why can't Johnny search?

Who's to blame? Not the students. If they're naive at Googling, it's because the ability to judge information is almost never taught in school. Under 2001's No Child Left Behind Act, elementary and high schools focus on prepping their pupils for reading and math exams. And by the time kids get to college, professors assume they already have this skill. The buck stops nowhere. This situation is surpassingly ironic, because not only is intelligent search a key to everyday problem-solving, it also offers a golden opportunity to train kids in critical thinking.

Consider the efforts of Frances Harris, librarian at the magnet University Laboratory High School in Urbana, Illinois. (Librarians are our national leaders in this fight; they're the main ones trying to teach search skills to kids today.) Harris educates eighth and ninth graders in how to format nuanced queries using Boolean logic and advanced settings. She steers them away from raw Google searches and has them use academic and news databases, too.

But, crucially, she also trains students to assess the credibility of what they find online. For example, she teaches them to analyze the tone of a web page to judge whether it was created by an academic, an advocacy group, or a hobbyist. Students quickly gain the ability to detect if a top-ranked page about Martin Luther King Jr. was actually posted by white supremacists.

"I see them start to get really paranoid," Harris says. "The big thing in assessing search results is authorship—who put it there and why have they put it there?" Or, as pioneering librarian Buffy Hamilton at Creekview High School near Atlanta says, "This is learning how to learn."

One can imagine even more entertaining ways to help kids grok the intricacies of the search world. Why not let students start a class blog on a subject and see how long it takes for it to show up in search results?

Mind you, mastering "crap detection 101," as digital guru Howard Rheingold dubs it, isn't easy. One prerequisite is that you already know a lot about the world. For instance, Harris found that students had difficulty distinguishing a left-wing parody of the World Trade Organization's website from the real WTO site. Why? Because you need to understand why someone would want to parody it in the first place—knowledge the average eighth grader does not yet possess.

In other words, Google makes broad-based knowledge more important, not less. A good education is the true key to effective search. But until our kids have that, let's make sure they don't always take PageRank at its word.

Thompson, Clive. "Clive Thompson on Why Kids Can't Search." *Wired*. Ed. Evan Hansen. Condé Nast Digital, 1 Nov. 2011. Web. 15 Nov. 2011. <http://www.wired.com/magazine/2011/11/st_thompson_searchresults/>.

LIBRARY USERS FOR OCTOBER

Berube
Burdelski
Carrington
Charles
Cirillo
DiLernia
Fekete
Fleischman
Fleming
Gintoff
Greger
Jackman
Jones
Kaminski
Lavoie
McDaniel
Miller
Monaco
Rocco
Stavens
Torres
Urcinas
Zimmerman

Word Dynamo

<http://dynamo.dictionary.com/>



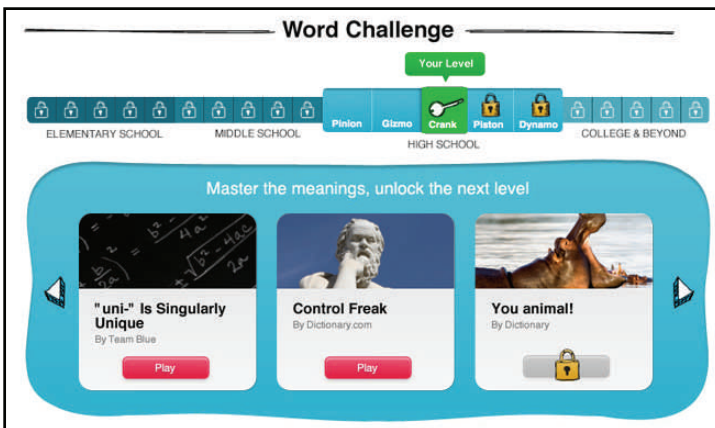
Word Dynamo is a “high-energy word learning experience that’s made up of a lot of fun and exciting moving parts.” You begin by answering 10 quick questions which gives you a “word score” that is tailored to your vocabulary proficiency (I’m a sprocket and allegedly know 42,063 words). From there you can unlock more

levels, play vocabulary games, and take more quizzes.

This would be a great vocabulary building site that can be used across the curriculum. Consider demonstrating it to your students and putting the link on your webpage so they can try it at home. You can build your own word lists and

give *that* link to students. Better yet, schedule a spot in a computer lab and have them all do it together!

Topics included are: Arts, Business & Money, Math, Sports & Recreation, Religion & Philosophy, Science & Technology, Social Science & History, French, Latin Spanish, ACT, SAT, & PSAT.



Trails Question of the Month:

TRAILS is a knowledge assessment with multiple-choice questions targeting a variety of information literacy skills based standards. All of our 9th graders are administered the test at the beginning and end of the year. The following is one of the question. Try it out yourself and see how you do.

The answer will appear in the next newsletter!

5 You are doing a project on income versus expenditures in city government. You hear that your city spent 3 million dollars on snow removal last year, and you want to use this information in your PowerPoint presentation. What should you do to verify that this information is correct?

CHOOSE ONE ANSWER.

- A Call a neighbor
- B Ask your parent or guardian
- C Call the police department
- D Call the city treasurer

October's Answer:

UPDATE:
Our online Facebook code is in (see Oct. newsletter). Contact the library for it & help getting started!

How's your social media knowledge? The students collectively finished the following crossword in a day and half. Can you beat that? Stop by to check your and/or their work.

SOCIAL MEDIA

by Frank Longo | © 2011, The New York Times



The Learning Network

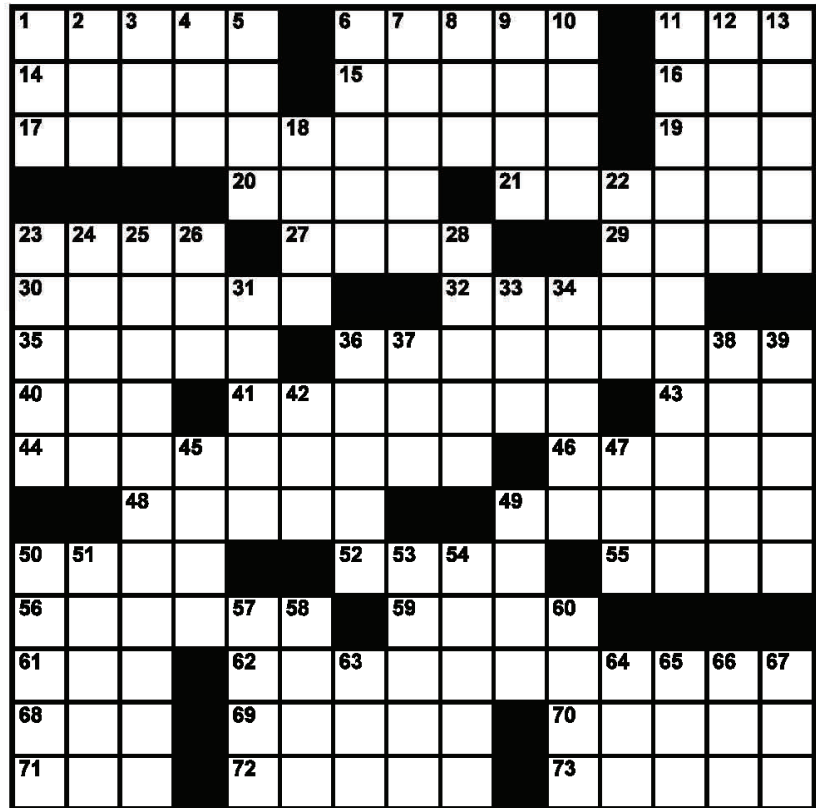
Teaching & Learning With The New York Times

ACROSS

- 1 Message up to 140 characters long that's read by "followers"
- 6 People R.S.V.P. to it on their computers
- 11 What a karaoke singer sings into, for short
- 14 Long stories of heroic exploits
- 15 Actors memorize these
- 16 Show folks to their seats in a theater, informally
- 17 Web hosting service for viewing and sharing pictures
- 19 "Glee" co-star _____ Michele
- 20 Coke, Mountain Dew or Dr Pepper
- 21 Last section of an Italian sonnet
- 23 Tampa Bay N.F.L. team, for short
- 27 Cruel Roman emperor
- 29 Quarterback Tebow and actor Curry
- 30 "I couldn't care less" attitude
- 32 Ease off: 2 wds.
- 35 Lose one's sanity: 2 wds.
- 36 Bit of Web televising that might be presented on YouTube: 2 wds.
- 40 Dollar bill
- 41 Working hard
- 43 Pie _____ mode: 2 wds.
- 44 Simulation game that's popular on Facebook
- 46 Deep gulf
- 48 Church passageway between pews
- 49 In dreamland
- 50 Spanish term of endearment that means "daddy"
- 52 Like endangered species
- 55 Catering hall dispensers
- 56 "Angels We Have Heard _____" (Christmas carol): 2 wds.
- 59 Hog fat used in cooking
- 61 _____-cone (cold treat)
- 62 Virtual community where users may keep online diaries
- 68 Element in bronze
- 69 Turn _____ new leaf: 2 wds.
- 70 Cancel, as a mission
- 71 Look at
- 72 Sends messages on a 25-Down, for example
- 73 Buddy _____ (rosters of instant-messaging friends)

DOWN

- 1 Sixth of a fluid oz.
- 2 Sound of a crying baby
- 3 Bigheaded person's problem
- 4 Scarf down
- 5 General _____ chicken (Chinese menu item)
- 6 Manage to avoid
- 7 _____ of Christ (title for the pope)
- 8 Fluid filling a pen



- 9 Casual shirts
- 10 Opposite of west, in Spanish
- 11 Massively _____ online game (virtual activity such as World of Warcraft)
- 12 "_____ to recall ...": 2 wds.
- 13 Has a real-time conversation via AOL, Facebook, etc.
- 18 Like a gaunt person
- 22 Returned part of a theater ticket
- 23 All that and a _____ chips: 2 wds.
- 24 "Once _____ time ...": 2 wds.
- 25 Device on which you can talk and take pictures: 2 wds.
- 26 Railroad depot: Abbr.
- 28 Song from the 1950s, say
- 31 Producers of sharp viewing images, for short
- 33 Suffix with velvet or Hallow
- 34 Old Roman robes
- 36 More foul
- 37 Sick
- 38 Showbiz twin Mary-Kate or Ashley
- 39 Catches a quick breath
- 42 Auto garage liquid
- 45 1,003, in Roman numerals
- 47 _____-ray Disc
- 49 Prefix with dynamic
- 50 Messages in online forums and newsgroups
- 51 Musical title girl who sang "Tomorrow" and "Dumb Dog"
- 53 Give a heads-up to
- 54 Old kings of India
- 57 Suffix that means "speaking in a language"
- 58 Bees' hangout
- 60 Having two components
- 63 Irk
- 64 Baseball hitting stat.
- 65 Negative responses
- 66 Output of Renoir or Monet
- 67 They rank below capt.