



Dairy Dispatch

You Can Never Have Enough Cheese in Your News

Written History

Collecting written texts is a practice as old as civilization itself. A cache of 30,000 Mesopotamian clay tablets found in Iraq date back more than 5,000 years. Early collections may have surfaced from the Middle East, but the ancient Greeks propelled the idea through their heightened interest in literacy and intellectual life. Inspired by the Greeks, King Ptolemy I of Egypt founded the Great Library of Alexandria around 300 B.C.

By the middle of the second century B.C., Rome also boasted rich library resources. Sparked by the spread of Christianity, the eastern half of the empire did much to foster the use of libraries.

In 1439, Gutenberg's movable type printer revolutionized bookmaking. Printed books replaced handwritten manuscripts, and throughout the 1600s and 1700s, libraries surged in popularity.

The oldest library in America began with a 400-book donation by Massachusetts clergyman John Harvard, to a new university that eventually honored him by adopting his name. During the late 1800s the philosophy of free public education for children, coupled with a surge in immigration, accelerated the appearance of public libraries in the United States. Between 1881 and 1919, American philanthropist Andrew Carnegie helped build more than 1,700 U.S. public libraries.

Source:
www.history-magazine.com/libraries.html

One for the Books...

Okaloosa County School District Secured E-rate Funding with *E-rate Manager for Applicants*

This year Okaloosa County School District received more than \$500,000 in funding for vital telecommunications services through the E-rate program. Randy Shipman, Coordinator of Systems for Okaloosa County School District, secured this technology funding with assistance from *E-rate Manager for Applicants*, an online suite of tools developed by Funds For Learning, LLC. "Managing E-rate is a full-time job," said Shipman. "The application process is complex and extremely time-consuming. The rules change often and it's hard to keep on top of them. Three years ago we purchased a district license to *E-rate Manager for Applicants*, which has provided me with the tools and resources to make my job easier." For more information, visit www.fundsforlearning.com.

Students Speak to Obama about the Issues that Matter

On Nov. 4, 2008, ePals asked students nationwide to submit their thoughts directly to then President-Elect Obama through Your Presidential Minute, a contest hosted on the company's U.S. presidential election-focused website, *2008 Election Central*. Understanding that President Obama will make key decisions that will greatly affect their generation, ePals encouraged students to speak to their future president concisely and creatively about issues that matter to them. Students from all over the world submitted one-minute videos, audio recordings and presentations, expressing their views to President Obama and his new administration. ePals compiled the best responses, and shared them with the President, his transition team and members of the *ePals Global Community*. Impressed with the caliber of the videos, ePals created a special widget to share the best projects. To access the widget, visit www.epals.com/groups/elections/pages/presidential-minute-browse.aspx.

Sketchpad LessonLink Available for Classroom Use

Key Curriculum Press, innovators in mathematics and science education, have released *Sketchpad LessonLink*TM. The online, searchable library helps teachers integrate *The Geometer's Sketchpad*[®] into their math curriculum with more than 500 *Sketchpad*TM activities designed for students in grades 3-12. One of the most widely used and effective technologies for school mathematics, *The Geometer's Sketchpad* offers students hands-on learning experiences that lead to a deeper understanding and greater retention of the material. Aligned to math textbooks and state standards, *Sketchpad LessonLink* offers teachers powerful search options that make it easy to find the perfect demonstration or activity to reinforce a math concept. *Sketchpad LessonLink* also offers pre-built sketches, teaching notes and student worksheets, to provide teachers with all the resources they need in one place. For more information, visit www.keypress.com.

Check This Out...

New Features Added to *Discovery Education streaming*

Saving educators' time and enriching their overall user experience, Discovery Education has made several upgrades to *Discovery Education streaming*. The digital video-based learning resource now features an enhanced landing page that allows users to access all Discovery Education services, preview new additions to the media library, customize the interface, and more. The new *Discovery Education streaming* landing page, "My Discovery Education" ("My DE"), presents educators with the newest additions to their Discovery Education media library, helping them easily identify and use new content added to the service's library of more than 5,000 videos and 50,000 video clips. In addition, "My DE" empowers educators to personalize their Discovery Education experience based on their classroom needs and interests. Educators using the services can choose to add calendars customized by subject matter, blog headlines and more to their "My DE" homepage. To learn more, visit www.discoveryeducation.com.

Hotmath Tutoring Plus Offers Affordable Math Support

Struggling math students are most in need of one-to-one help, but often such help is costly. To provide schools with an affordable alternative, Hotmath, Inc., the leading provider of all-in-one math homework help, unveiled *Hotmath Tutoring Plus*. The new service combines step-by-step problem solutions from actual math textbooks with live online math tutoring, offering schools an economical way to boost student support and improve achievement in mathematics. *Hotmath Tutoring Plus* links to a live math tutor only after a student has reviewed the problem solutions and review lessons. This enables schools to stretch their funding, while providing students with an improved level of support. Also, a student is far more likely to seek help when he or she knows that, in addition to instant online support, a tutor is available if needed. Schools can use *Hotmath Tutoring Plus* for after school programs, remediation classes, and credit recovery programs. For more information, visit www.hotmath.com.

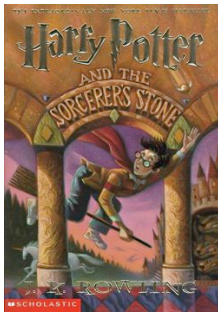
Sebit Unveiled Professional Development Workshops

To help teachers integrate technology into their curriculum, Sebit, LLC, developer of *Adaptive Curriculum*, has introduced professional development workshops for middle grade math and science teachers. Conducted by staff from Arizona State University, the workshops will focus on the use of technology to provide students with virtual hands-on experiences in math and science. One such technology tool is *Adaptive Curriculum*, an online learning system that offers math and science Activity Objects. With realistic, engaging visuals, Activity Objects enable students to participate in virtual experiments, guided inquiry, and problem-based learning that helps them gain the skills necessary to excel in mathematics and science. Separate workshops are available for math and science teachers, which will be held at schools, districts and regional education centers across the country. For more information, visit www.adaptivecurriculum.com.



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15 Best-Selling Books of All Time

1. *The Bible*
 2. *Quotations from Chairman Mao Zedong*, Mao Zedong
 3. *The Qur'an*, Muhammed
 4. *Xinhua Zidian*, Unknown
 5. *The Book of Mormon*, Joseph Smith, Jr.
 6. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, J.K. Rowling
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7. *And Then There Were None*, Agatha Christie
 8. *The Lord of the Rings*, J.R.R. Tolkien
 9. *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, J.K. Rowling
 10. *The Da Vinci Code*, Dan Brown
 11. *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, J.K. Rowling
 12. *The Catcher in the Rye*, J.D. Salinger
 13. *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, J.K. Rowling
 14. *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, J.K. Rowling
 15. *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, J.K. Rowling

Source:

entertainment.howstuffworks.com/21-best-selling-books-of-all-time.htm

Famous Libraries

- **New York Public Library:** Established in 1895, it is one of the largest public and research library systems in the U.S. With a collection of more than 51 million items, this library serves more than 8 million people in New York City.



- **Russian National Library:** This public library originated from Catherine the Great's private collection. It contains the Ostromir Gospel, the earliest book written in the Russian language, and is the largest national collection in Russia.

- **The British Library:** The national library of the United Kingdom, the British Library is located in London, and is a prominent research institution. Holding 25 million books, this library adds about 3 million items to its collection every year.

- **Bibliothèque Nationale de France:** Located in Paris and serving a population of more than 2 million, this library was established in 1368 by Charles V. Its collection of 13 million books is considered to be the first free public library in the world.

Source:

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library#Famous_libraries

Mark Your Calendar

CoSN 2009

March 10-12 • Austin, TX

SIIA ETIS 2009

May 3-5 • San Francisco, CA

NECC 2009

June 28-July 1 • Washington, DC

The Word...

Kevin Custer Appointed CEO of Virtual Expert Clinics

Virtual Expert Clinics, Inc., provider of resources for schools and districts educating students with developmental disorders, including its flagship product *AutismPro*, has named Kevin Custer as Chief Executive Officer. Custer will oversee strategic goals, operations, product development, and marketing for the company, in conjunction with the Canadian-based executive branch. “*AutismPro* and the other programs the company offers are the ideal solutions to an overwhelming market need,” said Custer. “Helping schools deliver the autism treatment modality of their choice – while coordinating that care with the entire special education team, parents and clinicians – allows them to handle the ever-increasing number of children with autism. *AutismPro* benefits the child through consistent intervention, and helps districts increase their capacity to handle more autistic students despite shrinking budgets.” For more information, visit www.autismpro.com.

Lightspeed Systems Power Manager Helps Districts Save

In January, Lightspeed Systems unveiled automated energy conservation software that enables school and district IT staff to easily manage, reduce and report energy use and costs for all the computers on their networks. Lightspeed Systems *Power Manager* monitors energy consumption, and directs low-power states and shutdown times for all computers on a network. By powering down unused computers, schools can save \$25 to \$75 per computer annually through reduced energy waste. Unattended or unused computers across a school district can drain budgets, as well as natural resources. “The nation’s growing awareness of critical energy issues, coupled with tight school budgets, has pushed green technology to the top of wish lists for many school leaders,” said Scott Garrison, president of Lightspeed Systems. “Computer power management technology is an easy way for schools to do their part to protect the earth for future generations, while cutting energy costs.” For more information and pricing, visit www.lightspeedsystems.com.

Pinnacle is Comprehensive Solution for Impacting Success

Focusing on what educators can accomplish using technology, considering the student as the central concern, and understanding that school leaders need dynamic, collaborative tools, Excelsior Software has developed a comprehensive solution for managing student info. Long trusted for its assessment and reporting capabilities, the *Pinnacle Suite* now provides an all-inclusive set of tools, bringing together the previously separate pieces that stakeholders need for efficient data-driven decision-making. Fully web-based, the *Pinnacle Suite* now allows administrators and educators anytime, anywhere access to student information, curriculum, formative and summative assessments, and supplementary resources in one flexible, easy-to-use system. The recent addition of the ExLogica, Inc., student information system and scheduler to the *Pinnacle Suite* broadens both the scope of the product, and the benefits it offers schools and districts. Through continued development, and collaborations with ExLogica, Inc. and GlobalScholar, the *Pinnacle Suite* seamlessly integrates six main modules, centered on the student information system. To learn more, visit www.pinnaclesuite.com.



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Pieces of History...

Activity Packs Offer Easy-to-Access Digital Content

Finding digital resources for the appropriate grade level, subject and lesson can be a time-consuming and challenging task for educators, but PBS Teachers® is making the search easier and quicker with its new *Activity Packs* widgets. PBS Teachers *Activity Packs* is a growing library of Web-based widgets that contains links to high-quality PBS education resources and activities focused on a specific curricular theme for multiple grade levels. More than 30 *Activity Packs* are available free-of-charge for educators to “grab.” Increasingly popular among Internet users, a Web-based widget is a small chunk of code that displays content from an online source, and can be inserted into a blog, Web page, or social networking page with a simple copy and paste. As one of the few digital education content providers offering syndicated content to educators through widgets, PBS Teachers plans to grow its library of theme-based widgets to continually provide fresh content. To explore the PBS Teachers *Activity Packs*, visit www.pbsteachers.org.

Califone Announces Storage Cart for Audio Supplies

Classrooms can become disorganized and messy as students use equipment, especially in classroom learning centers. To address this problem, Califone International, Inc. and Copernicus Educational Products, Inc. have designed storage solutions to eliminate clutter. The two companies, have partnered to provide teachers, media specialists, reading teachers, and school audiologists with two versions of a customized cart, complete with audio equipment, available in either tabletop or rolling cart models. The *Performer Plus* and *Spirit Audio Pods* allow educators to organize listening center equipment, reading material and audio components in one convenient place. Available in either a portable or stationary model, with the choice of a specially modified *Performer Plus* or *Spirit Learning Center*, the *Audio Pod* has dedicated space for the included multimedia player, jackbox, and six headphones, as well as storage for audio materials, books and a special section to organize cables and cords. For more information, visit www.califone.com.

Best Practices Videos for Coaches and Mentors Added to PBS TeacherLine® Peer Connection

To continue offering quick, easy access to high-quality resources for coaches and mentors, PBS TeacherLine has partnered with The School Improvement Network to incorporate new content into *PBS TeacherLine Peer Connection*. Award-winning videos, plus articles and other resources from PD 360, a leading on-demand professional development resource, and The Video Journal of Education, will be added to *PBS TeacherLine Peer Connection* in early 2009. All of the videos are research-based and classroom proven. Topics covered in the materials include coaching, classroom management, instructional strategies, and assessment. Featuring thousands of standards-aligned instructional materials in K-12 math, reading and instructional technology, *PBS TeachersLine Peer Connection* enables coaches, teacher leaders, and mentors to augment their current professional development programs, and create a customized, practical learning experience for all teachers. All of the content is research-based and classroom-proven. For more information about *PBS TeacherLine Peer Connection*, visit www.pbs.org/peerconnection.

Novel Facts

- Apicius, a Roman, published the first recipe book, which described the emperor’s feasts.
- Believed to be the first novel, *The Tale of Genji*, was written in the first decade of the 11th century.
- The only surviving literary record of Mayan history is three ancient manuscripts written in hieroglyphs on bark paper.
- Shakespeare used around 29,000 different words in his plays, 10,000 of which are considered to be original coinages.
- The Bible has been copied more than 2.5 billion times.
- The moons of all planets in our solar system are named after Greek gods, except for the moons of Uranus, which are named after Shakespearean characters.
- *The Guinness Book of World Records* contains an entry for itself – the record as the fastest-selling book of all time.
- Emily Dickinson wrote more than 1,800 poems. Only seven were published in her lifetime, all without her consent.

Source:

www.sentex.net/~ajy/facts/literature.html

How to Reach Us

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