The Librarian's Internet

BY GAIL JUNION-METZ

Desperately Seeking Study Skills

Sites to help students who struggle with research projects

Research Rocket
www.kyvl.org/html/kids/f_homebase.html

This top-notch Web site is one of the few designed to teach middle schoolers research skills. Its creative use of sound and animation and its game-board format are sure to engage young learners. *Created by:* Kentucky Virtual Library—Kids and Teachers Workgroup, Frankfort, KY. *Don't Miss:* The "Take Notes" section (especially the fact finder, note cards, and data sheets) and the "Use the Information" section (check out the "Five Finger Test" and "True or Bogus"). *Plug-ins:* Macromedia Flash. *Detour:* Students will love the puzzles and quizzes. To access them, click on the "Teacher's Toolbox" link at the bottom of the home page.

TILT-Texas Information Literacy Tutorial
tilt.lib.utsystem.edu

This well-organized 30-minute tutorial designed for University of Texas undergrads is also ideal for high schoolers. Students select from six different topics: censorship and freedom of speech, global communities, Internet business, laws and regulations, new trends, and security and privacy. Log on by clicking on the "Guests" link. *Created by:* The University of Texas System Digital Library, Austin, TX. *Don't Miss:* The creative exercises throughout the site. (To find them, click on the "sitemap" link, once you've selected one of the topics.) Plus, the "Tiltometer" and "Think Fast" are great fun! This site also offers the best glossary of any research Web site. *Plug-ins:* Macromedia Flash.

Research 101
www.lib.washington.edu/uwill/research101

Here's another college-level tutorial that's an excellent tool for teaching high school students about research. The site is divided into six sections—the basics, information cycles, topics, searching, finding, and evaluating. The info-cycles unit describes different resources—everything from broadcast news to reference books—and when it's appropriate for students to use them. *Created by:* The University of Washington Library—UWill Team, Seattle, WA. *Don't Miss:* The great exercises such as how to create a search query (within the "Searching" section). The "Reading Citations" animation in the "Finding" section is especially effective and worth modeling if you're creating a similar Web site. *Plug-ins:* Macromedia Flash, Adobe Acrobat Reader, and Microsoft Word.

How to Do Research
www.kyvl.org/html/tutorial/research

Another terrific resource from the Kentucky Virtual Library, this site is one of the few tutorials that introduces students to plagiarism, copyright law, and fair use. The information on research is easy to print out and will come in handy at any reference desk. *Created by:* Kentucky Virtual Library—Information Literacy Work Group, Frankfort, KY. *Detour:* For another brief introduction to research, visit "A+ Research and Writing for High School and College Students" at www.ipl.org/div/aplus.

CQ Researcher in Spanish resembles the English version in structure and content, with quarterly editions that explore issues of concern to Spanish speakers. A new bilingual interface enables English-speaking librarians to introduce it to Spanish-speaking patrons. A parallel display feature allows users to view the English and Spanish versions of reports side-by-side on a computer screen.

Introductory prices are available for both the print and online versions and are valid until June 30; the print version for all libraries starts at $400. Online-only pricing begins at $450 for public libraries and $400 for schools. For a free trial, e-mail librarysales@cqpress.com.—*M. M.*

Microsoft Office for the Grade-School Set

Teaching elementary school students how to use the suite of Microsoft Office products can be a daunting task for any educator. But now Scholastic Keys, a new product from Tom Snyder Productions, a division of Scholastic, Inc., aims to make it a whole lot easier.

Scholastic Keys, based on an Australian software package called Max's Sandbox, includes three programs: MaxWrite, MaxCount, and MaxShow,

which teach kids respectively how to use Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Customers who purchased Max's Sandbox after January 1, 2004, will receive a free upgrade to Scholastic Keys. The product costs $59 for one computer. Discounts are available for volume purchases. Visit www.tomsnyder.com. Microsoft Office software is not included.—*M. M.*