research and school libraries: knowing the basic sources

EEPING UP WITH PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH IS A CHALLENGE FOR TODAY'S TEACHER-LIBRARIAN. THIS ARTICLE COVERS THE ESSENTIAL ASSOCIATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS, RESEARCH PROJECTS, SURVEYS, REPORTS, BOOKS, CONFERENCES, STUDIES, PERIODICALS, AND ONLINE RESOURCES THAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO STAY CURRENT AND TAKE YOUR STAND AS A LEADER IN YOUR SCHOOL.

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CONFERENCES

The American Association of School Librarians Research Committee usually sponsors a research program at the annual American Library Association conference that reports the results of the Highsmith Research Award winner. The Judy Pitts Research Forum is held at the biennial American Association of School Librarians national conference and features selected research papers. More information is available at www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aaslindex.htm.

The International Association of School Librarianship annual conference has research reports from varying countries. The 2006 conference, "Multiple Faces of Literacy: Reading, Knowing, Doing," was held in Lisbon, Portugal. Information about future conferences and reports from past conferences are available at www.iasl-slo .org/conferences.html.

The International Society for Technology in Education holds an annual conference known as the National Educational Computing Conference, where research on technology in education always has a spot on the program. More information is available at www.iste.org/.

Treasure Mountain Research Retreat is a group of school library scholars and practitioners who get together to share research and practice. Anyone interested in school library research may attend the retreats. The next Treasure Mountain Research Retreat is scheduled for October 2007. More information is available at www.seedwiki.com/ wiki/treasure_mountain/treasure_mountain ?wpid=710382&searchresult=710382.

PERIODICALS

School Library Media Research is the online research journal of the American

Association of School Librarians and regularly publishes formal studies done about school library programs. The table of contents from published issues, as well full text of some articles, is available at www.ala.org/aaslslmrTemplate.cfm ?Section=slmrb.

School library publications regularly review various research studies in a more popular format. Examples include Teacher Librarian (www/teacherlibrarian.com), School Library Journal (www.schoollibrary journal.com/), and Knowledge Quest (www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aaslpubsand journals/kqweb/kqhome/kqhome.htm).

School Libraries Worldwide is the official publication of the International Association of School Librarianship that reports research from around the world. Contents pages and article abstracts are available at www.iasl-slo.org/slw.html.

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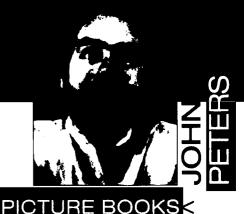
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BOOKMARKIT



WORDS, WORDS, WORDS

Alfie the apostrophe. Moira Rose Donohue. III. JoAnn Adinolfi. Whitman, 2006. \$16.95. 978-0-8075-0255-6. Grades 1-3. Little Alfie does not think that he is going to do too well in the Punctuation Talent Show—but after showing that he can make letters disappear (can't) and change (won't), plus one other special trick, he becomes the star.

Nouns and verbs have a field day. Robin Pulver. III. Lynn Rowe Reed. Holiday House, 2006. \$16.95. 978-0-8234-1982-1. Grades 1-3. When the children in Mr. Wright's class stampede out to the playground for a field day, the nouns and verbs left behind in the classroom decide to organize a tug of words.

Superhero ABC. Bob McLeod. HarperCollins, 2006. \$16.89. 978-0-06-074514-1. Grades K-2. A crew of supermen and women (plus the occasional animal or alien) pose heroically in this colorfully illustrated gallery—from Astro-Man, who is always alert for an alien attack, to the Zinger, zanily zigzagging through the zero zone.

Waltur buys a pig in a poke, and other stories. Barbara Gregorich. III. Kristin Sorra. Houghton Mifflin, 2006. \$15.00. 978-0-618-47306-9. Grades 1-3. Introducing figures of speech, Gregorich repeatedly has Waltur (a bear) too literally take the advice of his more cautious friend Matilda (a beaver), with hilarious results. Searching for a new pet, he repeatedly refuses to buy piglets in bags (pokes), but without question he takes one that is in a boxand it turns out to be a real house wrecker. More misadventures ensuebut emergent readers will enjoy watching Waltur, who is not entirely a dim bulb, learn wisdom in these three episodes.

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> YA FICTION

SUSPENSE RULES

Black duck. Janet Taylor Lisle.

Philomei, 2006. \$15.99. 978-0-399-23963-2. Grades 5-8. Framed in a story of a modern boy seeking a good article for his school paper, this dark, fascinating story concerns two boys who find a dead body on the Rhode Island shore during Prohibition. They are pulled into a frightening world of organized crime, local corruption, and rum runners.

Firestorm. David Klass. Frances Foster Books, 2006. \$17.00. 978-0-374-32307-3. Grades 8-11. Move over, Alex Rider. Seemingly normal 18-year-old Jack finds himself pursued down the East Coast by mysterious, heavily armed strangers. Mystery, a futuristic element, and ecological concerns come together in a gripping read.

The rules of survival. Nancy Werlin. Dial Books, 2006. \$16.99. 978-0-8037-3001-4. Grades 7-10. This taut thriller about three children who live in fear of their mother combines heart-thumping tension with a deep understanding of how psychological abuse affects kids. This book is brilliantly plotted and narrated.

Wired. Sigmund Brouwer. Orca, 2005. \$8.95. 978-1-55143-478-0. Grades 7-12. Perfect for reluctant readers, this fast-moving story is about a skilled skier who starts investigating thefts at a ski resort. The help of a detective's daughter adds romance, whereas chase scenes provide excitement.

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What Works Clearinghouse. From the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences, the What Works Clearinghouse was established to provide educators, policy makers, researchers, and the public with a central and trusted source of scientific evidence of what works in education. Technical working papers are available at www.whatworks.ed.gov/whoweare/overview.html.

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