It worked for me!

Did you know that a review of the effectiveness of the Silver Birch and Red Maple reading programs is underway? Fill out the survey in May when it arrives.

A business card for your databases

FRANCINE MULHERIN
Brother André High School, York Catholic District School Board

During grade 9 orientation sessions, and whenever I am demonstrating our library's on-line subscription databases, I hand out a two-sided, Library "business card". On this card is the URL for my library's web site as well as instructions for linking to the databases. User ID and password information is also provided. Included are the names and logos of our databases.

I have found that students keep these cards in their wallets and have them on hand for school or home database access. (In previous years, I used to hand out pamphlets but am quickly finding that the business cards are more likely to be retained and used.)

I designed the cards using Microsoft Publisher and printed them on inexpensive perforated business card sheets from my local business supply store. I've printed over 1,000 cards, all for less than $50! ▌

Self-motivated connections need not be complicated

SANDRA CASEY
Education Librarian, Queen's University

I've used this with everyone from school kids to BEd students. It's based on the "jigsaw" model of co-operative learning and it works better if each group can sit in a circle.

Divide the class into groups of four or five. After a brief introduction by the librarian explaining where different resources are kept, each student in the group goes to a different section of the library and picks something interesting to take back to the group and talk about. The noise level tends to be deafening, something I enjoy because it kind of shatters the myth that librarians are always saying "shush". ▌