

RESOURCES

The National Library of Canada

The National Library of Canada is truly a national treasure – and a partner in education. Resources for teachers include information about the age appropriateness and course relevance of the NLC's educational sites, links to teaching strategies, tutorials on a variety of topics, and information on documentation and plagiarism.

Statistics Canada

Learning resources including data, publications and teaching tools are available on the Statistics Canada website. I'm impressed that Statistics Canada actually uses the term "teacher librarian" on this page! www.statcan.ca/english/edu/index.htm

Canada's SchoolNet

A partnership among all 13 Ministries of Education, one federal government department, education and library associations (including OLA), First Nations organizations, and a number of corporate partners, Canada's SchoolNet provides more than 7,000 learning resources.

Computers for Schools

Computers for Schools is a partnership between federal, provincial and territorial governments, and the private and volunteer sector. Surplus computers are collected, repaired and refurbished, and donated to schools and libraries across Canada. <http://cfs-ope.ic.gc.ca>

Cable in the Classroom

Cable in the Classroom is a partnership between Canada's cable and programming industries, which provide the programming, and teachers, who provide lesson plans and resources to accompany the programs. This programming is commercial-free, can be used without breaking copyright laws, and is available free of charge. www.cableeducation.ca

FUNDING

TD Bank Financial Group's Community Giving Program

TD Bank Financial Group, in partnership with the Canadian Children's Book Centre, sponsors the annual TD Canadian Children's Book Week. TD Bank Financial Group is also partnering with the National Library of Canada in the 2003 International Forum on Canadian Children's Literature (June, in Ottawa). TD Summer Reading Clubs, TVO Kids Reading Rangers, and distribution of a book to first graders are also among TD Bank Financial Group's literacy initiatives. www.td.com/community/index.html

Share the Stories

Share the Stories is a partnership between Coca-Cola Ltd., the ABC Canada Literacy Foundation, and interested literacy organizations and libraries (including school libraries) across Canada. The funding, provided by Coca-Cola Ltd. and distributed by ABC Canada, helps successful applicants develop/maintain reading circle programs or develop/supplement children's book collections. Although the current funding period has ended, there is the possibility that Coca-Cola Ltd. will be able to extend funding into 2003. It's worth regular visits to ABC Canada's website to check it out. www.abc-canada.org/public_awareness/sts.asp

Book It

Pizza Hut's Book It program is an example of the commercial partnerships available to teachers. Book It is a reading incentive program for elementary school students, which rewards the achievement of individual and class reading goals with pizza. Although it is certainly necessary for us to use our professional judgment and discretion in our examination and judgment of corporate partnership opportunities, they are worth investigating. www.bookitcanada.com

And finally...

The Cameron Heights Collegiate Library web site

While it doesn't really fit any of the above categories, I can't finish this column on partnerships without mentioning a truly impressive school library web site I found while looking for online resources for grade 10 Canadian history students. While looking for information these students could use to research the decades of the 20th century, I came upon the website of Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute, a school in the Waterloo District School Board.

While the entire site was impressive, I was especially impressed with the school library site. The staff members at CHCI have worked together to create and post assignments with links to useful internet resources. These assignments – and some online courses – are all posted to the school library portion of the site. I plan to pay frequent virtual visits to CHCI to "check out" these school library resources! <http://chci.wrdsb.on.ca/library>

Yes, it certainly does require effort to set up partnerships and to make them work. But it's worth it because these partnerships can enrich our lives and the lives of our colleagues and students. It really is easier to get it all done if we remember we don't have to do it all alone. ■