



Teacher-librarians will be pleased to know that Stagg and Swartz recognize their role as both resource specialists and co-teachers. “School librarian” is an entry in the index.

Highly recommended for elementary and middle school teachers. Although written for classroom teachers, teacher-librarians interested in providing leadership or collaborating with teachers will also find *Good Books Matter* valuable.

### Great Teacher Projects, K-8

Laura Mayne, illustrations by Scot Ritchie  
2009  
9781550465105

*Great Teacher Projects* is a collection of 75+ classroom-tested projects contributed by teachers. These projects are, generally speaking,

simple and easy to do—specialized equipment is not required, nor does the teacher need access to a computer lab. All of the projects have been classroom tested—vetted by practicing teachers and their students.

Each project begins with a “quick facts” box listing suggested grade levels, subjects, project time frame, and materials. The directions are simple and easy to follow. Book tie-ins are identified for every project, which make literacy extension activities easy to plan. These projects are designed to engage and motivate students and can be adapted for students of different ages and abilities.

*Great Teacher Projects* has three tables of contents in which the projects are listed alphabetically, by subject area, and by grade. There’s also an index. Together, these features make it quite easy for readers to find the projects they want. Although Scot Ritchie’s illustrations don’t really add to the content (that is, they don’t explain or illustrate the projects), they are cheerful and charming.

Highly recommended for elementary school teachers and teacher-librarians. High school teacher-librarians, as well as teachers of special

education, ESL, and locally developed classes will also find *Great Teacher Projects* a source of lots of neat ideas. Belongs in every board professional collection.

### Building Info Smarts: How to Work with All Kinds of Information and Make It Your Own

Carol Koechlin and Sandi Zwaan  
2008  
9781551382265

If you’ve decided you like the practical, easily-accessible flip-book format, then you’ll certainly want to check out *Building Info Smarts*, by the OSLA’s very own Carol Koechlin and Sandi Zwaan.

Written for students (but certainly useful for teachers), *Building Info Smarts* presents a wealth of information in six short chapters: Ways of Learning; Exploring to Learn; Reading to Research; From Information to Learning; Learning Together; and Learning for Life. Koechlin and Zwaan also provide a list of useful websites and encourage students to build their own web banks to support their learning.

Pages are well laid out, with good use of heading, bullets, boxes, charts, webs, and other visual organizational strategies, including judicious use of

colour. A detailed table of contents and an index help readers find information quickly and easily.

Ideally suited for high school students, but also suitable for students in grades 7-8, *Building Info Smarts* is a book that belongs in the hands of every high school student, teacher, teacher-librarian, and administrator. At the very least, perhaps teacher copies and a few class sets could be purchased for every high school.

An absolutely essential purchase for students, teachers, teacher-librarians, and administrators in high schools and, if possible, middle schools. ■

