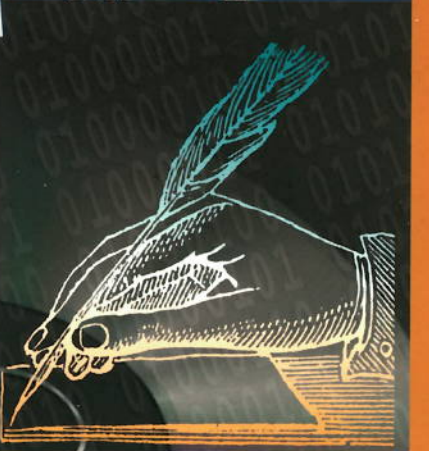
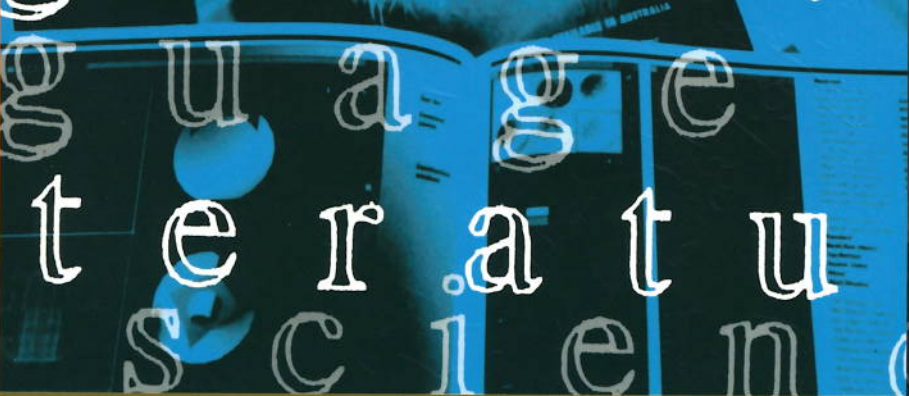


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Cloud technology and applications

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# MLC: A school library in 2012

By Jane Viner

**T**his brief snapshot gives you an outline of some of the various ways MLC Libraries staff have integrated technologies into our current teaching practice. More possibilities await us with our future learning journey.

## **Discovery catalogue by AquaBrowser – Regina Ri, Librarian**

During Term 4 2011 MLC Libraries launched our 'Discovery catalogue' to the MLC community. Students and staff can use this 'one stop search portal' to search physical and digital collections. With the embedded Web 2.0 components, users can add a review, tag, rate the item, add an RSS feed for new items and open external web links such as LibraryThing, and Google books. The Word Cloud feature provides associated terms, spelling variations and thesaurus terms to expand the search options. There is also the capability of exporting citations directly to a citation tool, such as RefWorks, while searching the catalogue.

## **eBooks – Regina Ri, Librarian and Amanda Lucas, Curriculum Resources Coordinator**

eBooks are being promoted and integrated into the MLC Libraries collection. Currently there are 176 eBook titles, mainly curriculum-related non-fiction and reference for student research. Each title can be accessed via the library catalogue, the library website or the MLC Libraries Resources wiki. These eBooks are especially beneficial for materials in high demand as multiple students can read these titles simultaneously with 24/7 access. Fiction eBooks and audio eBooks are being considered as integral to the continual development of the digital collection.

## **iLibrary – Roxanne Ciddor, iLibrary Coordinator and Team leader**

iLibrary was created to empower students' use of the Internet to assist them in becoming authentic 21st Century learners. The iLibrary program aims to illustrate the vast nature of the Internet and show students just some of the myriad applications and resources available to them. At the same time, the program aims to equip students with the appropriate skills to critically evaluate the Internet and its applications in terms of their educational merit. In this way, students can return to being users of the Internet, rather than mere consumers.

## **Information Networkers – Peter Christiansen, Networkers Coordinator**

Networkers is a long-standing program which is planned and taught by a teacher-librarian as an extension activity for Year 7 students. In earlier years the Networker program was used to train selected students in various ICT skills. In recent times this program has evolved into a digital story-making task. Students plan, design and produce a digital story which they share with a wider audience. Many students choose to use Microsoft Photo Story 3 software installed on their laptops to produce their stories. It is a stimulating experience for students to publicly show their work at assemblies and Junior Secondary School Celebration evening.

## **Internet, iPad, laptops and wikis – Tracey Ricchini, JS Library Coordinator**

The MS Readathon website accessed via the internet is used to sign up students online and introduce them to this literary program. Year 5 and 6 students have their own laptops, which are regularly used for information

skills lessons, research projects and at lunchtime in the library for homework and research. The installed data projector in the library enables connection of either the iPad or the laptop to conduct library lessons including formal library classes on the history of computers, the internet and the future of technology based on TED's 'sixth sense'.

A Book Bugs wiki provides an opportunity for students to contribute online. The Year 6 'Queen Bees' have author rights and their own personal page of book reviews and recommendations which are discussed both online and in weekly meetings.

#### **iPad and the Literature Club Blog – Robin Anderson, Lit Club Coordinator**

Year 7-12 student and staff Lit Club members have posting rights and this blog is used as a discussion forum. Topics have included - future of the printed book, film adaptations of books, and favourite picture books. The blog is used to record events including author visits, excursions, resource selection activities, reviews and recommendations of recently read books. One recent quiz supporting the National Year of Reading was on Charles Dickens and the iPad 'Dickens walks App' was used for our celebration of Dickens' 200th birthday. This app shows where Charles Dickens walked and refers to places in his novels. The iPad was also used to access music for a pass the parcel literary quiz and students read and discussed a graphic novel review given by a current MLC Year 11 student.

Teacher-librarians are currently part of an iPad trial and are investigating ways of integrating apps into their various roles supporting students and staff.

#### **Wikis**

MLC Libraries staff support students and staff with a number of wikis they have developed including: *2012 MLC Libraries staff* for team communication and all library and AV staff are expected to contribute (by Jane Viner and Regina Ri); *Book Bugs* for Year 5 & 6 students (by Tracey Ricchini); *iLibrary* for Year 9 students' information literacy program (by Roxanne Ciddor); *IB English – Resources on texts* for Year 11 and 12 IB English students (by Amanda Lucas); *IB Extended Essay Library Support* for IB Diploma students (by Amanda Lucas); *MLC Libraries Resources* for MLC students and staff

(by Regina Ri); and *TAB* for staff book club members (by Amanda Lucas). The IB Extended Essay Library Support wiki is one example:

#### **International Baccalaureate Extended Essay Library Support wiki – Amanda Lucas, IB EE Library Support program Coordinator**

One of the early wikis was the IB Extended Essay Library support wiki for IB students, IB teachers, Extended Essay supervisors and the teacher-librarians. This wiki was designed to complement the library support program for Year 11 International Baccalaureate Diploma students undertaking their 4000 word essay. The wiki provides a 'one stop platform' for sharing information in an efficient and timely manner. It is quick and easy to edit, add sound and video files, images, slideshows and links. The wiki is divided into sections containing: official information from the International Baccalaureate Organisation; MLC guidelines; a guide to research based on Carol Kuhlthau's Information Search Process; information about locating sources; tips for managing the task; and information about bibliographies and avoiding plagiarism. Relevant teachers, subject supervisors and the teacher-librarians have author rights. Staff and students have been very positive with their feedback including 'brilliant', 'fantastic, dynamic, and informative'. This feedback demonstrates the positive effect technologies have on learning.

#### **Bibliography**

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