



Louisiana Association of School Librarians

Vol. 20 No. 3
Spring 2000 Issue

The LASL Newsletter is published three times a year by the Louisiana Association of School Librarians, a section of the Louisiana Library Association.

President - Barbara Burney
1st Vice President - Antonio White
2nd Vice President - Betty Brackins
Secretary - Susan Cheshire
Parliamentarian - Marvene Dearman
Newsletter Editor - Terry Thibodeaux

Inside this Issue

**New Study Shows School
Library Impact on Student
Achievement**
Page 2

**Statewide Database Access for
Schools Being Considered**
Page 3

**Young Reader Award, Ballot
Announced**
Page 5

**School Library Awards
Presented in Alexandria**
Page 6

**Do You Have LTLA in Your
School Library?**
Page 6



LASL Newsletter

Fall LAMP Tour schedule released

The 2nd Annual LAMP Tour for Louisiana's school library media specialists is beginning to take shape for this Fall. LAMP, an acronym for **Library and Media Professionals**, is an informal cooperative effort between Louisiana's school library media specialists and book and media vendors.

This year's LAMP Tour, a four-day vendors' caravan around the state bringing school librarians a day of workshops and exhibits, is scheduled for the week after Labor Day at the beginning of the 2000-2001 school year.

The exact content of the workshops will be announced this summer, but the sessions will focus on the school library and its role in the school curriculum. Last year, for example, presenters provided attendees with an overview of the new Information Power document, lesson plans tailored to accomplish the new national standards, and a report on revisions to the state's library policy manual, *Bulletin 1134*, from the Louisiana Department of Education.

What can you do now?

Last year's LAMP sessions drew over 560 participants statewide, even though the tour took place the first week of school in many places. This year's schedule seeks to avoid first-week conflicts, but school librarians around the state may wish to use the schedule provided below to inform their colleagues, supervisors, and superintendents about the event and to work to obtain professional leave for the LAMP Tour in their areas.



LAMP Tour Schedule for Fall 2000

Monday, September 11	Ruston Holiday Inn
Tuesday, September 12	Alexandria Hampton Convention Center
Wednesday, September 13	Baton Rouge Embassy Suites
Thursday, September 14	Metairie Quality Hotel & Conference Center 2261 North Causeway Blvd.

Because student achievement *is* the bottom line.

New Study Shows Impact of School Libraries, Librarians, on Students

DENVER, COLORADO -- Educators and parents agree children need good skills to succeed in school. But how do they gain these skills? A new study shows that strong library media programs are an important component.

"How School Librarians Help Kids Achieve Standards-the Second Colorado Study," just released by the Library Research Service of the Colorado State Library, Colorado Department of Education, demonstrates that student scores on standardized tests are ten to eighteen percent higher at schools with outstanding library media programs and staff.

Deputy Commission of Education Dick Elmer said, "We are beginning to isolate data which enables us to determine the factors that contribute to higher student achievement on the CSAP (Colorado Student Assessment Program) test. I've always believed school libraries play a critical role in successful teaching. I'm not surprised they contribute to higher CSAP scores."

The study found that CSAP reading scores are higher in schools whose library media programs are better staffed, stocked, and funded, and where library media specialists play a leadership role in their schools, collaborate with classroom teachers in the design and delivery of instruction, and utilize computer networks to extend the reach of the library media center throughout the school.

- School library media specialists who are leaders meet regularly with their principals, serve with teachers on standards and curriculum committees, and meet regularly with their own staff.
- Collaborative library media specialists provide in-service training and planning assistance to teachers as well as deliver information literacy instruction to students.
- "Hi-tech" library media programs utilize local or wide-area networks to make information resources available to students and teachers in classrooms, labs, offices-wherever learning is taking place.

The research took into consideration school differences such as district expenditures per pupil, teacher/pupil ratio, and community differences such as racial/ethnic and income demographics. The relationship between library media factors and test scores is not explained away by other school or community conditions.

The study was a follow-up to a 1993 study. In 1993, the Colorado State Library published "The Impact of School Library Media Centers on Academic Achievement." This first study demonstrated that quality library media programs led to higher student test scores. The replication and expansion of the study

in 1999 also looked at Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) scores.

It corroborates the original findings as well as evaluating the role of the school librarian media specialist and the relationship between better school library services and better student performance. Similar recent studies for Alaska and Pennsylvania also support these findings. The study was conducted by the Colorado State Library and the University of Denver Library & Information Services Department.

For information on the study, contact Keith Curry Lance or Marcia J. Rodney, 303.866.6906, fax 303.866.6940, E-mail conner_l@cde.state.co.us. Copies are available via interlibrary loan from state publications depository libraries statewide. For a variety of documents related to the study, visit the Internet at <http://www.lrs.org>. The University of Denver Library & Information Services Department will publish the complete study shortly through Hi Willow Publishing, P O Box 720400, San Jose, CA 95172-0400, 1.800.873.3043; <http://www.lmcsource.com>.

LASL Website up and running

The Association "homepage" is now up and running and people from all over the world may access the site for a wide variety of information about LASL.

One of the "Hot Links," for example, focuses on *Information Power II* and its implementation throughout the state. The site currently presents several powerful and useful collaborative units that can be used by teachers and media specialists "as is" or as models to write new units on different subjects.

The site also provides "one-stop shopping" for membership information, Association policy, LASL newsletters, and so on.

Visit today!

www.leeric.lsu.edu/lla/lasl/



Free Trials of Online Databases

Phyllis Heroy, Supervisor
East Baton Rouge Parish Schools

(Pre-Conference deadlines prevented more timely publication of this information, but we hope it provides our readers with a look at the database trials which began earlier this year. The Committee is currently awaiting news on the availability of monies for the statewide project.)

The Database Advisory Committee I am chairing for the state is charged with evaluating and making recommendations of online resources that might be made available to schools through a statewide purchase arrangement, when funding is available. At our first meeting we previewed EBSCO, Encyclopedia Britannica, Gale, Proquest/Electric Library, and Worldbook Online. We will be previewing several others at our next meeting. All of the vendors have set up free trials so schools can use the databases. I would like as many schools as possible to use these sites. Please give your teachers information on how to access them. Feel free to let students use them. As teachers, students, or you use them, assess their usefulness through considering the following:

- relevance of the content to the curriculum
- depth and breadth of coverage
- appropriateness for the grade levels in your school
- ease & speed of use
- desirable features such as print capabilities, graphics included, and other student or teacher aids – are these features included; how easy to use, etc.

I would like feedback from you or your teachers as to which products they like and why.

Attached is a description of each one of the databases we have previewed so far. We will preview some additional products in February.

The easiest way to access them is to go the LOUIS homepage at LSU: louis.lsu.edu . Click on Free Trials for K12. This will take you to a list of hyperlinks for the various databases.

Please feel free to call me at 225-226-7610 or email pheroy@ebrpss.k12.la.us if you have any questions.

K-12 Database Consideration List Access at: louis.lsu.edu

1. BigChalk.com (formerly Bell & Howell and Infonautics)

BigChalk.com is the newly formed company marketing Proquest and Electric Library. Information is updated daily. The databases include periodical and newspaper articles and some reference and other books. Pictures, charts, and graphs from the original article are included. No audio or video files are included.

BigChalk.com offers two online products:

- Proquest, designed for high school and academic use. It includes access to a large database of full text periodical articles, newspapers, and a few reference sources. Topic Search is a directory of broad topics that guide students to narrow their searches until they reach the information they need. An email button is available. Printing is done using cut and paste. Remote access from home or other location is available.
- Electric Library is directed toward elementary and middle schools. It includes access to full text articles in 500 periodicals, approximately 2,000 works of literature, dictionary, thesaurus, and selected TV and radio shows. Electric Library allows natural languages searching. Searching can be limited by type of resource (periodicals only, for example).

Technical support: Proquest- 6 a.m.-12 midnight; Electric Library – 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Technical support: 800-889-3358

2. EBSCO

EBSCO has three major areas available on the online site for previewing. Some related web links are included.

- **EBSCOHOSTWEB.** This is the largest search site and is geared to high schools and upper levels, although middle schools will also find it useful. Teachers at the elementary level will also find good information here. It contains a database of 2,500 periodicals with full text coverage. Search options include keyword, natural language, and Boolean. This database's strength is the depth and breadth of the text coverage. It includes some graphics, but this is not a strong feature. No audio or video. Daily updates are provided. (NOTE: On the trial site, only the Academic Search Elite is available for searching. If the state selects EBSCO, others would be included in the package.)
- **Searchasaurus.** This is the database designed for elementary and middle schools. It is much more graphical and is simplified for younger students. It has a collection of full text articles from periodicals appropriate for these ages. In addition to periodicals, Searchasaurus also includes Funk & Wagnalls encyclopedia and an animal encyclopedia (text only).
- **Topic Search.** Topic Search is similar to SIRS, if you are familiar with their product. It features access to a collection of resources on topics that are frequently researched in schools. By clicking on a topic and successively narrowing topics, the student or teacher can access full text resources, including magazine and newspaper articles or a section from a reference book. Tip: On the trial site, you will have to exit and log in again if you move from one area (Searchasaurus, for example) to another (Topic Search, for example).

One unique feature of EBSCO databases is that the Lexile reading level is given to guide teachers and students to materials on an appropriate reading level.

3. Encyclopedia Britannica

Encyclopedia Britannica does have a free web site. However, they are still offering their education web site that offers features not available on the free site. In addition to Encyclopedia Britannica, the education site includes Britannica Intermediate (based on Compton's). It includes about 200,000 links to Internet sites (also available through the free site at www.britannica.com). It includes some ancillary features such as studies on a particular topic, Women in American History, for example. Encyclopedia Britannica plans to begin offering remote access soon.

Technical support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

4. Gale Group (formed through the merger of Information Access Co., Gale, and Primary Source Media.)

Gale offers the Student Resource Center for K-12 schools. It includes two sections: Magazines (which has both periodicals and newspapers) and Reference. Periodical and newspaper databases are updated daily.

Searching by subjects is the default; the user can change to other options. If a subject search fails to retrieve anything, it automatically defaults to a keyword search. Bibliographic information is always displayed in MLA format. Students can print articles, save to disk, or email home. Email is accessed through clicking an onscreen box. Pictures are embedded in articles. Students may use any graphics in presentations, on web pages, etc. Gale permits remote access by password and ID so that students and teachers can use from home or any computer with an Internet connection. Gale also provides a simple system for teachers to build an online page of designated articles for their students to read.

The descriptions below explain the scope, content, and intended audience for each Gale database. However, schools on all levels will be able to access all databases, allowing them to meet the full range of student needs.

- InfoTrac offers access to full text articles on three levels:
 - **Kids Edition** is for K-5 schools. It offers full text articles from 50 selected periodicals as well as the Information Please Almanac and selected articles from the Knight Ridder/Tribune newspaper service. Every article in each issue of a magazine is included. The Tool Box contains help pages on how to do research and write. An index of contents is available, organized by broad topics. Bibliographic information is displayed. A unique feature is annotated or expanded titles to give students and teachers a better idea of the content of the article.
 - **Junior Edition** is for middle schools. It offers full text articles from approximately sixty periodicals and also

includes the Information Please Almanac, and several newspaper services, both national and international in scope. This edition offers a choice of graphical interface or text interface.

- **Student (Gold) Edition** is for high schools. It indexes and abstracts articles from 230 periodicals and offers full text articles from 180+ of those. It also includes 40,000+ full text newspaper articles, and 14 full text reference books, 500 historical images, and 300+ full color maps.

- **Reference Section**

The Student Resource Center includes the full text content of numerous Gale and UXL print subject encyclopedias in many subject areas. It is divided into two sections: Student Resource Center-Gold (primarily for high schools) and Junior Reference Collection for elementary and middle schools. It also includes primary source documents.

Technical support is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Direct access: trials.gale.com/trials/louisk12/index.htm

5. Worldbookonline

The Worldbookonline site features Worldbook Encyclopedia plus all the Worldbook Yearbooks from 1922 to the present. It also includes a Teacher Resource Center and Student Research Help. The online version has additional articles not included in the print version, with about 200 new articles added every month in addition to updates to existing articles.

The same excellent organization found in the print and CD-ROM versions is found in the online version.

Through a partnership with IBM, the online site features some of the most updated technology advances, including streaming video. These advanced features require some browser plug-ins. These are free and can be downloaded through the Worldbook site.

Worldbook also has thousands of Internet links embedded in articles. One unique (and helpful) feature is that the blue Worldbook bar remains on the top of the screen, even when a student goes to another Internet site, simplifying visual surveillance for the teacher or librarian. Also, students are not able to go beyond the Worldbook links to other Internet sites.

Through an agreement with Proquest, Worldbook also includes 25 of the most recent articles from periodicals or newspapers on topics researched.

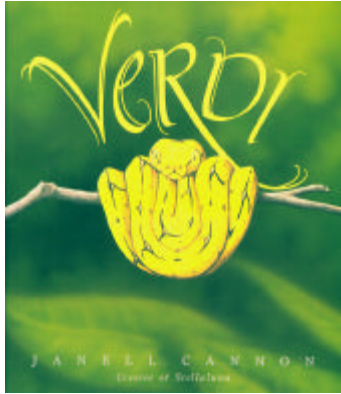
Printing from Worldbook is very easy. A sidebar brings up an outline of the article, and the user simply clicks a box next to the section he/she wants to print.

The Learning Zone in Worldbook offers teacher and parent resources and includes homework helpers for students such as research and writing guides and speech helper.

Worldbook will allow districts to put a link on their home page to provide remote access to students and teachers.

Technical support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

VERDI WINS READERS' CHOICE AWARD



The first annual Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award, sponsored by the State Library of Louisiana and the Louisiana Center for the Book, was given to *Verdi*, written and illustrated by Jannell Cannon. The winner was selected by approximately 5,500 Louisiana students in grades three through five, who voted for their

favorite title from a list of 15 books previously selected by school and public librarians.

"The purpose of the annual award is to excite children about reading by encouraging them to participate in the selection and recognition of outstanding books," says Lt. Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, whose office oversees the State Library. "Children are encouraged to read or listen to at least three of the books on the ballot to be eligible to vote. Teachers, parents and librarians read the books aloud, develop activities that enhance the children's involvement, and connect the literature to the curriculum."

Verdi (Harcourt Brace and Company, 1997. ISBN: 0-15-201028-9) is the story of a young python who is very proud of his bright yellow skin and bold stripes that zigzag down his back. When his mother tells him to grow up big and green, Verdi is afraid that growing up means that he will be boring, lazy and rude. Jannell Cannon's luminous, full-page illustrations vividly portray Verdi's attempts to stay young as he gradually transforms into a big green snake. The book combines charming storytelling and fascinating science facts with insight into the importance of good self-esteem.

The State Library and the Louisiana Center for the Book will invite the author, Jannell Cannon, to accept the Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award at a special ceremony to be held later this year, says State Librarian Tom Jaques.

The ballot has already been selected for next year's award. Children will be able to vote for the new books in January 2001, "but we encourage them to start reading the books right now," says Jaques. "Teachers and librarians are urged to include these books in their programs and classrooms so that children will be familiar with the books on the ballot and will want to read many of them before they vote."

Gale Criswell, the State Library's children's services consultant, says summer is also a great time for children to check out some book from their local public libraries and read. "Libraries across the state participate in the Summer Reading Program, which is a great opportunity for kids to have an

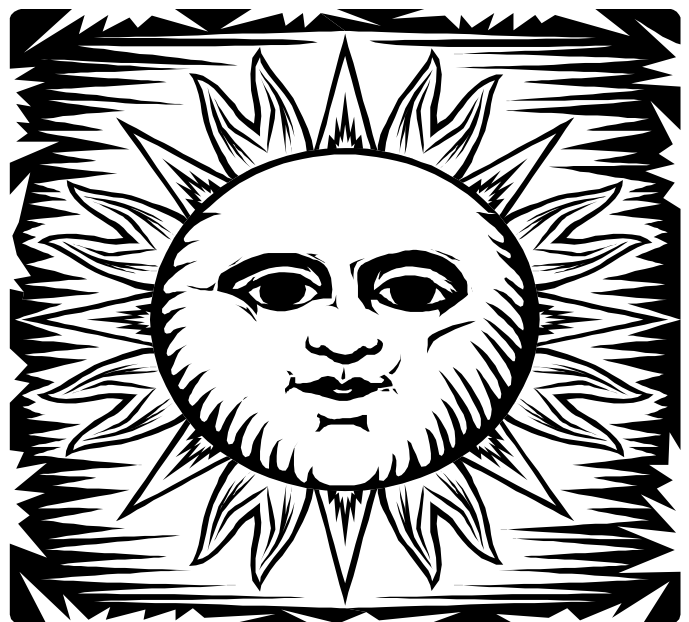
exciting time reading," she says. "This year's theme, 'Zap into the Past – Read!' offers children the chance to participate in a great reading program of stories, music, games, arts and crafts and other fun, plus begin to read the books on the Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award ballot.

2001 Ballot

Following are the titles selected for the 2001 ballot:

1. Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. *Ruthie's Gift*. Illustrated by Dave Kramer.
2. Carlson, Laurie. *Boss of the Plains: The Hat That Won the West*. Illustrated by Holly Meade.
3. Curtis, Gavin. *The Bat Boy and His Violin*. Illustrated by Earl B. Lewis.
4. Del Negro, Janice. *Lucy Dove*. Illustrated by Leonid Gore.
5. Fleischman, Sid. *Bandit's Moon*. Illustrated by Joseph A. Smith.
6. Florian, Douglas. *Insectlopedia: Poems and Paintings*.
7. Holt, Kimberly Willis. *Mister and Me*. Illustrated by Leonard Jenkins.
8. Ibbotson, Eva. *The Secret of Platform 13*. Illustrated by Sue Porter.
9. Mead, Alice. *Junebug and the Reverend*.
10. Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra*. Illustrated by J. Brian Pinkney.
11. Polacco, Patricia. *Thank You, Mr. Falker*.
12. Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.
13. Scieszka, Jon. *Squids Will Be Squids: Fresh Morals, Beastly Fables*. Illustrated by Lane Smith.
14. Thomassie, Tynia. *Feliciana Meets D'Loup Garou: A Cajun Tall Tale*. Illustrated by Cat Bowman Smith.
15. Wick, Walter. *Walter Wick's Optical Tricks*.

Detailed information about the award and the Summer Reading Program, "Zap into the Past – Read," is available on the State Library's web site under "Youth Services" at <http://www.state.lib.la.us>.



Recognizing the RED Gang: School Libraries and Librarians Honored

Honors were presented in various categories at the Awards Luncheon held on March 15 during the Annual LLA Conference in Alexandria. Those of special interest to school librarians include the following:

🏆 Essae M. Culver Distinguished Service Award

Presented by the Louisiana Library Association
Purpose: To honor an LLA member whose distinguished service to the profession and whose professional achievements have been of particular value to Louisiana librarianship.

2000 Recipient - Dr. Joy Lambert Lowe

🏆 School Library Media Specialist Award

Presented by the Louisiana Library Association and the Louisiana Association of School Librarians (LLA/LASL)
Purpose: To give recognition to a school library media specialist who has demonstrated through action and philosophy a dedication to the mission and goals of the media specialist profession.

2000 Recipient - Debra Cox Rollins

🏆 Alex Allain Intellectual Freedom Award

Presented by the Louisiana Library Association, Intellectual Freedom Committee
Purpose: To recognize the contribution of an individual or a group who/which has actively promoted intellectual freedom in Louisiana.

2000 Recipient - No award given.

🏆 James O. Modisette Awards for School Libraries

Presented by the Louisiana Library Association
Purpose: To recognize excellence in Louisiana school library media programs.

2000 Recipients:

Elementary School - University Terrace Elementary, Baton Rouge, Catherine Brooks

Middle School - No award given.

Junior-Senior High School - No award given.

🏆 Sue Hefley Educator of the Year Award

Presented by the Louisiana Library Association and the Louisiana Association of School Librarians (LLA/LASL)
Purpose: To recognize a Louisiana educator, who has made an outstanding contribution to Louisiana school libraries.

2000 Recipient - Mr. Danny Bell

What is LTLA?

The Louisiana Teen-age Librarians Association (LTLA) is a state organization composed of individual Library and/or Media Clubs from throughout the state. The objective of the organization is to increase student interest and participation in library work, promote reading, develop leadership skills, and arouse interest in librarianship as a profession. Membership is open to students in grades six through twelve who are affiliated with an organized Library and/or Media Club and their sponsor is a member of LASL. We have a full slate of student officers and an executive committee which conducts business under the sponsorship of the LASL.

The LTLA celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1999 and has had an annual conference and its own newsletter to keep members informed every year. The constitution and by-laws require that officers be elected and committee chairmen be appointed from different clubs.

LTLA activities culminate each year at convention time when delegates gather from around the state to participate in activities that are planned around an annual theme. Students participate in various contests involving books, bookmarks, costumes, scrapbooks, bulletin boards, essays and workshops all centered around the years theme. Both students and librarians gain much from an exchange of ideas, the making of new friends, and the various experiences that are long remembered from their association with LTLA.

The LTLA motto: **READING, KNOWLEDGE, SERVICE** enables members to plan meaningful and varied experiences in carrying out club work.

If you need help organizing your club or joining LTLA, contact the 2000-2001 Student Relations Chairperson for more information:

**Louise Rauls, Librarian
Denham Springs High School
1000 N. Range Ave.
Denham Springs, LA 70726
225-665-9780 (Library)
225-665-4082 (FAX)
E-mail: lrauls@lpsb.org**

LLA/LASL Membership Form

Don't delay! Join today!

Send your membership form to
Louisiana Library Association
P.O. Box 3058
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Online Membership Information and Applications
<http://www.leeric.lsu.edu/lla/membership.htm>

Type of membership: _____ Date: _____
 Individual New Member
 Contributing Renewing Member
 Institutional

Name (Miss, Mrs., Mr., Dr.): _____ Position : _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Library _____ City _____ Parish _____

Office Phone: () _____ Home Phone: () _____

E-mail: _____

SECTIONS: If joining more than one section please indicate Main section. _____ Amount of dues (See dues schedule below). Includes one "Main" section Free

ACADEMIC GODORT LASL _____ Additional sections @ \$4 each

NMRT PUBLIC SUB.SPEC. _____ Donation to Scholarship Fund (optional)

LaSSAL TRUSTEES

I am currently a member of: ALA SELA \$ _____ Total Due

Cut Here and Send to Address Above

Anyone interested in library service and librarianship may become a member of the Louisiana Library Association. Membership dues are paid for the fiscal year – July to June. For your convenience membership charges are listed below.

Individual Memberships	Cash/Check
Full-time, student, friend, retired	\$10
First-time Member	\$15
Trustees	\$25
Salary Under \$14,999	\$30
Salary \$15,000-\$19,999	\$35
Salary \$20,000-\$24,999	\$40
Salary \$25,000-\$29,999	\$45
Salary \$30,000-\$34,999	\$50
Salary \$35,000-\$44,999	\$55
Salary \$45,000-\$54,999	\$60
Salary \$55,000-\$64,999	\$65
Over \$65,000	\$70
Contributing	\$100.00