

SET YOUR LIBRARY ON FIRE II: Blazing into the Future

A collection of titles and strategies that we've seen working in our own libraries.

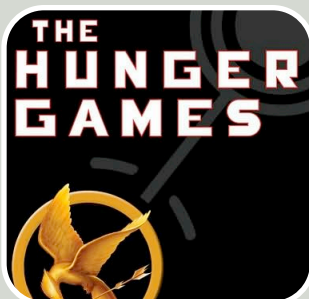


KEEPING THE HEAT

These new titles are tough to keep on the shelves.

- The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins
- Palace of Mirrors by Margaret Peterson Haddix
- Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson
- Groosham Grange by Anthony Horowitz
- Evernight by Claudia Gray
- The Dangerous Days of Daniel X by James Patterson
- Gone by Michael Grant

How do we find out about these books? We browse the shelves of our local book stores, get advanced reading copies from publishers/vendors, and most importantly we chat with our students to see what they enjoy and what makes a book work for them.



Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins
Set in a very plausible future, The Hunger Games grabs readers' attentions with its relatable characters and expert pacing.

SPARKING THE FUTURE

Make technology work for us.

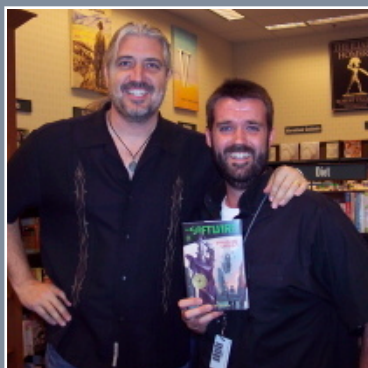
Technology should make our lives easier, but sometimes that's not the case. The options available for technology use expand by the second and it can seem daunting.

Many times technology use is synonymous with expense of both money and time, but it doesn't always have to be. Start simple. Introduce booktalks and reviews to your students and then have them create their own examples. Record these reviews and you have the beginnings of a podcast. Offer this technology until you get used to it and then take the next step towards a new technology, like filming the reviews. Have students film and edit book trailers. When they are done, host a film festival during a busy time of the day and have other patrons vote for their favorite book trailer.

If your budget is tight with regards to technology purchases, search online with the keywords "open source". You'll find software that many times was created for the benefit of all and can be licensed for free or close to it.

Check out the technology guidebook at briangriggs.com.

CONNECT STUDENTS WITH AUTHORS



Help students see that authors are real people by hosting author visits and book signings in your library. Many authors provide great insight into the writing process on their websites, like allycarter.com. Some provide immersive environments based on the books, like ringsoforbis.com, skeletoncreekisreal.com and the39clues.com.

The Year of the Sequels

2008 and 2009 promise lots of continuations of our favorite series. Here are some to be looking for, in order of expected publishing date:

- Sorcerer of the North by Flanagan
- Tales of Beedle the Bard by Rowling
- Forever Princess by Cabot
- The Last Straw by Kinney
- Starclimber by Oppel
- P.S. I Loathe You by Harrison
- Wormhole Pirates on Orbis 3 by Haarsma
- Stargazer by Gray
- Waterwings by Patterson
- Hurricane Gold by Higson
- The Last Olympian by Riordan
- The Convergence of Halla by MacHale
- Don't Judge a Girl by her Cover by Carter
- Sent by Haddix

Great
series
continue in
2009!



Be Human

No matter what current technology debuts or which expert shows up with a booklist, nothing beats librarians that know what they're doing and know how to relate to the patrons.

Get yourself out there. Do booktalks of new releases as well as the most popular checkouts of your library's history. Be involved in the curriculum in whatever learning environment you serve in. Amidst all of the paperwork, cataloging, and processing, make sure to schedule some time in your work day to walk the floor. Interacting with your patrons can show them that you are accessible (and perhaps faster than any search engine) and it can also add encouragement for you.

We'd love to hear your stories and feel free to contact us with any questions:

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