

Citation metadata

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Date: May-June 1996
From: Emergency Librarian(Vol. 23, Issue 5)
Publisher: E L Kurdyla Publishing LLC
Document Type: Article
Length: 1,975 words

Main content

Article Preview :

WE ARE ACCUSTOMED TO THE IDEA of "library automation" in terms of using computers to manage the basic library functions of cataloguing, circulation, overdues, organizing periodicals, inventory and reporting. We are also accustomed to the idea of using computers for information retrieval -- online searching, using CD-ROMs, perhaps using the Internet. In some school libraries, computer software and even laptop computers can be borrowed by teachers and students just as they can borrow books and audiovisual materials. In addition to all this, though, computers are being used in school libraries for a wide range of functions, from simple word processing of letters to managing an electronic bulletin board for school communications.

In 1994, Australian teacher-librarians were surveyed through a questionnaire in the national journal *Access* (Clyde, 1994). As in other surveys of teacher-librarians, they were asked about their use of computers in all the aspects of school library work mentioned above. They were also asked about any other purposes for which their school library was using computers and information technology. These "other purposes" for which computers and information technology were being used included:

- * word processing and desktop publishing;
- * creating computer-based slide presentations;
- * preparing bibliographies;
- * producing catalog card sets and labels;
- * creating local databases (for example, videotapes, lesson plans, matriculation examination papers);
- * textbook management;
- * video circulation control;
- * managing inter-library loans;
- * budgeting;
- * accessioning;
- * ordering materials and equipment.

It is not just Australian school librarians who are using technology in these ways, of course. The North American magazines for teacher-librarians, including this one, have provided many examples of American and Canadian teacher-librarians who are using their word processors or their database software or their spreadsheets for innovative applications in teacher-library management or curriculum support or services to users. However, this Australian survey does provide some useful starting points for discussion of just some of the many possible applications of standard and readily-available software packages in school libraries. These packages can be used even if the library has only one microcomputer, and they can be used whether or not the library is automated.

Word Processing And Desktop Publishing

In one way or another, word processing and desktop publishing featured in many of the responses to the Australian survey. But while some respondents indicated that computers were being used for word processing and/or desktop publishing, others described the use of word processing or desktop publishing software in terms of the purpose, such as creation of a newsletter. The various uses of word processing and desktop publishing facilities included specific applications outlined below:

Promotional materials such as brochures and bookmarks and reading lists can be created to support school library programs and

activities such as author visits or holiday reading programs. A word processor with some graphics capabilities, or a desktop publishing package could also be used to produce the underlying message for badges or ribbons. These kinds of materials are particularly effective when created in a standard "house style" that immediately identifies them as coming from the school...

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Anne Clyde. "Generic software packages in school libraries."*Emergency Librarian*, vol. 23, no. 5, 1996, pp. 51-3. Accessed 6 Nov. 2020.

Gale Document Number: GALE|A30360399

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users of software packages in searching for a. package to perform a specific application, and. in critically evaluating the merits of different. 2.6 Library/reference Library/reference software packages provide document control, document location, inventory, order processing and subject and author referencing functions. Data Sources [DATA83] identifies 19 different packages, ranging in price from \$990 to \$75,000, currently used in over 180 organizations. A software library is rarely complete in version 1.0. Good libraries evolve over time, adding features, fixing bugs, and improving performance. It is important that you can release new versions of a .NET library, providing additional value with each version, without breaking existing users. Breaking changes. For information about handling breaking changes between versions, see Breaking changes . Version numbers. A .NET library has many ways to specify a version. These versions are the most important: NuGet package version. The NuGet package version is displayed on NuGet.org, the Visual Studio