Access is a concept that is central to libraries. We want to ensure that students and patrons are able to reach the wide variety of resources that we have procured. Having a healthy budget is a fine position for any library, but a partnership with other organizations will always strengthen a message and multiply resources.

This is the case with Seattle Public Schools and Seattle Public Library. Library Link has been expanded to include K-5 students.

Not only is the timing perfect on this expansion due to remote learning, it also aligns with the same relationship other public libraries have with their local school districts. Having access for K-12 students is an industry norm in such a partnership. The job of the school librarians is now to ensure that staff, students and families understand Library Link but also make it relevant in their personal and educational lives. Librarians procure information and it is our job to connect someone’s information need with solid resources that will make their lives easier.

Start exploring SPL databases and you’ll quickly find tidbits that will solve research or reading problems for library users. When you’ve connected a student with TumbleMath to help with multiplication woes or a staff member with the transcript of a documentary for a lesson plan you’ll reinforce the true idea of a library: access. That’s a lesson worth teaching again and again.

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ES/K-8 LIBRARIAN SPOTLIGHT

- Anne Aliverti (Bryant) coordinated University Book Store read-alouds event for Elementary and Middle School TLs.
- Tom Brown (Laurelhurst): Became Co-Teacher on Schoology with all classes, so that library content is right on students’ homepage, easing access to materials.
- LeAnn Miller (Decatur): Creating and embedding Sway Presentations on Schoology to showcase author read-alouds and ideas for books

SPS Librarian’s Book Club: Stamped: Racism, Anti-Racism and You
reported by Lee Micklin

As soon as Governor Inslee suspended traditional in-person education, a group of Librarians across all grade levels began meeting virtually to discuss Stamped: Racism, Anti-racism and You by Jason Reynolds.

More aptly called a “Remix” than a Young Reader’s Edition, Stamped is based on the National Book Award-winning Stamped from the Beginning by Ibram X. Kendi. Reynolds maintains that Stamped, “is NOT a history book. This is a book about the here and now. A book about Race.” Using the guide, #SPSLibrarians each report out on topics like: the Black Power Movement (Audra Gallegos), Ida B. Wells (Janet Schooler), Audre Lorde (Lee Micklin), Black Presidential Candidates, (Lindi Wood), and Access to Education: Brown vs. Board, Native American Boarding Schools (Mary Banister.) The Educator’s Guide also includes Essential Questions, Reader’s Notebooks, and the Collaborative Construction of an Anti-Racist Timeline.

In the recent Everywhere Book Fest, Reynolds was asked, “What was it like to adapt Stamped From the Beginning?” He responded, “It was hard. But I felt it was necessary because I had an opportunity to make something that was palatable for young people so they could continue to push our culture forward and continue to undo and dismantle racism in America.”

The Educator’s Guide and notes can be accessed through this SLJ posting.
More on Library Link from SPL’s Erica Delavan and Shannon Wallace

As of May 19, the Library Link partnership between The Seattle Public Library and Seattle Public Schools has been expanded to include all K – 12 students, teachers and staff. This means that all SPS K -12 students, teachers and staff now have access to SPL’s digital materials, including eBooks through Libby, movies and comics through Hoopla, and numerous digital student resources and databases.

The SPL Library Link page includes a video tutorial for students and families about how to find out their Library Link login information. The FAQ on that page includes the same information for teachers and staff, how to use your Employee ID number to find out your Library Link login information. From there, you have access to all of SPL’s digital resources.

Have more questions or need some help? You can contact Erica Delavan (for grades K-5) and Shannon Wallace (for grades 6-12), and they’ll be happy to help get you going.

Digital Resource Collections
Update from Carter Kemp (Kimball ES)

How do we support students in learning about the subjects that interest them? How do we best make use of international and historical fiction in literature and film to immerse students in unfamiliar worlds? How can we leverage the incredible digital collections available to us and the expertise of our world-class SPL librarians to create experiences for students that lead to deep understanding?

A new collaboration between Seattle Schools and SPL librarians will provide answers to these questions. School librarians have suggested topics including “Pandemics of History”, “Racism and Anti-Racism in the U.S.” and “Cooking and Baking,” and SPL librarians are working to create text sets for these and more. These ‘digital boxes’ may include literary & popular fiction, films, TED talks, websites and more from SPL’s collection that together will give users a nuanced and immersive grounding in subjects they choose.
SECONDARY LIBRARIAN SPOTLIGHT

Brooke Thomas and Shel Grinstead are graduate students at the UW in the Library and Information Science program. This quarter, they completed directed field work (DFW) in the library with Claire Scott at Lincoln High School. They shared:

“So far, we’ve joined Claire for meetings with students each week, such as the alternating House Elf Liberation Front and other book club meetings as well as weekly library hangouts. We also created programming for national poetry month in April. We came up with themes for each day of the last two weeks of the month and crowdsourced poems inspired by those themes from the folks following the @lincolnlibrarylynx Instagram. We then shared those poems with the students who are subscribed to the library’s Remind. As DFW students, we are grateful for the opportunity to make invaluable connections and get hands-on experience in our chosen field and we are excited about the work we’ve been able to do during this unprecedented time.

Sarah Johnson at Seattle World School shared: “I was ambushed in the best way on a Teams call today by 20 Vietnamese students who were “bored” and “wanted to know where to read books online.”

I created this in Canva aiming for a graphic that highlights the ELL-friendly resources. Thanks to Erin @ Eckstein and TuesD @ Ballard for all the materials I borrowed from!

While the font is small, I would rather it fit on a page or in a graphic and let online readers zoom to the relevant resource – it might not be the right fit for your school or your students but just in case.

This [link takes you to an editable Canva template](#) which can be easily modified for your school’s use.