

Web 2.0 to Support Middle School Information Seeking

School Library Practicum at O. Henry Middle School

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www.ohenrylibrary.com

The screenshot shows the O. Henry Library website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Library Catalog, Reading, Research, and Library Events. Below this is the library's name, "O. Henry Library", and a quote: "If young people develop a love of reading, they will have better lives." attributed to Rafe Esquith. The page includes library hours (Monday-Friday, 7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.), a search bar, and contact information for the librarian, Sara Stevenson. There is also a section for "Library News" featuring an article about Ms. Stevenson winning the 'Branding Iron Award' from the Texas Library Association, accompanied by a photo of the award. A "School Website" link for O. Henry Middle School and a section for "Upcoming Events" are also visible.



Objectives:

Increase access and design a website using web 2.0 tools that:

- aid in self-selection of books
- encourage book club participation and reading excitement
- provide reliable research resources
- teach evaluation of content and multiple access methods

The screenshot shows the Lone Star Book List website. It features a logo with a star and the text "Lone Star Book List". Below the logo, there is a description of the list: "The Texas Lone Star Reading List is a recommended reading list developed by public and school librarians from the Young Adult Round Table. The purpose of the list is to encourage students in grades 6, 7, or 8 to explore a variety of current books. The Lone Star list is intended for recreational reading, not to support a specific curriculum. Due to the diversity of this age range, Texas librarians should purchase titles on this list according to their individual collection policies. Each book on the list has been favorably reviewed for grades 6, 7, or 8 in a professional review source." There are sections for "Book lists for guys:" (with a "GUYS READ" logo) and "Book lists for girls:" (with an "rgz" logo). A "Need Ideas?" section with a lightbulb icon and the text "Try these links for more great options:" is also present. At the bottom, there is a link to "Click the titles below to read a summary of the book." and a list of authors and titles.

Methods:

1. Evaluated O. Henry's current web tools.
2. Researched web trends; considered best-fit tools for population.
3. Surveyed colleagues and reviewed library websites.
4. Developed a new website allowing for future maintenance by the librarian.

The screenshot shows a website page with several sections. At the top, there is a "Recommend Books" section with a graphic of colorful pencils. Below this is a "Watch book trailers" section with a list of trailers: "Graphic novel book trailers", "Book Trailers For All: From home, view this youtube channel of book trailers categorized by age-group.", "The Teen Channel from Barnes and Noble Studio has a good selection of trailers. (Select 'Teens' by scrolling down in 'Channels' column on left).", and "Featured book trailers: Delirium, Paranormalcy, The Summer I Turned Pretty, Leviathan, Incarceron, The Grimm Legacy, Life As We Knew It Series". There is also a "Find e-Books" section with a graphic of a tablet and a "Use the sites below to download public domain e-books for free:" section with a list of sites: "Manybooks.net" and "Project Gutenberg". Finally, there is an "Authors speak:" section with a list of authors: "Ally Condie, Lauren Oliver, Sarah Dessen - Along for the Ride, Michael Scott - The Necromancer, James Dashner, Josh Lieb". Below this is a "Daily Show executive producer Josh Lieb on his comedic book: I am a Genius of Unspeakable Evil and I want to be your Class President." section with a graphic of the book cover.

Research states websites should:

- ❖ Use visual cues to promote events and services
- ❖ Create redundancy for easy navigation
- ❖ Utilize Google forms for feedback
- ❖ Incorporate a variety of tools:
 - ❖ Goodreads (social networking)
 - ❖ Jing (screencasts)
 - ❖ Wikis (collaboration)

Outcomes:

- ❖ Visually appealing interface, multiple navigation routes
- ❖ Working tool to continually evolve with library initiatives
- ❖ Numerous resources to support O. Henry library priorities

Resources: 1. Berger, P., & Trexler, S. (2010). *Choosing Web 2.0 tools for learning and teaching in a digital world*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Libraries Unlimited. 2. Mathews, B. (2009). Web Design Matters. *Library Journal*, 134(3), 24-25. 3. Valenza, J. (2011). Fully Loaded. *School Library Journal*, 57(1), 36-38.