

Ashland City Schools	
Edison Elementary School	
Diana Rice	Denee Schlotterer
Titles: “Staff Development Program: Research Indicators” and “Information Literacy Instructional Program: Print and Electronic Resources”	

Report of Implementation

ILILE Grant

Diana Rice and Denee Schlotterer

Ashland City Schools (office at Edison Elementary)

December 2004

Denee Schlotterer and I hold similar positions in our school district in that we both are seeking to support students (1900+) and teachers (120) in five elementary buildings in their efforts to improve literacy. The opportunity for the two of us to have the time and resources to mesh our goals has been important. Denee has become a strong advocate for teacher/librarian collaboration, and my business is booming.

Our grant project hasn't turned out quite the way we anticipated. We intended to meet with a core group of teachers out of our 120 and work with that core group through all the steps of the process. The reality wasn't that neat. Denee met with the curriculum coordinator and from there was able to make a presentation about our efforts to the grade level coordinators' meeting. As a result, seven teachers came to a September 23 session to see the Research Process website we created, hear about the elements of a successful research project, and receive a copy of 99 Jumpstarts for Kids. However, I subsequently worked with ten teachers on research projects for their classes, and only four of those attended the original meeting. Of the ten, five and I collaborated on the projects from start to finish.

We quickly learned that there weren't enough hands to run a digital video camera and work with the students, so we did not buy one. And, although 99 Jumpstarts for Kids is a terrific inspirational starting point and a useful tool for emphasizing and demonstrating the importance of asking good questions, the Information Literacy Toolkit for K-6 was more useful for practical tools for the process. Therefore, we purchased a few more copies so that we could put one in the professional library at each building. A combination of paperwork problems kept us from receiving and using the Library Skills videos and The Strangest Dinosaur in time to meet our deadline, but we look forward to using them. At the last minute we decided to purchase a digital still camera, both for capturing students during work and presentations and the process of illustrating flow charts that demonstrate steps of the research process.

The Research Process website was enthusiastically received by those who used it. In November I further demonstrated the website at a building staff meeting and will do so for another building December 10. I was gratified when a teacher used the website to show me a tool we could use in the project instead of the more common my doing it first.

Most importantly, the concepts of collaboration and careful planning of a research activity took root. Having the resources to hand teachers to support these concepts was important.