

Bowling Green City Schools	
Bowling Green Junior High School	
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Titles: “Staff Development Program: Guide to Media Literacy” and “Information Literacy Instructional Program: Science in the Media Center”	

**Science in the Media Center
Grant Report – December 2004
Melanie Ferguson & Elaine Ezell**

Planning:

We met a couple of times each week during Melanie’s planning time to outline our project for staff and students.

For the staff we developed notebooks titled “Electronic Resources: Not Just for Librarians Anymore” that are available to our students and staff. This included the Infohio resources plus those the school district provided: Grolier, Gale Student Resource Center, Opposing Viewpoints, and Cobblestone. It was decided that all notebooks would be the same. This allowed for them to be used in discussions in team meetings and in other ways. The notebooks had a table of contents in the front and tabs for each section. Although the notebooks were the same, we made notes on special features that were applicable to specific curriculum areas.

Eighth grade students are divided into three core teams. Due to the number of available computers we decided to group students into pairs. We then chose 12 broad science topics from the Ohio Science Academic Content Standards on which we developed a science scavenger hunt. Appropriate databases were identified, as well as non-fiction, fiction, and reference books for each topic. All the handouts had different but similar questions or searches. For example, all students were required to locate an article in a specific magazine/journal on their topic by using EBSCO. Students also have a page in their agenda that gives the web address for the Bowling Green Junior High resource page on the school website and any logins and passwords needed for the databases. Infohio resources, the school online catalog, access links to databases purchased by the school, and links to the Wood County Public Library and Oplin are listed on the school resource page.

Implementation:

Staff -- The notebooks were distributed during curriculum meetings. Curriculum meetings are held on Tuesdays during academic assist (AA) with each subject area meeting once during the month. As we prepared for each session, we noted types of information that these specific teachers often assigned or would find particularly useful, such as timelines, research tools, and picture indexes. The teachers would have the notebooks during AA to assist students in locating information. During the presentations some teachers shared how they had used some of the

resources. Melanie shared a lesson using Landsat Images downloaded from Infohio to show how easy the resources can be found and utilized.

Students -- Twelve tasks or questions were developed for each topic, which required the students to use the electronic resources and the online catalog to locate books in the library. In using the books students had to use the index, cross references, and charts and tables to locate the information. We used two days for the activity since a large portion of one day was used to introduce the students to the resources using an LCD projector. The scavenger hunt was conducted with all 8th grade students. The students are divided into three teams and the teachers paired the students rather than them selecting a partner.

Results –

Staff – We have had an increase in interest of the databases. Teachers have come to the media center to get assistance, ask for a refresher on locating a specific feature, or to schedule media center time for their class. Since becoming aware of more of the databases, one teacher came to collaborate on revamping a project. The project actually turned into a completely new one that applied the same academic content standards. Another teacher developed a project-centered lesson and emailed it to Elaine to review. This teacher wanted to know if there were resources to complete the assignment with minimal frustration on the part of the students. She wanted the students to use only books and paid subscription databases and not the “free” Internet. The data we have now is limited. However, for our own benefit we are collecting information on what teachers use the media center, how often, and the types of resources they use with their students. At the end of the year we can review this and plan a possible follow-up next year. Being able to meet in small curriculum groups is ideal for sharing and introducing resources.

From the teachers who actually collaborated on a project, a name was drawn to choose books on a topic for the media center and for the classroom. This turned out to be a first year science teacher. We had shared our Biome unit with him, which he used with some modifications. So, he chose books on the same topic which increased the resources on this topic. The bulk of the grant was spent on classroom and media center resources on biomes.

Students -- Since the initial activity, two teams have had their students in the library media center several times. Of course, Melanie was one science teacher and she collaborates regularly and has her students in the media center often. We have both been working with the first year teacher on units and sharing some of our collaborative efforts. That has also increased the amount of time those students have been in the library media center. The other science teacher is a 35-year veteran who is not comfortable collaborating or being in the library media center. Those students are seldom in the library media center. Overall, use of the electronic resources has increased and the number of students rushing to Google and Ask Jeeves has decreased. We are planning a similar activity on different topics in the spring. Then, students will be given only one day to complete the activity. We have kept their assignments from the fall activity and will be able to compare their scores and which databases they had the most difficulty with. We will also be able to do some comparisons between the teams and the amount of time each spent in the library media center. Library use statistics by teacher and team are available through the library-scheduling calendar.