Each month, the Spotlight Feature provides Library of Congress online resources from different pages within the LC website. The Spotlight Feature for April is That All May Read. National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, NLS administers a free library program of Braille and audio materials to eligible borrowers in the U.S. by postage free mail. Click, http://www.loc.gov/nls/ for more information.

What’s Happening in Local Schools

Substitute Teacher Professional Development
A new professional development initiative during March enabled local substitute teachers and recent Cal U education graduates who have not yet been hired to receive Act 48 continuing education hours to maintain their certifications. A series of four Monday evening workshops was offered to recent Cal U College of Education graduates to provide them with the skills and competencies to design and deliver primary source-based lesson plans. Of the 16 attendees, four are substitute teachers from the California, Charleroi, Connellsville, and Ringgold school districts. All participants designed or modified primary source-based lesson plans for classroom use and all received 12 hours of Act 48 continuing education hours at no cost. Substitute teachers need to be aware of the professional development opportunities available through the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources program. School districts need to make substitute teachers aware of these opportunities to earn Act 48 continuing education hours.

California Area School District
Teaching with Primary Sources Instructional Specialist, Nick Roberts, made a series of visits to California Area Elementary Center to provide individualized, follow-up assistance to elementary teachers who had participated in Teaching with Primary Sources workshops. Mr. Roberts helped teachers locate, access, and organize primary source materials from the Library of Congress website. Ongoing technical assistance is a best practice for assuring that teachers are able to put to use the skills and competencies associated with primary source-based instruction and this assistance is available to all eligible school districts.

Belle Vernon Area School District
Nick Roberts collaborated with 8th grade teacher, Mr. Ross Farmer, to teach students about properly citing primary and secondary source materials for their National History Day projects.

The Stinky Cheese Man
Librarian of Congress James H. Billington has appointed children’s book author Jon Scieszka as the first National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature. The position was created to raise national awareness of the importance of young people’s literature as it relates to lifelong literacy, education, and the development and betterment of the lives of young people.

Obviously, Scieszka isn’t “stinky,” and the Library can’t confirm or deny his attitude about dairy products. But one thing is for sure—his bestselling books, including the Caldecott Honor-winning “The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales,” have delighted young and old alike. And, his experience as an elementary and middle school teacher makes him the perfect choice to help the Library promote and encourage a love of reading among children and young adults.

The Librarian of Congress names the National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature for a two-year term, based on recommendations from a selection committee representing many segments of the book community. The selection criteria include the candidate’s contribution to young people’s literature and ability to relate to children. Click on, http://www.loc.gov/wiseguide/feb08/stinky.html to read more about this topic.
ANNEMARIE SAYS!

AnneMarie Walter, Associate Director, LC/TPS
Mars Hill College

AnneMarie says, “Don’t have time to read the news? How about looking at it instead?”

PRIMAR Y SOURCES FOR MATH, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY

This month we explore Library of Congress (LOC) resources regarding distinguished women in math, science, and technology.

One terrific resource on this topic was created by Tomoko Y. Steen, Ph.D., a Research Specialist at the Science, Technology and Business Division of the LOC. Dr. Steen compiled a bibliography entitled “Women in Science, Technology, and Medicine.” Links include electronic journals, professional associations, contact directories, and archives at universities and libraries. It’s available at http://www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/escrapbooking.com/basics/examples.htm.

One standout link is titled, “Women in Science, Technology, and Engineering,” which links to Iowa State University. There’s an Oral History Project entitled “Women in Chemistry,” which includes audio files as well as transcripts of interviewees.

Another resource to explore is Science Tracer Bullet # 90-6. It’s a LOC “research guide” on women who are/were: engineers, physicists, scientists, chemists, mathematicians, astronauts, and more. Primary source materials vary in this weblogography, combining into a blend of monographs, articles, conferences, government documents, career options, noted dissertations, and so on. Many of these sources link to a card catalog of items on the shelves of the LOC in D.C.; however, interested parties may be able to retrieve these at their local library or through an LOC interlibrary loan.

This Science Tracer Bullet can be found online at http://www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/tracer-bullets/; at the bottom of the page; just look for the title “Women in the Sciences.”

TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

E-scrapbooking

Scrap is a wonderful way to track student learning, thinking, and understanding. Because students can easily be graded using a rubric or checklist, e-scrapbooks are a great activity to determine whether students have met standards. They can also provide concrete evidence of teacher performance and teaching effectiveness.

When working with students on inquiry-based projects, there is always a question of process vs product. What products can be used to demonstrate student learning? Journals and logs have become increasingly popular. When combined with visuals such as photographs and concept maps along with video and audio, a rich collection of evidence is available to track and evaluate student performance. E-scrapbooks are a wonderful way to combine these ideas into a single multimedia artifact. There are many interesting e-scrapbooking ideas to choose from. Click on http://escreapbooking.com/basics/index.htm to learn more about e-scrapbooking and all the resources you will need to begin this learning journey.

For more information, please contact:
Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources
California University of PA, Keystone 112, 250 University Ave, California, PA 15419
Phone: 724-938-6025 • Fax: 724-938-6024 • E-mail: hoak@cup.edu
www.cup.edu/education/aam

To receive the electronic newsletter via email, send a request to hoak@cup.edu.