



The Update

Launching OCCL's New Website!

If you've visited our website within the last month, you know we have a brand new look thanks to the support of the National Adult Literacy Database (NALD). In particular we wish to thank Laurent Danis, Web Designer/Developer at NALD, for all of his time, creativity and hard work on the new design. Our goal was to make the site more attractive as well as easier to navigate and read.

We encourage you to visit www.occl.ca and send us your comments at abcline@occl.ca.

Upcoming OCCL Workshop

OCCL will be hosting a workshop on *Linking Essential Skills and Literacy and Basic Skills* (Facilitator - Doug Noyes) and *Getting to Workplace Essentials* (Facilitator - Chris Harwood) on **March 25, 2009**.

For details on the workshop, visit www.occl.ca and click on **What's New**.

2009 PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy

Our annual fundraising golf tournament will take place on **Thursday, May 28**. Once again we'll be at the lovely Loch March Golf & Country Club.

If you or anyone you know are interested in participating in this year's tournament, visit our website and click on 2009 PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy to access registration and sponsorship forms.

We are always looking for prize donations and auction items. For more information contact Maureen at maureenmccgovern@occl.ca or by phone at 613-233-3232.

Learner Achievement Award

Enclosed with this newsletter you'll find information and a nomination form. The *Learner Achievement Award* will be presented at the PGI golf tournament dinner on May 28.

It's Time to Renew Your OCCL Membership!

Please find enclosed a Membership Renewal Form. If the form is not included with your copy of this newsletter, it means that you've already renewed for 2009.

We thank you for your continued support!

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DATES TO REMEMBER

OCCL's mission is to support, promote and strengthen adult literacy services in Ottawa through communication, research and public education.

Please direct any comments or questions to:
Executive Director: MaryWiggin
Community Coordinator:Maureen McGovern

Address: 107-211 Bronson Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K1R 6H5

Phone: 613-233-3232

Fax: 613-233-0299

Website: www.occl.ca

E-mail: abcline@occl.ca

Board of Directors

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Literacy

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Kim Oastler Carol McMurchy
Lina Léveillé Maria Makrakis

NOTE: Articles and items published inThe Update do not necessarily reflect the views of the Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy but are intended to share information and ideas related to adult literacy

- March 25, 2009 - Essential Skills Workshop Heartwood House 153 Chapel Street
April 8, 2009 - LPCC meeting Heartwood House
April 24, 2009 - Deadline to nominate a learner for the Learner Achievement Award
May 13, 2009 - Board & LPCC meeting Heartwood House
May 28, 2009 - PGI Ottawa Golf Tournament for Literacy Loch March Golf & Country Club
June 10, 2009 - LPCC meeting Annual General Meeting Heartwood House

Nominate a learner you know for the 2009 Learner Achievement Award! See the related enclosure for criteria and a nomination form. The deadline for nominations is: April 24, 2009



NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL NEWS

NEWS from NALD...

How do we know how adequate our literacy skills are?

By TOM STICHT - International Consultant in Adult Education

In a recent report Scott Murray et. al (2009) stated that based on their performance on the International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS) and the Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey (ALL), both standardized tests of literacy, as many as 48 percent of Canadian adults lack the literacy skills “thought to be needed to take full advantage of opportunities present in the global economy”

After a discussion of a number of the positive relationships of literacy to economic and social advantages, the authors go on to say, “In view of these facts, one would expect that low skilled adults would be clamouring to raise their literacy levels.[but] The reality is not as expected. The overwhelming majority of Canadian adults with low literacy skills believe that their skills are adequate and see no need to invest in raising their literacy skill level.”

Looking for a way to explain the gap between the statistic that 48 percent of adults need literacy training according to their scores on standardized literacy tests, while the great majority (over 90 percent) think their literacy skills are adequate, the authors state, “many adults have no way to judge the adequacy of their skill, a fact that causes them to under-invest [in literacy education]”.

This raises the question: how do any of us know how adequate our literacy skills are?

Visit <http://www.nald.ca/info/whatnew/headline/2009/sticht3.htm> to read the full article and link to the report on *Addressing Canada’s Literacy Challenge: A Cost/Benefit Analysis*.

Adult learning celebrated in six videos

The Canadian Council on Learning’s Adult Learning Knowledge Centre (ADLKC) is pleased to announce the launch of six short videos illustrating the power of adult learning. Each video provides a story on how adult learning has positively affected communities, individual learners and professional/ community-based organizations. The six videos are:

- Adult Education in the Fishing Industry
- PLAR Working to Reduce Poverty
- Challenging Literacy Prejudices Through Theatre
- Adult Literacy Through Family Workshops
- Young Adults in the North Share their Stories
- The Benefits of PLAR in Canadian Universities

To view these videos online, visit:

www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/AboutCCL/KnowledgeCentres/AdultLearning/OurWork/Video/Video.htm



NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL...cont'd

Good News! - Reading on the Rise

The National Endowment for the Arts is a United States public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts. They have recently completed a report called "Reading on the Rise" that documents a significant turning point in recent American cultural history. For the first time in over a quartercentury, the survey shows that literary reading has risen among adult Americans. After decades of declining trends, there has been a decisive and unambiguous increase among virtually every group measured in a comprehensive national survey. To access the full report visit:

<http://www.arts.gov/research/ReadingonRise.pdf>

Innovative Reading Programs

In England

The Reader Organisation is a charity based at the University of Liverpool, dedicated to bringing about a reading revolution. They believe that reading is a powerful force for social good and personal change. They bring books to life and promote great books reaching all kinds of people in all kinds of ways. They have partnered with Wirral Libraries to promote Get Into Reading (GIR), a creative reading initiative where books and poems are read aloud in libraries with lots of tea, laughter and conversation. To read more about the project, visit:

<http://www.cilip.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/21453029-90A9-42C6-8E25-282DE507D1B5/0/plj233davis.pdf>

In Nova Scotia

In Tagamagouche, Nova Scotia when the a book club got too big to hold its meetings in members' homes, they decided to build a bar. The pub called *Fables* is now home to the Loquacious Compendium Book Club. *Fables* is open Thursday to Sunday and operates like a Legion hall. It's for members only and there's a limit on the number of guests they can bring. Some meetings, particularly those for controversial books have drawn more than 120 members, but the average is around 25. To attend you must have read the book and be ready to express how you feel about it.

From an article reported by Peter Scowen in The Globe and Mail, Saturday, February 28, 2009

In Ottawa

The Canadian Council for the Blind Ottawa Book Club was formed in 2005 and has 15 members. The members meet at the CNIB and use DAISY readers, specialized audio-book players that play CDs. These specialized CDs made by the CNIB have enhanced navigation features not available on commercial audio books. Volunteers voice the books in a studio at the CNIB headquarters in Toronto and they are distributed in Ottawa by the library system.

Mike Potvin, 32, lost his sight to a genetic disorder seven years ago. Before going blind he had a "real transition" period" which included wondering whether he would be able to continue with books. That's all changed; he now does his reading in ways he never imagined. "I crank a book and do the dishes before my girlfriend gets home from work" he says. "Being able to read sort of opens the world back up to you"

From an article reported by Peter Scowen in The Globe and Mail, Saturday, March 14, 2009



NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL...cont'd

The Virtual Financial Adviser

A recently released poll showed that most Canadians feel ill-equipped to make many of the economic and financial decisions that they face in today's volatile economic climate. The poll, commissioned by the Canadian Foundation for Economic Education (CFEE) and undertaken by The Strategic Counsel (www.thestrategiccounsel.com), a market research firm, revealed some troubling knowledge gaps among Canadians in basic areas of economic knowledge such as credit card interest rates and filling out tax returns. And more than half of the respondents (55%) do not have confidence in their ability to decide among political parties' economic policies.

In fact, the poll revealed that Canadians now view economic and financial literacy and capability as so important that nine out of 10 favour making financial and economic education compulsory in the public school system.

"We know that Canadians are very anxious about the economy and the impact that the current crisis could potentially have on their lives. They are working to make the best decisions that they can for themselves and their families," said Gary Rabbior President of CFEE. "But, to do that, they need help - unbiased, clearly written, and up-to-date help - and that is why we have developed the Virtual Adviser."

The Virtual Adviser is an on-line tool developed by CFEE with funds provided by the the Skills and Employment Branch of Human Resources and Social Development Canada. It can be accessed at www.virtualadviser.ca or through CFEE's main web site - www.cfee.org.

AudioVision Canada

The Accessible Channel (TAC) television service became widely available in January of this year via cable, satellite and terrestrial television. TAC is a national English language satellite-to-cable described video and captioned programming undertaking that will offer blind, low-vision, deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers access to high-quality news, information, drama, entertainment and other programming 24 hours a day. This is a specialty TV service that the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) requires all Class 1 and 2 distribution undertakings, including multipoint and direct-to-home distribution undertakings, to distribute as part of their basic digital package of programming services.

It is a bold step for Canadian broadcasting that will see the availability of described and closed-captioned programming jump significantly. For library collections, it means greater access to more variety, high-calibre content from major studios and production sources. For more information, visit:

www.audiovisioncanada.com



NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL

Retired Teacher Focuses on Teaching Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities to Read

Linda Soehner, a retired teacher and elementary school principal from Owen Sound, is refining, delivering and promoting a volunteer-based program that helps children and adults with learning disabilities to read with funding from a Trillium grant.

Linda has developed a rigorous and structured program, influenced by her experience teaching Special Education and reading - as well as her own son's dyslexia - and designed to stimulate and ultimately rewire the brain pathways responsible for reading.

Linda requires that volunteer tutors commit to working one-on-one with learners on a daily basis. To read more, visit:

www.oct.ca/publications/professionally_speaking/december_2008/literacy_program.asp

Learner Persistence Project

The New England Literacy Resource Center (NELRC) has just published the findings of action research done by 18 New England adult education programs that investigated persistence strategies in their varied contexts over the course of a semester. The report on the New England Learner Persistence Project can be found at <http://nelrc.org/persist/report09.pdf>.

In addition to describing the specific strategies and outcomes that resulted in each program, the researchers concluded that persistence can be improved by addressing key adult needs, such as the need to feel competent or the need for a sense of community.

Enclosures with this issue:

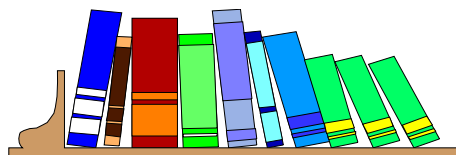
- Learner Achievement Award Nomination Form
- Membership Renewal Form



Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy

Ottawa Public Library (OPL) News

www.bibliottawalibrary.ca



The Ottawa Public Library started a **Multicultural Reading Circle** with a literacy focus for children 3-7 years old in late February. The program is organized by Headstart and is open to everyone. It includes multicultural stories, games and activities and runs on Saturday mornings from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

A **Children's Farsi Conversation Group** is also running on Saturdays from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. and is open to children 5 - 11 years old. Children are invited to come practise and improve their Farsi with other children.

Both programs are offered at the Main branch of the library (2nd floor, Children's Department) at 120 Metcalfe Street. For more information and to register, call Karen at 613-818-7082.

ASIAN Heritage Family Celebration

- Great performers and entertainment for the family
- Mix of Asian countries displaying their rich culture and talents
- Fun activities for the family

Date: **Sunday May 3, 2009**
 Time: **2:00 - 3:30 p.m.**
 Place: **Main Library, 120 Metcalfe St.**
In the auditorium

If you would like to volunteer or perform please call
Karen 613-818-7082
 And/or **Flora 613-762-1728**

Every Child Ready to Read

The Every Child Ready to Read (ECRR) early literacy initiative is an innovative, research-based approach to developing six distinct pre-reading skills that children must know in order to learn to read. Studies show that children who have been read to in the first five years of life have a huge advantage in the area of language development.

The terminology that defines the initiative and the six pre-reading skills is standardized and relatively technical:

Vocabulary: Knowing the names of things.

Narrative Skills: Being able to describe things and events, being able to tell stories.

Letter Knowledge: Learning that each letter is distinct and that each letter has its own name and unique sound.

Print Motivation: Being interested in, and enjoying, books.

Print Awareness: Noticing print, knowing how to handle a book and knowing how to follow the words on a page.

Phonological Awareness: Being able to hear and play with the smaller sounds in words.

To find materials visit:
http://24369.vws.magma.ca/kids/every_child_e.html



The Golden Oak Award 2009

The purpose of the Golden Oak (GO) Book Club is to promote reading for pleasure, and to let adult new readers know about great Canadian books. Learners can read books on their own, with their tutor with their class or as part of a book discussion group. The 2009 Golden Oak Award titles are:

I.D. by Vicki Grant

Chris thinks his life is worth nothing: his stepfather constantly tells him how useless he is, his teachers think he is a failure, and even his mother yells at him for being inconsiderate. He doesn't really have any friends, and when he meets a girl he really likes, she refuses to go out with him. So when Chris finds a wallet with \$75.00 cash, credit cards and other identification papers, he thinks he has found a way to escape.

Hiding Edith by Kathy Kacer

The true story of Edith Schwalb, a young Jewish girl sent to live in a safe house after the Nazi invasion of France. Edith's story is remarkable not only for her own bravery, but for the bravery of those that helped her: an entire village, including its mayor and citizenry, heroically conspired to conceal the presence of hundreds of Jewish children who lived in the safe house.

Naomi's Tree by Joy Kogawa

A young couple leaves Japan for the coast of Canada, bringing a cherry seed to plant in their new garden. During the years that follow, the little cherry tree watches over the family as the couple have children, and then grandchildren. Young Naomi makes the cherry tree her special friend, and the tree's branches shelter her as she plays. But one day, war breaks out between the two countries, and the family is sent to an internment camp away from the coast. And though Naomi often dreams of going home, the dream fades as the years go by. The little tree is left behind to mourn its loss.

Based on the World War II story of Naomi and Stephen in *Naomi's Road*, *Naomi's Tree* is a poetic story about enduring love and its almost mystical power to heal the spirit.

Libertad by Alma Fullerton

With their father gone to America to make money for his family, Libertad, his little brother Julio and their mother scrape a living out of a dump in Guatemala City. Although it is too late for him, Libertad is determined that his little brother should go to school. Taught to play the marimba by his father, Libertad uses his talent as a street musician to raise enough money for his brother's school supplies. But his dreams for their future are destroyed when their mother is killed in a freak accident. Libertad must face the inevitable truth; they cannot survive on the streets of Guatemala City alone. There is only one thing to do. They must set out on the long and lonely journey to the Rio Grande River, where they plan to cross the water and enter the United States to find their father. A moving story about determination and hope, *Libertad* is a stunning free verse novel by the author of *In the Garage* and *Walking on Glass*.

The Birdman by Veronika Martinova Charles

Noor Nobi is a broken man, wandering the streets of Calcutta with no reason to live. His three children, snatched from him in a cruel accident, were everything he worked for and loved. But one day, he enters a crowded market and sees a bird, caged and frightened and sick. With very little money in his pocket, he waits until the vendor is closing up. Quickly Noor Nobi bargains and, happy to get anything for the sickly thing, the vendor accepts his offer. For some reason Noor



The Golden Oak Award 2009

Nobi cannot explain, it is important for him to nurse the bird back to health. When it is finally able to fly, Noor Nobi takes his bird to a big Banyan tree and releases it. Only then is he able to weep and fully grieve for his children.

Before Noor Nobi knows it, he is back at work and taking his weekly earnings to the market where he continues to buy, heal, and free as many birds as he can. Crowds gather; some laugh and say he is crazy, some stand reverently, some don't know what to think. But Noor Nobi's kindness saves a growing number of birds, and the birds, in turn, give him new purpose.

My Wedding Dress edited by Susan Whelehan and Anne Laurel Carter

My Wedding Dress explores the wedding outfit as a touchstone garment in women's lives. This collection offers 26 true stories from well-known writers and fresh new literary voices. These are intimate stories about relationships; not just those between men and women, but between women and their mothers, friends and children. And, of course, with their wedding attire – a relationship that is sometimes simple, sometimes complex, but always fascinating in what it tells us about individual lives and aspirations.

Suggestions for Literacy Programs

- √ Encourage learner/tutor pairs to spend the last 15 minutes of their session reading a Golden Oak title
- √ Recruit a volunteer to run a book discussion group
- √ Invite a librarian from your local library to come to your program/class and do a book presentation
- √ Take your class to the library. Let the librarian know you are coming and ask them to do a book presentation about the books.

On future visits to the library, try some of the activities in *Getting to Know the Library*
www.biblioottawalibrary.ca/explore/getting_e.html

LIVING LIBRARY

For two days this month, the University of Guelph hosted a "living library" — a collection in which human beings are the books. Thirty-two individuals, many representing marginalized groups, were checked out for 30-minute discussions by curious "readers." Organizers say it was the first event of its kind held on a university campus in Canada, the third in Canadian history.

The concept began in Denmark in 2000. "The whole idea is to sit down with real people and use them to move past a stereotype you might have," co-creator Ronni Abergel said. He wanted to mobilize Danish young people against violence after a friend was stabbed at a nightclub. "The living library works on the principle that extreme violence and aggression happens between people who don't know each other." To read the entire article, visit:

www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20090312.wlibrary12/BNStory/lifeMain/home



Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy

OLC

The Ontario Literacy Coalition (OLC) is excited to announce that their new privacy protected, internet secure Online Membership System is active.

To become a 2009 OLC member , simply visit <http://members.on.literacy.ca>. Then click on, JOIN TODAY.

From there, follow the instructions to choose your membership level, fill in your profile, choose your password and user name, and finalize your membership in the Internet Secure payment section. It is easy to:

- immediately print a copy of your invoice as proof of membership
- choose the publications you want from OLC
- access the private membership directory , and
- change your membership profile.

All members are extended voting rights, the right to participate in OLC Advisory Committees, and networking opportunities. Membership benefits include bi-weekly OLC e-bulletins and direct email updates, a reduced rate on OLC publications and at OLC conferences, and more. Your membership is valid one year from the day you sign up.

Trillium Grants

The Ontario Trillium Foundation's (OTF) next grant application deadline dates are July 1 and November 1. Applications must be received at OTF's Toronto office by 5:00 p.m. on the deadline date. If the deadline falls on a holiday or weekend, the request must be received by 5:00 the next business day. Applications received after the deadline date will be returned to the applicant.

It's a good idea to speak with the Program Manager or Grants associate to obtain as much information as possible before putting in an application. The staff at OTF can advise you about your organization's eligibility, answer questions and help link you with other organizations engaged in similar work.

Explore the website, www.trilliumfoundation.org/cms/en/applying.aspx to obtain more information about grants and applications.



Local Program News

Don't forget to check out OCCL's newly designed website:

www.occl.ca

OCCL Website (www.occl.ca) Activity Report

Listed below are the top downloads from our site for the months of December and January.

December 2008

1. Literacy Outreach Package
2. OCCL Newsletters
3. Hire Learning Modules

January 2009

1. Community Works Handbook
2. Community Works Guide
3. Putting Literacy on the Map

The **Ottawa Catholic School Board** is offering the *Parents as Partners in Education Program*, a series of workshops designed to help parents support their children in school. The program began in January and runs every Friday from 10:00 a.m. to noon with a different topic being covered each week. The sessions are open to everyone. If you or anyone you know is interested in attending some of the sessions, contact Judith at the Ottawa Catholic School Board at **613-228-8888, ext. 263**. Below is a list of the upcoming dates and topics:

March 27 - Positive Discipline
April 6 - The School System
April 17 - Juggling Time
May 1 - Math Fun
May 8 - Getting Along At School

May 15 - Growing Pains
May 22 - Healthy Relationships
May 29 - Healthy Children
June 5 - Summer Fun

Annual General Meeting - OCCL

You are invited to attend OCCL's AGM on **Wednesday, June 10, 2009** from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. at Heartwood House (*in the Gallery*), 153 Chapel Street.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Maureen by phone: 613-233-3232 or by email: maureenmcgovern@occl.ca

We look forward to seeing you there!



Presentations, Workshops & Training

REACH Canada is presenting a seminar on The Ontario Disability Support Program. What is the purpose of the ODSP and how can you benefit from it? The guest speaker **Gary Stein, LL.B** (South Ottawa Community Legal Services) and **Cherry Visser**, Manager (Ontario Disability Support Program) will explain how to apply for and navigate your way through the ODSP process. You will learn what to do if your claim is refused and how to appeal.

Thursday, May 28 2009, 12:00 to 2:00 PM

Cost - \$25 persons with disabilities, \$10 seniors/students, \$50 social/health services agencies/family members, \$75 government, corporate, lawyers

REACH Canada seminars are offered at their office:
400 Coventry Road, 3rd floor
Ottawa

www.reach.ca

For information or to register call 613-236-6636

Movement for Canadian Literacy (MCL) has created a PowerPoint presentation called *Got 'em, need 'em, want 'em: The Essential Skills Paradox*. It was presented to the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters Association in February and is available online at the MCL website. Visit www.literacy.ca and click on the right to access the PowerPoint.

Summer Institute 2009 - Centre for Literacy of Quebec - June 25-27 Workplace Literacy and Essential Skills - What Works and Why?

Workplace literacy and essential skills are a focus of governments in industrialized countries around the world. Some of the key questions being asked are:

- What are the roles of governments? business? unions? providers? learners?
- How do workplace literacy and essential skills programs need to be framed to meet the needs of business, government and learners?
- Are we too confined by traditional ways of evaluating workplace literacy outcomes?
- How can non-traditional ways of communicating outcomes be used effectively in some contexts - e.g. storytelling, anecdotal evidence?

For more details and registration information visit:

www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca/whatsnew/sli2009/index.htm



RESOURCES

New Resource Online - UPP

Upgrading for Parents with Pre-Schoolers (UPP) is a series of lesson plans, complete with worksheets and teaching resources. It is written for literacy practitioners who wish to integrate Family Literacy content into their LBS programs. The focus of each lesson is Essential Skills upgrading, set in the context of family life and child development, and geared to groups of mixed skill levels – basic to intermediate (LBS 1 to 4). Topics include Healthy Eating, Budgeting, Safety in the Home, Sickness and Health and more. Children's activities are included for programs that offer child care. Get this free download from Kingston Literacy's Centre for Expertise in Family Literacy

www.familyliteracyexpertise.org

Infant-Toddler Language and Early Literacy Activities: Free and Reproducible

These materials include 20 home and community activities for adults and children birth to three that encourage early language and literacy development. They are appropriate for children with disabilities as well as children who are developing typically

Each of the 20 activities includes an activity description, and hints for making the activity fun and developmentally appropriate. The materials are specifically designed to address the three key skills of language development, sounds and rhythms and general book and print awareness.

The files are in PDF to allow easy and secure downloading. They are made available by Angela Notari-Syverson and colleagues, and may be copied and distributed as long as they are not sold. To download materials go to www.wlearning.com and click on the purple button that says "Free Parent Education Handouts" on the home page. For questions please contact:

Mary Maddox - Washington Learning Systems
726-2212 Queen Anne Ave.
Seattle, WA 98109
PHONE (206) 310-7401 FAX (206) 283-9243
mmaddox@wlearning.com



Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy

RESOURCES

Attention Practitioners - New Online Literacy Assessments available

The Canadian Council on Learning is pleased to provide free, online, easy-to-use and confidential literacy assessments to the practitioner community

Visit www.ccl-cca.ca/literacyassessment2009 to access:

- prepared literacy assessments—from which you can choose according to your needs; and
- an item data bank—for developing your own assessments.

Upon completion of an assessment, immediate results will feature a list of the test taker's strengths and weaknesses, literacy levels, and literacy resources to assist them.

Last month, Michel Gauthier facilitated a wonderful training session on **Clear & Effective Presentations** for OCCL. Michel shared a list of reference books for designing good PowerPoint presentations. Here are a few of his favourites:

Slide:ology: The Art and Science of Creating Great Presentations, Nancy Duarte
(www.amazon.ca/Slide-ology-Science-Creating-Presentations/dp/0596522347)

Made to Stick: Why Some Ideas Survive and Others Die, Chip Heath and Dan Heath
(www.amazon.ca/Made-Stick-Ideas-Survive-Others/dp/1400064287)

Back of the Napkin, Dan Roam (2008)
(<http://escherman.wordpress.com/2008/07/16/dan-roams-back-of-a-napkin-approach-to-visual-thinking-and-how-i-bought-the-book/>)

The Slide Revolution, Dave Paradi (2008)
(www.amazon.com/Visual-Slide-Revolution-Dave-Paradi/dp/0969875185)

Beyond Bullet Points: Using Microsoft Office Powerpoint 2007 to Create Presentations That Inform, Cliff Atkinson
(www.amazon.com/Beyond-Bullet-Points-PowerPoint%20AE-Presentations/dp/0735623872)



RESOURCES

Attention all LBS (Literacy & Basic Skills) / AU (Academic Upgrading) Programs!

Look for online training in Organizational Capacity available from CLO (Community Literacy Ontario)

CLO offers a number of online, self-study training modules on their "Literacy Basics" website. Modules include *The ABCs of CIPMS*, *Employment Ontario*, *Strategic Planning* and *Evaluation*. All of these modules include tips, tools and techniques that can help agencies enhance their programs, demonstrate their strengths and incorporate a culture of continuous improvement.

To access these informative training modules, please visit:

www.nald.ca/literacybasics

New Website - Canadian Abilities Foundation

The Canadian Abilities Foundation (CAF) announced the launch of their new website in January - www.abilities.ca. Check out the new and enhanced features. They will be adding content regularly and hope to engage all communities across Canada and North America in dialogue and sharing of information that matters and is relevant to people with disabilities. The CAF welcomes your feedback on the new site.

Would you like to participate in a podcast?

Some of the AlphaPlus staff are enthusiastic fans of all kinds of podcasts – political ones, funny ones, story-telling ones, etc. What about you? Have you caught the podcast bug? Would you like to participate in a podcast?

AlphaPlus is hoping to use the podcast format to gather stories from practitioners who are using different kinds of technology in their programs. They've already been in touch with a few people who are exploring Web 2.0 tools like blogs, or who are figuring out ways to use tech tools that are available to them.

There's another side to this story too and that's about the challenges that come with using technology. Through podcasting, they hope to gather solutions to some of these problems and/or share your wisdom about what just doesn't work. If you'd like to join the podcast adventure, or you would like more information, get in touch with Maria Moriarty at

mmoriarty@alphaplus.ca or 416-322-1012 / 1-800-788-1120, ext.106.



RESOURCES

From Grass Roots Press

Biographies for Reluctant Readers

Grass Roots Press presents 30 high-interest, low-vocabulary biographies and seven accompanying workbooks for adolescents and adults. These biographies portray the lives of famous Canadian, American and international figures. The workbooks contain dozens of activities that promote reading comprehension, word attack and writing skills.

For more information visit www.grassrootsbooks.net, click on *Easy Readers* and then on *Grass Roots Biographies*.



AZTEC Software is pleased to announce the alignment of Aztec's extensive curriculum to specific program needs including:

LBS/LES Levels, GED Preparation, Locally Developed Programs

These learning series, which feature a complete academic and workforce upgrading system for adults, are currently used in community-based literacy and employment programs, school board adult learning programs, community colleges, and correctional facilities in all parts of Ontario and other provinces.

Aztec Software has been educating, empowering, and elevating adult and young adult learners for more than 28 years. We are committed to **Anywhere Anytime Education** which means that the Aztec student has access to our programs whether from a standalone computer, a LAN, or the Internet.

For more information visit the website: www.aztecsoftware.com or contact Fraser Gagne, the Canadian representative at: fraserg@aztecsoftware.com



Report on Family Literacy Day 2009 in Ottawa

We invite you to visit our website (www.occl.ca) at the end of this month for a full description and photos of special events and contests that took place in the week of January 25-31 in honour of Family Literacy Day. Child Care programs in Ottawa were "abuzz" with activities.



FLEXIBLE & DISTANCE LEARNING

For Literacy Practitioners

If you're a practitioner looking for information on flexible and distance learning, you may want to visit the *AlphaPlus Web Index*. It contains Ontario, American and Australian links to information and programs for literacy practitioners as well as information on mentor-assisted adult literacy learning.

<http://webindex.alphaplus.ca/flexible.asp>

For Learners

Last year around this time, OCCL did an audit on flexible and distance learning with the LBS/AU programs in our area. In the future, we'll be highlighting some of the websites that practitioners are using with their learners on our website. The following sites were recommended as good supplements to help learners with reading, writing, spelling, numeracy, computer skills, workforce development and self management:

www.skillwise.bbc.uk.ca
www.vocabulary.il.co
www.eslpages.com
www.rice.com
www.funbrain.com
www.thelearningedge.com
www.abc-canada.org
www.tv411.org
www.mapzone.co.uk

We encourage you to visit these sites and send us (maureenmcgovern@occl.ca) feedback on activities that you use as a tutor or a classroom instructor . We'll feature your tips in subsequent issues of **The Update**. This is an opportunity to share details about activities that work well for learners.



Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy

HOTLINE STATISTICS

Contacts	December	January	February
Calls from learners	4	6	11
On behalf of learners		1	5
Learner follow-up	5	7	2
From Volunteers	5	5	3
Literacy Outreach/Community	45	55	58
OCCL Admin	88	125	63
Workforce Development	30	35	45
Special Projects/Resources	69	130	77
Provincial and National Activities	37	61	42
Network Calls/LPCC/Board/Emp ON	148	125	101
Training - Learner & Practitioner	26	49	52
Family Literacy/FLD Events	19	166	71
PGI	12	53	41
Events	0	4	2
Total	488	822	573

Referrals*

Ottawa-Carleton District School Board			1
Ottawa Catholic School Board	1	1	
PWC		2	1
ALSO		1	4
Algonquin College (CCP)	1	1	4
ILC Web site			
ELTOC			
ACElinks		1	1
John Howard Society		1	1
Western Quebec Literacy Council			1
Moi, j'apprends	1		1
Adult High			
St. Nicholas Adult			
ACElinks			
La Cité collegiale			1
Language Assessment Centre			
Ottawa Public Library	1		
No referral	2		1
Total	6	7	16

* At times we make more than one referral per call. The total number of referrals therefore may be higher than the total number of calls received.

OW related calls: 2 6