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You better work! Be the super model of technology in your schools
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You better work! Be the super model of technology in your schools

Desiree H. Alexander

Technology has so many myths associated with it. One of the biggest is that we do not need to use or teach technology in schools because students know it better than we do. While it is true for certain uses of technology, many students are not equipped to use it in a work or school setting for educational or career purposes. Ask your students to open a Word document, create a table of information and then take that information out of the table format and make a three-column list with it. The confused looks on their faces will tell you that we are failing them with this type of thinking.

Because many librarians have such a unique position as being a person who deals with everyone in their school and in their community, we have a unique perspective.

Librarians should have what I have coined the “7 Knows of the Profession” (Figure 1).

When you have the 7 Knows, you will be able to decipher those Web 2.0 tools that will be the most helpful in providing service to your specific community. Table I tabulates some questions to ask yourself, and some resources that can help.

Figure 1. 7 Knows of the library profession



Using technology in our classrooms should be an expectation and not seen as a special event. If a student uses paper and a pencil in school, no one would count that as a special event. The same should be said about technology in the classroom. However, instructors and administrators must be comfortable with the technology being used and be assured that it will be safe for all involved. They must also see a purpose for using it. This involves professional development and modeling.

Librarians need to go above and beyond to teach teachers and students how to use technology for instructional development and engagement. The first step to this is making sure that you become a continuous learner and begin honing your technological skills. You can become a model for others in a couple of ways. One, using technology that has a high level of

engagement in your library and during classroom visits is crucial! And two, using this same technology when you are training your teachers is instrumental. By allowing students and teachers to actually see you using the technology in action, you will help them envision using it much better than if you just taught them about the tool in isolation.

To help you in this task of becoming a role model, Figure 2 and Table II list some resources that can be used that have a high level of engagement for your user community.

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Table I. Helpful Web 2.0 tools to service your patrons

Question	Resources
Is your school ready for online classrooms?	Edmodo www.edmodo.com Google Classroom classroom.google.com Class Dojo www.classdojo.com
Is your school ready for online communication?	Remind www.remind.com
Is your school ready to create their own videos?	GoAnimate goanimate.com Animoto www.animoto.com
Is your school ready to promote online study habits?	Cram www.cram.com Study Stack www.studystack.com
Is your school ready to report information digitally?	Thinglink www.thinglink.com StoryJumper www.storyjumper.com

Figure 2. High level of engagement tech tools

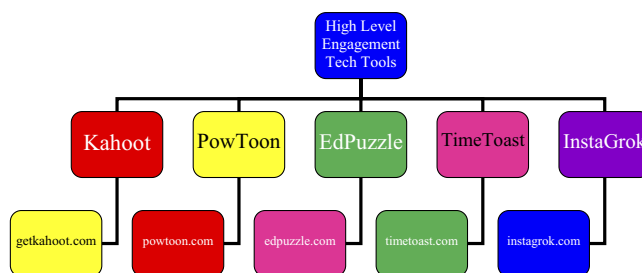


Table II.
Resource list

Edmodo www.edmodo.com	Edmodo takes the ideas of a social network and refines them and makes it appropriate for a classroom. Using Edmodo, students and teachers can reach out to one another and connect by sharing ideas, problems, and helpful tips. It is an online classroom. It also incorporates Office 365 and Google Apps for Education FREE
Google Classroom classroom.google.com	Classroom is a free Web-based platform that integrates your Google Apps for Education account with all your Google Apps services, including Google Docs, Gmail and Google Calendar. Classroom saves time and paper, and makes it easy to create classes, distribute assignments, communicate and stay organized FREE
Class Dojo www.classdojo.com	ClassDojo connects teachers with students and parents to build amazing classroom communities. Help students grow by sharing regular, positive feedback in class and on their own portfolios FREE
Remind www.remind.com	Send quick, simple messages to any device—for free FREE
GoAnimate goanimate.com	Make Professional Animated Videos Easy learning curve. Low budget. Simple do-it-yourself tools FREE for 14-day trial
Animoto www.animoto.com	Create your own videos FREE
Cram www.cram.com	Online flashcards are a great way to study! Cram is your number one online educational resource. We have a wide selection of flashcards for you to study, memorize, test yourself on and more FREE
Study Stack www.studystack.com	Search free flashcards shared by students and teachers or create your own FREE
Thinglink www.thinglink.com	Annotate images and videos with digital content FREE
StoryJumper www.storyjumper.com	Become a published author today by creating your own books. FREE to create . . . PAID to print book
Kahoot getkahoot.com	Create, play and share fun learning games for any subject, for all ages, for free! FREE
PowToon www.powtoon.com	Create animated videos and presentations FREE
EdPuzzle edpuzzle.com	The easiest way to engage your students with videos Pick a video, add your magical touch (assessment questions) and track your students' understanding. FREE
Timetoast www.timetoast.com	Make a timeline. Tell a story. Timetoast timelines are a beautiful way to share the past, or even the future. Creating takes minutes and it's as simple as can be! FREE
InstaGrok www.instagrok.com	Research any topic with an interactive concept map that you can customize and share FREE
