

### Topic: Teaching Science in the Library

Remember that old line, “Don’t know much about biology?” That position will get us nowhere today. With schools nationally testing science to have students demonstrate Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) we, as teacher-librarians, need to be collaborating with classroom and subject area science teachers to deliver the necessary materials, skills, technology, and instruction that will put our students ahead in science. Information literacy skills and the scientific process go hand in hand.

**Technology** and science are closely tied. Who in your school knows more about available technology resources than you do as the media specialist? Who knows the science curriculum at each grade level and course subject better than the teacher-librarian? Let’s roll up our sleeves and uncover the Web 2.0 things that can make a difference in our students’ scores. Let’s connect students with Internet earthquake monitoring sites like U.S. Geological Service’s Earthquake Hazards Program at <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/>; temperature monitoring sites like the National Weather Service’s Climate Prediction Center at [www.cpc.noaa.gov/](http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/); and podcasts on the solar system from NASA at [www.nasa.gov/](http://www.nasa.gov/).

**Data Analysis** is another critical skill you can offer your colleagues to improve science scores in your school. Join the team who analyzes the science testing data. How are your students excelling in science? What skills are they missing? Study that data so that your school can laser target the areas in which your students most need help.

**Collaboration** with the classroom and science department teachers demonstrates our commitment to student success.

Whether we are at the “provide necessary materials” stage in collaboration with our science teacher or whether we are at the co-designing co-teaching stage, our



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responsibility is clear. Collaboration is a sure route to student achievement. When we work together to target known deficits, we will quickly see the positive impact the library program has on science learning.

#### Ideas and Materials

Need some ideas to get you started? I recommend using the following Linworth professional books to spark ideas for your plan to incorporate science instruction in your library lessons and collaborate with teachers:

**Technology** – *Handheld Computers in Schools and Media Centers* by Bell and also *Teach Science with Science Fiction Films: A Guide for Teachers and Library media Specialists* by Cavanaugh and Cavanaugh

**Data Analysis** – *Managing Curriculum and Assessment* – by Nichols, Shidaker, Johnson and Singer

**Collaboration** – *Collaborating to Meet Standards: Teacher/Librarian Partnerships for Grades K-6 or for 7-12* by Buzzeo and *Teaching Science through Literature* by Keane and Wait

You will also need some rip-roaringly good non-fiction science books to capture student interest. Try some of these high-interest series to really engage students from Capstone Press:

The Graphic Library series *Graphic Science* or *Inventions and Discovery*

The Edge Books series on the *World’s Top Tens*

The Blazers book series on *Extinct Monsters* or *That’s Disgusting*

Capstone’s science curriculum books are also great resources:

The Fact Finders book series *Exploring the Biomes* or *Questions and Answers: Physical Science*

The First Facts book series on *The Solar System* or *Why in the World?*

The Pebble Plus book series on *Exploring the Galaxy* or *Looking at Animal Parts*

The Pebble Book series on the *Nature Basics* or *My Body* ■

From the  
**Capstone Press**

The Graphic Library - Science

**Book Title:** Understanding Global Warming with Max Axiom, Super Scientist



**Reading Level:** Grades 3-4  
**Interest Level:** Grades 3-9  
**Author:** Agnieszka Biskup  
**ISBN:** 9781429601399  
1-4296-0139-6  
**Copyright:** 2008

**Book Title:** Illuminating World of Light with Max Axiom, Super Scientist



**Reading Level:** Grades 3-4  
**Interest Level:** Grades 3-9  
**Author:** Emily Sohn  
**ISBN:** 9781429601405  
1-4296-0140-X  
**Copyright:** 2008

**Book Title:** The Attractive Story of Magnetism with Max Axiom, Super Scientist



**Reading Level:** Grades 3-4  
**Interest Level:** Grades 3-9  
**Author:** Andrea Gianopoulos  
**ISBN:** 9781429601412  
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