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## @yourlibrary: Grafton Public School

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Figure 2 CPS library blog <[cpslibraryblog.wordpress.com](http://cpslibraryblog.wordpress.com)>

## An exciting and rewarding challenge

My skills are gained by jumping in the deep end head first and using the

technology. It is a steep learning curve but seeing how students embrace learning via less traditional channels is so exciting and rewarding. ■

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# @ your library: Grafton Public School

**Tracy Tees**, was the teacher librarian at Grafton Public School, until recently. Tracy explains how she created the school library website which is attractive, user friendly and relevant to the school's needs.

The @ your library website at Grafton Public School (GPS) began in 2006, primarily as a convenient way of providing links for students to relevant websites to support subjects being studied in the classroom and related library support (Figure 1). It also serves as a way of publicising library events.

## Supporting COGs units

The trial introduction of Connected Outcomes Groups (COGs) at the school prompted teacher librarian, Tracy Tees, to create a COGs specific section (Figure 2). Links from the COGs unit outlines are on pages organised by Stage, unit and KLA. The website has become even more



Figure 1 @ your library website at Grafton Public School <[www.grafton-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/Libweb/index.html](http://www.grafton-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/Libweb/index.html)>

useful to teachers and students. It allows them easy and organised access to the websites.

The installation of interactive whiteboards in the library and several classrooms allows teachers and students to explore and use websites together in the context of units of work and to support information literacy.

## Technical issues

There is no point to a beautiful library website if the creator is the only one who visits! Here are some aspects to consider when beginning a library website.



Figure 2 COGS Stage 3 – Making informed choices is located in the COGS section of the website <[www.grafton-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/Libweb/cogs.html](http://www.grafton-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/Libweb/cogs.html)>

Become skilled or find someone with the skills necessary to create the website. The teacher librarian at GPS subscribed to a website that creates web templates (*Bravenet: free websites and web tools*). They are able to be edited through *Frontpage* or another HTML editor. Importing your own images, and choosing relevant menu titles, allows the template to be customised to suit the school.

Make use of the many tools available to website creators. There are free web counters, allowing you to analyse

where your visitors are coming from, and which pages are the most popular. Minimally priced redirection tools (such as *Create a shortURL*) allow you to create a short, easy to type URL for students and teachers to type. It also allows you to change where the site is hosted with no disruption to users.

### Ideas for publicising the library website

The library web pages need to be easily accessible and the website needs to be publicised. Here are some ideas:

- link your library web page on the *OASIS Web Enquiry* front page
- ensure accessible links on your school website (Figure 3)
- include the library pages in the school website structure
- explain how to access and use the site to your classes
- print the URL on signs in the library
- put signs in your staffroom(s)
- talk at meetings and provide memos on how to use the library website
- print the address in your school newsletter.

At GPS, the @ your library logo was deliberately chosen as an international library symbol, as created by the



Figure 3 The library has a presence on the school website and a link to @ your library

American Library Association (ALA). There are specific guidelines on its usage and many public libraries in Australia also use the logo. It ties in with other material such as bookmarks and posters that can be used when promoting your library.

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# Library 24/7 @ Kotara High School

*Liza Moss, teacher librarian at Kotara High School, created a virtual library to host screencasts and provide library access to students beyond the confines of the school building and teaching hours.*

A few years ago Kotara High School's website changed to a more easily edited format, and the opportunity to create a library



Figure 1 The library page <[www.kotara-h.nsw.edu.au/index.php?page=169](http://www.kotara-h.nsw.edu.au/index.php?page=169)> is accessible from Kotara High School's home page

presence on the web became a reality. Having previously used Web-and-Flow and experimented with Filamentality, I

### Maintenance

Check your links regularly and keep information current. Have a succession plan for your library website, so that the site is not affected when staff leave or are transferred. Try to keep detailed written instructions ready for when you pass responsibility for your school library website to someone else. At GPS, the resignation of Tracy Tees means that content creation has been passed on to acting teacher librarian, Tracy Avery, and the technical aspects given to a teacher with website experience, Leah Fowles. A change of staff can also be a great opportunity to consider revamping the website, updating its style or emphasis to suit the changing needs of your library. ■

was keen to broaden the reach of the library and complement its physical presence. The new website had a library link almost from the beginning and the link was easily located on the home page (Figure 1).

The library web pages are a site within a site: a home page which outlines staff, hours and services available, and branches off into Information skills, New resources, Pathfinders, reference, subject specific pages and useful links