

THE iCONN TIMES



iCONN and CMT/CAPT

Collaborations for Student Success: How teachers and librarians can use iCONN resources to assist in teaching CMT/CAPT objectives and improve student literacy was the topic addressed by a panel of four (4) presenters at the CASL/CECA Conference on October 23, 2007.

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Jenifer Smolnik, Coordinator of IT/Media Services, Stratford School District presented *Strategies for Utilizing iCONN Databases with Elementary Students in Grades 3-5*. She focused on the use of Kids InfoBits, Blackbirch Kid's Visual Reference of the United States, Discovering Collection and Biography Resource Center for specific Reading Comprehension objectives and building research and literacy skills in young researchers.

iCONN Outreach

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Toby Zabinski, Library Media Specialist, Amity Middle School, Bethany presented *Using iCONN for Reading Comprehension and Response to Literature*. Her presentation focused on the use of General Reference Center Gold, General OneFile, and Additional Resources/Children (Kids Gov, Kids Health and NASA Kids) for Reading Comprehension, and Additional Resources/Children (StoryPlace, Book of Nonsense and Fairisa CyberLibrary) for Response to Literature. She also pointed out many "hidden treasures" in the Additional Resources section of iCONN.

System Upgrade to Version 3.0

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Julie Yulo-Medeiros, Teacher-Librarian, Cromwell High School presented *Using iCONN to Improve CAPT Scores*. This presentation illustrated how nine (9) different iCONN databases allow search requests to be qualified by Lexile levels, finding specific types of articles (editorials, viewpoint essays, columns, etc.) for pro/con essays, and the ability to find tables, graphs and charts in the Associated Press Photo Archive.

Did you know...?

P.2

Janet Roche, Library Media Specialist, Simsbury High School and CASL President presented *Using iCONN with Science Embedded Performance Tasks (CMT and CAPT)*. Her presentation addressed a series of science-related performance tasks in Grades 4 – 12 with specific reference to Kids InfoBits, InfoTrac Junior and Student Editions, Discovering Collection, *The Hartford Courant*, *The Wall St. Journal*, and the Health & Wellness Research Center.

How to Promote iCONN on Your Web Site

P.2

Lorri Huddy, Electronic Resources Coordinator for iCONN concluded with *The Next Steps ...* which reminded librarians about training opportunities, linking options to iCONN, the need to advocate for iCONN (to get additional funding for more resources), and volunteer opportunities with the Advisory Board, Database Committee, and participating in panel presentations.

The session was well-received with approximately 50 people in attendance. We thank all of the presenters for sharing their insights and experience on this important topic. Also, Carolyn Marcato, Library Media Specialist, Fairfield Warde High School for her assistance planning this session.

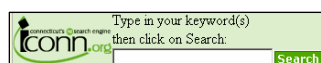
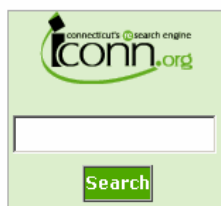
The presentations and handouts can be viewed or downloaded in their entirety at:

<http://www.iconn.org/PanelPresentations.aspx>



HOW TO PROMOTE iCONN ON YOUR WEB SITE

The downloadable iCONN search box is now available (in 4 versions) at <http://www.iconn.org/PromotionalMaterials.aspx>, and also appears as a link at the bottom of all search screens (as of this date, the page has been viewed 1,299 times). This will allow any library (or any organization) to place the iCONN search box on their website.



The iCONN Times is a quarterly publication of iCONN—Connecticut's Research Engine.

Find it on the Web at:
www.iconn.org/siteindex.aspx
under "Promotional Materials"

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iCONN Outreach

- ✦ Completed the mailing of iCONN promotional materials to over 1,400 public and private school libraries in late August.
- ✦ Resumed the WNPR radio ads on September 3 that will run every weekday through November 2 (16 priority drive spots per week). The ads (text and audio) are located at <http://www.iconn.org/WNPR.aspx>
- ✦ Exhibited iCONN at the Durham Fair (in the Commercial Building) again this year on September 28 – 30.
- ✦ Supplied 1,300+ iCONN promotional bags to hold the registration materials for the first combined CEMA/CECA conference – the iCONN logo was everywhere at the conference that day!
- ✦ Exhibited iCONN at the CEA Summer Leadership Conference on August 6 – 8.
- ✦ Gave a session to the Alternate Route group on contributing records to reQuest and the various cataloging options available through reQuest (to reQuest participants).
- ✦ Arranged for links to iCONN from WFSB (Channel 3) and WTNH (Channel 8), as well as reciprocal links to these station websites from iCONN (Additional Resources – News). Links from these stations to iCONN and a listing of other non-library sites with links to iCONN can be found at: <http://www.iconn.org/NonLibraryWebsitesLinks2iCONN.aspx>
- ✦ Presented an overview of iCONN as part of a State Library presentation to the Department of Public Health Laboratory staff on September 12.



System Upgrade to Version 3.0

Version 3.0 of the software that powers the federated search engine was successfully installed on August 21. This version saves all users one step in obtaining search results. Currently, the results are grouped by resource, but users have the option to resort (and deduplicate) the results by publication date.

Did you know.....?

...that iCONN supplies the following content enrichment from Syndetics to records in the reQuest catalog based on ISBN number:

- Cover images
- Summaries & Annotations
- Tables of Contents
- First Chapters & Excerpts
- Author Notes
- Fiction & Biography Profiles
- Library Journal Reviews
- School Library Journal Reviews
- Publishers Weekly Reviews
- CHOICE Reviews
- Booklist Reviews

