

Homewood-Flossmoor High School Library

January, 2011

LIBRARY NEWS



Winter Break Reading Program



This year, a record number of students participated in the HF Library's Winter Break Book Blast! During winter break, students were invited to read at least one book and write a brief book review. Each student who completed the program received a certificate good for extra credit in a Reading or English class and got to choose a free paperback book as a prize. Thanks to all the HF staff members who helped us promote this popular program!

Write Reviews, Recommend Books and More with NEW Interactive Tools in the HF Library Catalog

Starting second semester, students and staff members will be able to use the HF Library Catalog to do more than just look up books. Now you can take advantage of some new interactive features:



- **Contribute book reviews** – you can simply give a book a rating of 1-5 stars, or go one step further and write a brief review to share with HF students and staff members.
- **Recommend books** – you can send a message to another HF Library Catalog user to recommend a book to them.
- **Check your library record** – See what materials you have checked out and their due dates
- **Place a hold on a book** – If a book you want is currently checked out, place a hold on it and we will notify you when it comes back to the library and have it ready for you.
- **Create personal reading lists** -- keep a list of books you've read, or books you'd like to read in the future. Or, use it to organize books you are using for a project or an assignment.
- **Track your personal reading history** – see a list of every book you've checked out from the HF Library.

To use these new features, you first need to set up an account and log in with your own user name and password. To get started, go to the HF library catalog homepage, click on "create account," and follow the step-by-step procedure. For students, this is very easy. For staff members, because of the way staff names and ID numbers are entered in our system, it can be a little trickier. If you want to set up an account and have trouble, just see a library staff member for help. A handout with instructions is also available in the library.

Did you know??? You can use the HF library catalog to search for and access the electronic books in the HF library collection? You can use Web Path Express to target your Web searches and limit your results to student-friendly websites that are appropriate for academic research. You can also search for books that match specific Lexile reading levels.



New E-books Added to Collection



What did a loaf of bread cost during the Civil War? What were the key economic and historic events each year from 1860 to 2009? How much money did teachers make in 1918? *The Value of a Dollar, 1860-2009*, helps answer these questions and thousands more. It is just one of many **NEW E-books** added to the HF Library collection this year. You can access all our electronic books through the HF Library homepage by going to the "Online Databases and E-Books" link. Browse 203 e-books in the *Infobase Publishing* collection, or 590 e-books in the *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. These are available on an unlimited basis to HF users 24/7.

Check Out Our NEWEST Database!



Global Issues in Context, our newest research database, ties together sources to present an in-depth analysis of many issues, including war, genocide, terrorism, human rights, poverty, famine, globalization, world trade, nuclear proliferation, and global warming, as well as more specific events and topics in the news that are related to these broader issues. It also includes detailed information on nations, and articles from International periodicals and news sources that bring additional insight.

Have you tried SweetSearch?

One way to help your students target their Internet research is to use a special search directory like SweetSearch. Here is information from their site:



SweetSearch is a Search Engine for Students.

It searches only the 35,000 Web sites that our staff of research experts and librarians and teachers have evaluated and approved. We constantly evaluate our search results and "fine-tune" them, by increasing the ranking of Web sites from organizations such as the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian, PBS and university Web sites.

SweetSearch helps students find outstanding information, faster. It enables them to determine the most relevant results from a list of credible resources, and makes it much easier for them to find primary sources. We exclude not only the spam sites that many students could spot, but also the marginal sites that read well and authoritatively, but lack academic or journalistic rigor. As importantly, the very best Web sites that appear on the first page of SweetSearch results are often buried on other search engines.

To access, just go to www.sweetsearch.com and begin exploring the many features offered for students and teachers.