

**FYI:**  
Current Literacy Information & Resources  
Fall 2006

For more information or to obtain these resources, contact Literacy BC's Provincial Literacy Resource Centre at [library@literacy.bc.ca](mailto:library@literacy.bc.ca) or 1-800-663-1293 or 604-684-0624

**FYI** highlights information and resources that may be of interest to practitioners, researchers, policy makers and administrators in the literacy field in British Columbia. **FYI** is compiled by library staff based on the reports and journals we receive at the library, email notices, Web sites and other current awareness services. It is sent out quarterly with Literacy BC's E-Bulletin and posted on the Literacy BC Web site under "Publications" at [www.literacy.bc.ca](http://www.literacy.bc.ca) Thank you for forwarding to us information you would like to see in the next **FYI**.

- **Skills and Skill Shortages**

[http://www.wpp-clbc.ca/files/PDF/viewpoint2006\\_clbc\\_EN\\_13sept.pdf](http://www.wpp-clbc.ca/files/PDF/viewpoint2006_clbc_EN_13sept.pdf)

**Findings from the Workplace Partners Panel's Viewpoint Leadership Survey. Ottawa: Canadian Labour and Business Centre, 2006.**

A September 2006 survey looks at skill shortages facing the Canadian economy and labour market. Concerns about skill shortages are highest in Alberta and British Columbia.

- **The Heaven Shop by Deborah Ellis – Golden Oak Award Winner 2006**

<http://www.accessola.com/site/showPage.cgi?page=reading/goldenoak/goldenoakwinners.html>

Adult learners chose *The Heaven Shop* as the winner of Ontario's Golden Oak award. This award, funded by the Ontario Library Association, gives new readers a way to read books chosen specifically for them. Ontario learners can also post comments about books they are reading online. Other nominated books for 2006 were: *Fires!* by Tanya Lloyd Kyi (Annick Press, 2004); *Maria Chapdelaine* by Louis Hemon (Tundra Books, 2004); *Rachel: The Maybe House* by Lynne Kositsky (Penguin Canada, 2002); *Rescue of Nanoose* by Mary Borrowman (Horsdal & Schubert, 2004) and *Rosie's Dream Cape* by Zelda Freedman (Ronsdale Press, 2005).

- **Google's The Literacy Project**

<http://www.google.com/literacy/>

Google, in collaboration with LitCam and UNESCO's Institute for Lifelong Learning, has created "a resource for teachers, literacy organizations and anyone interested in reading and education." Rather than doing a general Google search, this site uses Google's technology that segments the Web by type of resource. It brings you literacy-related journal articles, books, video, maps, blogs, and groups. Deb Monkman, Literacy BC librarian, says that in her opinion, it is one of many resources

to check but it has a long way to go before being her first choice. She asked some colleagues with an interest in literacy to check it out. Denise North, a teacher librarian working at Vancouver Public Library's Britannia branch (a joint use library), reports that the "Google Scholar literacy links are quite insightful and helpful. I've found its overall usefulness hit and miss due to the restricted access to many publications."

- **Beginning- and Literacy-Level Adult ESL Learners**

[http://www.cal.org/caela/esl\\_resources/bibliographies/literacy.html](http://www.cal.org/caela/esl_resources/bibliographies/literacy.html)

This bibliography of resources from the Centre for Adult English Language Acquisition (Washington, DC) would be useful for ESL teachers. The resources in this collection were selected because they are evidence-based and provide suggestions and materials for practitioners working with adult English language learners. The voices of researchers, teachers, program managers, curriculum writers, trainers, and students are included in this bibliography.

- **Sharing Practice: UK School's Philosophy of Treating the Whole Child**

<http://www.basic-skills.co.uk/site/page.php?cms=4&p=368>

According to a Web site report, Drove Primary School is in one of the most deprived areas of Swindon, UK. It has a community education programme for adults, a growing children's centre and a teacher training programme. It provides an excellent primary education for its pupils. "The combination of a forward thinking headteacher, Dr Nick Capstick, lots of effort given over to fundraising for resources, a focus on new technology and on breaking down barriers to learning has seen the school shatter its own glass ceiling in terms of SATs results." The school also uses new technology such as digital video literacy (to allow the children to produce documentaries, plays and instructional videos) and multiple voting systems and voting machines (to help reluctant speakers to show teachers that they understand concepts.)

- **The Healthy Aboriginal Network: Non-profit promotion of Aboriginal Health, Literacy & Wellness**

<http://www.thehealthyaboriginal.net>

Currently, this Vancouver-based organization sells suicide prevention comics through its Web site.

- **The Centre for Literacy Library (Quebec)**

<http://www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca/library/>

The Centre has updated its library borrowing policies. It offers long-distance loans within Canada, and can assemble and loan customized trunks of materials for organizations. Contact the Centre at 514-931-8731. Staff also offer research consulting services for organizations or individuals doing research in literacy or related fields. **Please note that Literacy BC also offers library and reference/research services in BC.**

- **Hume Global Learning Village (Australia)**

[http://www.hume.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.asp?Page\\_Id=182&h=-1](http://www.hume.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.asp?Page_Id=182&h=-1)

“The Hume Global Learning Village is an innovative new partnership that links learning providers from across Hume City including five libraries and the mobile library, local schools, neighbourhood houses and learning centres, the Hume Global Learning Centre, Visy Cares Learning Centre, Kangan Batman TAFE, local businesses and Victoria University.” An article in *Literacy at Work* by Vanessa Little entitled “It takes a village to educate a community” describes one Australia city’s vision “to be a learning community where people embrace learning as a way of life – for all their lives – and value learning as the key to strengthening individual and community well-being.” Little spoke about the project at the Adult Literacy Forum presented by the Council of Ministers of Education in June 2006 in Prince George. This article can be found at [http://www.abc-canada.org/our\\_publications/law48.pdf](http://www.abc-canada.org/our_publications/law48.pdf) (page 19).

- **Vancouver’s VitalSigns® 2006**

<http://www.vancouverfoundation.bc.ca/VitalSigns/index.html>

The Vancouver Foundation has released the inaugural edition of *Vancouver’s Vital Signs*, its first check-up on Vancouver’s wellness and livability. Available in print and online, this colourful resource gives the city a grade for learning (B), livability, diversity, work, getting started (migration), the gap between rich and poor, housing, safety, arts and culture, belonging and leadership, health and wellness, and environment.

- **Are Parents Investing More or Less Time in Children?**

[http://www.unb.ca/crisp/pdf/pbrief\\_parents\\_time\\_use.pdf](http://www.unb.ca/crisp/pdf/pbrief_parents_time_use.pdf)

**Gauthier, A; Smeeding, T; Furstenberg, F. Are parents investing more or less time in children? Trends in selected industrialized countries. Policy brief III. NB: Canadian Research Institute for Social Policy, May 2006.**

Parents in the 1990s devoted one hour per day more to child-related activities than parents in the 1960s, according to authors of this Canadian Research Institute for Social Policy policy brief. The study looks at historical trends in parental time in 16 industrialized countries.