

boys as readers, but that would be a great title for someone to write as a companion to Sullivan. Are boys really reading less when they are discovering new gaming techniques, reading sports pages and sports blogs, interacting with their peers on social networking, or creating content to publish on the web? Sullivan provides one window and it is a good one. There are others. (ALA, 2009. 152 pp. \$48.00. 978-0-8389-1022-1.)

Bottom line: Recommended.

BLOGS, WIKIS, PODCASTS, AND OTHER POWERFUL WEB TOOLS FOR CLASSROOMS, THIRD EDITION

Will Richardson

Richardson is a visionary who regularly blogs about technology and learning and so the third edition of his book is very welcome. He has updated the uses of many Web 2.0 tools giving several examples of their uses that boost teaching and learning. If I were conducting professional development programs/workshops on various tech tools, I would ask novice folks to read the Richardson chapter on blogs or wikis or whatever was to be covered. That would allow them an introduction to the technology and then the practical hands on workshop could get folks up to speed faster so the focus could be on using the particular technology in the learning commons and in classrooms. For teacher-librarians, Richardson is a good read just to compare what you know with what he is recommending about each technology. As we all know, we are vaguely familiar with some tools, others are quite familiar, and there are those few at which we are expert. The goal is to know each class of tools well enough so we can use them to their best advantage. Another advantage of Richardson's book is that we can pigeonhole particular tools in groups with similar characteristics and that helps us all keep track of many individual tools with their unique characteristics. (Corwin Press, 2010. 171 pp. \$31.95. 978-1-4129-7747-0.)

Bottomline: This book is a must read for

all teacher-librarians and teacher technologists.

TL's Best Professional Books 2010

21ST CENTURY SKILLS: LEARNING FOR LIFE IN OUR TIMES

Bernie Trilling and Charles Fadel

Jossey-Bass, 2009. 205 pp. \$27.95. 978-0-470-47538-6.

In simply the best book of the year making the case for 21st century skills in the context of content discipline knowledge, Trilling and Fadel provide a common-sense approach foundation. While their list of 21st century skills is not agreed upon by everyone, ICT literacy, critical thinking, creative thinking, information literacy, and other skills propel learners to master content knowledge. This is a refreshing approach and matches the American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) 2009 *Guidelines* argument that cool skills are means to an end of deep understanding rather than ends in themselves.

ON EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Robert J. Marzano, Ed.

Solution Tree, 2009. 380 pp. \$34.95. 978-1-934009-58-1.

What constitutes excellence in teaching? Marzano gathers a distinguished panel of authors who characterize what is known from a wide variety of perspectives including Grant Wiggins, Thomas Good, Barrie Bennett, Richard Mayer, David Berliner, Jay McTighe, Carol Ann Tomlinson, and others. This is simply the best overview, update, and fresh "encyclopedia" of what we know and the best practices shown to improve the bottom line of learning. Any one of the chapters is a great topic for discussion by a professional learning community. Teacher-librarians should "know it all" as they approach collaborative co-teaching and this book helps.

EMPOWERING LEARNERS: GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA PROGRAMS

American Association of School Librarians

American Library Association, 2009. 65 pp. \$39.95. 978-0-8389-8519-9.

Bottom line: The AASL learning standards and this document replace *Information Power* as the central documents of the profession. These documents are to be read, re-read, digested, promoted, and made the central foundation of library media and learning commons programs.

CRITICAL APPROACHES TO YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE

Kathy Latrobe and Judy Drury

Neal-Schuman, 2009. 310 pp. \$59.95. 978-1-55570-564-0.

Bottom line: Teacher-librarians can push the thinking about what teens read by exploring the excellent ideas in this book without destroying the fun of reading widely. Learn the techniques beyond just enjoying the plot together and recommending other books to read.

EMPOWERING STUDENTS WITH TECHNOLOGY, SECOND EDITION

Alan November

Corwin Press, 2009. 115 pp. \$25.95. 978-1-4129-7425-7.

Bottom line: Alan November has been a popular circuit speaker for many years and from outside the library world has been pushing the role of high quality information for use by students and teachers. In this second edition, he updates his chapters on the structure of information, a chapter about the expanded information environment, a chapter on the use of primary sources, and a final chapter about online education. These topics are often the subject of his talks and consulting to school districts around the world, so if you cannot hear him in person, this is a good source to bring you up to date on his thinking. A solid source of good advice.