SchoolRooms: A Smart State-wide Solution for Savvy Searching

Amanda A. Stone
South Carolina State Library, Columbia, SC  SELA

Abstract
South Carolina students now have an alternative to Google when searching for online homework help, web resources, and educational games. The South Carolina State Library is implementing SchoolRooms™, a web-based learning portal that integrates thousands of pages of multimedia content, Web links, digital resources and powerful search capabilities - all organized around the K-12 curriculum. Join us as we discuss our statewide implementation of SchoolRooms™, available to all South Carolina citizens through their public libraries.
SchoolRooms: A Smart State-wide Solution for Savvy Searching

Amanda Stone
South Carolina State Library
October 2008
What is SchoolRooms?

- A new K-12 online multimedia discovery place for South Carolina students, teachers, librarians and parents!

- “A new kind of learning environment that brings together the best content from all sources into a single portal that's aimed at meeting the real needs of real students (parents and educators, too!) in real schools.”

- SirsiDynix product ~2 years old
Why we chose SchoolRooms

- Content selected by 200+ teachers and librarians.
- 71 subject areas with content aligned to national/SC curriculum standards.
- Search 3 million educator-selected pages – giving users “Best of the Web.”
- Federated searching of state-wide databases, county library catalog, & vetted web content
Timeline

- **Summer 2007**
  Contract with SirsiDynix is signed

- **Fall/Winter 2007**
  Customized SchoolRooms page for 10 pilot sites.
  Content Advisory Board formed to verify content, recommend additional resources and content
  Added Library Favorites to search

- **Winter/Spring 2008**
  Customized SchoolRooms page for 2nd wave of county library systems
  Intern #1 from USC created online video tutorials for students, parents, librarians, and educators
  Started integrating Knowitall.org content into subject-specific Rooms

- **Summer/Fall 2008**
  Customized SchoolRooms page for last wave of county library systems
  Working on last library catalogs to be integrated
  Intern #2 from USC created Early Education Room
  Also added Summer Reading Room and Health & Safety Room
Show & Share Time (Access)

Welcome to South Carolina SchoolRooms, sponsored by the South Carolina State Library. This portal is provided for all South Carolinians. Please fill out the form below to register your account.

- First Name:
- Last Name:
- Email:
- Confirm Email:
- County: Select Your County...
- User Profile: Select Your Profile...

By clicking the Register button, you certify that you are a resident of South Carolina or a student enrolled in a South Carolina school.
Show & Share Time (Searching)
Frogs and Toads

Table of Contents

How to Cite This Article

On a warm March evening, shortly after the familiar breeding site. There, he joins a familiar chorus of voices that are about an inch long, can be heard.

The spring peeper is just one of the many species of frogs and toads. They have small, tailless bodies with bulging eyes and long limbs. Frogs live in water and part on land.
Art and Nature

Natural State
A Natural State explores how people express a love for nature by shaping, twisting, carving, and weaving materials collected from the landscape. Meet natural artists from all over South Carolina who use objects they find in nature. Then try some of these projects yourself!

Explore Museums!

Metropolitan Museum of Art
Museums are so cool! But how do you get to one if no one can take you? Check out these sites from the best museums in the world. Go on virtual tours and look at art one piece at a time!

- British Museum: Highlights
- Tate Learning
- Getty Games

Cool Links

Children’s Murals
Check out these cool murals painted by kids like you!

More Children’s Murals
Look at the murals
Show & Share Time (Rooms)

Explore a Room

Art & Theater

Sculpture

Metal

Stone

Environmental

Explorations

Cool Links

Fun & Games
SculptureScape
Show & Share Time (Customization)

• SchoolRooms was created in Ohio on national standards…

• We aim to make it locally relevant + even better!

• Early Education Room
• Summer Reading Room
• Health & Safety Room
• South Carolina Room
• Knowitall.org Resources
• South Carolina Book Award Nominees
Rocky Road isn’t just an ice cream flavor

- **Kudos:** Customization, quality of web resources & organization, ease of use for users
- **Unresolved issues:** Difficulties in customization for state-wide implementation, federated search issues, clunky builder
The Future (job security)

• Additional partners
• More content! Adding SC related content into Rooms
• K-2 interface
• Lesson plans & marketing tools
• 2.3 version (content creation at a local level)
Questions? Feedback?

http://scsl.schoolrooms.net
http://www.statelibrary.sc.gov/schoolrooms

Contact us @ scrooms@statelibrary.sc.gov