

SideXSide

Public Library/School Library Collaboration — Easier Than You Think (Winter 2005)

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH YOUR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

Community Service in the Public Library. Many of the public libraries in Dutchess County offer students the opportunity to do community service for credit at their school, church or scout group. Students can do tasks such as shelve books, help process books, assist patrons in finding materials, help with story times and summer reading program activities. Often these experiences are very positive for both students and library staff and some of these young people end up being paid pages at their local library. Encourage your students to contact their local library to see if they offer the opportunity to fulfill community service requirements in their building.

Linking the Local Public Library's Web Site on the School Library Site. In the spirit of cooperation and also to promote the concept that the school and public library are partners in the education process, we ask you to check your school's website to make sure the local library has a link there. If they do not, please contact the school Webmaster and ask that the library site be linked to your school's site. You can find links to all the Dutchess County public libraries at <http://midhudson.org/alpha.html#Dutchess>.

SCHOOL LIBRARY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Accessing Online Databases from Your Home Computer. Need a newspaper or magazine article? Need to finish some homework? Trying to find information about a recent health diagnosis? Use **HomeAccess** to get the information you want 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at home, work and your public library. **HomeAccess** combines the NOVEL databases (supplied by New York State) with those purchased with Mid-Hudson Library System/Central Library funds (Alternative Health and Gale Literary databases). You and your students can find literary criticism and author information, business profiles, health information, newspaper articles (including The New York Times), consumer information, encyclopedias and newspaper articles for younger children, current events and much more. Go to <http://midhudson.org/alpha.html>, click on your local library name and then choose **HomeAccess**.

Browsing the Public Library Catalog from Your Home Computer. Using the public library catalog at home allows you to look for library material, request it be held for you and indicate at which library you wish to pick up the material—all from your home computer! Go to <http://www.midhudson.org/>, click on Public Library Catalog and your library search from home begins. You can search by title, author, keyword and even specify (in Material Type) that you want to see only the DVDs available at your local library. Once you have a library card, you can use the Check Your Record/Renew Book/Request-A-Title function to see what materials you have out, when they are due, renew items and ask for material to be held for you at a specific library. If you need to have the material immediately, the catalog will indicate which libraries have the material on their shelves and you can go directly to that library to check it out.

What Your Public Library Card Can Do for You. You will need to have a Mid-Hudson library card in order to access the catalog and the **HomeAccess** databases from home. The card is valid in any of the 70 public libraries or reading rooms in Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Putnam and Ulster counties. You can choose materials from any of these 70 libraries and have them delivered to any library where pickup will be convenient for you; when you are finished, you can return the material to any library of your choice.

