Forging Partnerships Between Schools and Public Libraries
ECU’s Librarian to Librarian Networking Summit
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WELCOME!

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Session Notes:

Collaborative projects:
• Adopt-a-School program (see presenter’s handout)
• check out public library books at school site - Rocky Mount
• library card application drives
• joint training programs so public & school librarians get to know each other
• joint grant writing projects
• work exchanges
• Gaston Co. - 2nd graders targeted - field trip to public library branch, program & library card promotion
• teacher borrower cards (fewer items, longer borrowing time for teachers in Mecklenburg Co.)
• share information about school assignments with your public librarians!
• Homework Center
• provide space at public library for tutoring (America Reads program - http://www.ed.gov/inits/americareads/index.html)
• textbooks in the public library
• Senior Projects - help on research end/volunteer judges

Challenges:
• finding a school to hook up with
• need school board/principal approval/support
• many schools, limited staff at public library
• need to develop relationships between people
• public libraries willing to loan books to teachers/schools, but if they're lost - teacher has to pay
• teachers are busy people, everybody's busy
• red tape of communication in a school system
Overcoming the challenges:

- convene meetings among area media specialists & public librarians to talk over issues, needs, ideas
- focus on one grade to make a bigger impact
- it's a two-way street - help each other - what can the school do for the public library? include in training opportunities, grant projects, keep them informed about what's going on in the school (assignment alerts)
- cooperative acquisitions