May Spotlight: Using digital tools to improve literacy

Dear Amy Dunnigan

This month we'll be looking at how digital tools can improve literacy and we'll be discussing: **Is using social media a good motivator for improving literacy?**

Please share your thoughts on the LiteracyActionNet FORUM by clicking [here](#).

### EXAMPLE OF THE MONTH - SCHOOLS

**International Collaborative Writing Project** - Published authors and poets write the first paragraph of a story or the first stanza of a poem online for young people around the world to continue the writing, as part of the International Collaborative Writing Project. The idea is to bring together young people from diverse backgrounds to write together for fun and see themselves as part of a writing team that spans the world and includes published authors... *(more)*

### INFORMATION

People's interests and hobbies can be a way to engage them with literacy programmes. Learners benefit by improving their confidence and creativity... *(more)*

### EXAMPLE OF THE MONTH - ADULTS

**Unheard Holler and Autumn Online** - Autumn Online was a continuation of setting up the blog Unheard Holler. The project focused on helping people to gain basic online and blogging skills by running informal drop-in workshops in hostels across London. The method of delivery was based around accessing local services online and contributing to the blog through writing, video, poetry and music... *(more)*

### INFORMATION

The term 'hard-to-reach' is sometimes used to describe people who traditionally do not access or respond to government or voluntary initiatives. An alternative view is that services which are poorly designed can appear inaccessible or unwelcoming to potential customers. The physical place where a service is delivered and the type of organisation that provides it can both greatly affect whether a service is perceived as welcoming or off-putting... *(more)*

Click [here](#) for more examples of how digital tools are being used to improve literacy.
YOUR EXAMPLE

Do you know of a project that uses, or do you use digital tools, such as the examples above, to improve literacy? Please let us know:

- What did the project aim to achieve?
- What activities did the project involve?
- What would you say the project has achieved?
- Has the project been assessed or evaluated?
- Are there any other aspects of the project you would like to tell us about?

Please reply to this email or email amyd@lemosandcrane.co.uk

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Bev Humphrey, Literacy, School Libraries & Web 2.0 Consultant

What's the most important thing you've learnt?
“To believe in myself.”

What inspires you?
'My personal learning network of education colleagues on twitter. (@Libwithattitude)... (more)

(Use #readforfacebook to participate in this month's discussion)

NEWS

- Let Teachers SHINE is back!
Last year, SHINE and the Times Educational Supplement launched Let Teachers SHINE – a national competition to find some of the country's most innovative literacy and numeracy teachers...

- The John Betjeman Poetry Competition for Young People: ‘This new prize is a great way to honour a great poet while simultaneously introducing young people to the thrill of poetry.’ Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy