

# Ty Ankrom's Here's What I Think ...

It's not a secret that I love technology. But as an educator, I wonder sometimes if students today are losing some skills to technology that previous generations acquired.



For example, research skills are necessary throughout life but thanks to search engines, many youth think everything can be found on Google. (Or, worse, Wikipedia.)

Happily, in Pickaway County, educators are finding a way to incorporate computers with research skills.

Tammy Laughlin, media specialist at Circleville Elementary School, works with second- through fifth-graders to get them started on research projects.

Tammy uses INFOhio, a digital library for pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, to teach children the Super3 and the Big6, learning methods that teach them how to find information and then use, apply and evaluate what they've found.

The Super3 is based on the Big6 method, but given to second-graders in a smaller dose, Tammy said, teaching them to "plan, do and review."

For example, second-graders will use the Flat Stanley story for an abbreviated research project, where each of the eight second-grade classes will plan where he will visit in the United States and what he will do while there.

The students will complete the second phase by getting information from the INFOhio database, which also is a good introduction for them to use the Dewey Decimal system to find books.

Finally, they'll review their work and evaluate how they could improve it.

"This is our first year doing this," Tammy said. "The projects will become more in-depth with time."

At the high school level, Tea McCaulla, an English teacher at Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center, makes research projects a large part of her students' lessons.

A few weeks ago, Tea hosted a Night at the Library for students in her three classes.

Students went to the Chillicothe & Ross County Public Library where they were divided into two groups and took turns learning how to use computers to research topics and taking part in a scavenger hunt that



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required them to use the Dewey Decimal system.

Students also were able to get library cards and work on their research projects.

Tea, who joined Pickaway-Ross this year, said she started the library night while teaching in Florida.

"I was concerned that kids weren't using the library the way they should," she said.

"Their first inclination is to go to Google and do a search."

Tammy and Tea are showing students of all ages that technology can work alongside research tools that their parents used.

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