



Welcome to what I hope will be an inspiring and helpful session.

I'm no expert, but want to share with you some of the resources, sources, techniques and inspiration I've discovered for displays in time and budget constrained libraries.

This handout contains copies of the slides and notes from the presentation. The photos are mostly my own, with a few from the internet (where copyright allows).

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Background slide image:
<http://www.publicdomainpictures.net/view-image.php?image=5039&picture=gold-frame> by Lydia Jacobs

Font: Arial, and **ANIME ACE 2.0 BB** (downloaded from <http://www.dafont.com/>)



Many people find displays difficult and stressful, so let's remind ourselves why we do it...



Displays and posters are a great way to brighten up your library (and your workspace) to make it a more inviting and welcoming place to visit (and work).

Photo shows part of a recent DR SEUSS display featuring a hand painted Lorax and 'truffula' trees (made from tissue paper using Martha Stewart's instructions from <http://www.marthastewart.com/how-to/tissue-paper-pom-poms-how-to>)



Use displays to advertise your collection, including:

- areas that are often forgotten or bypassed, for example POETRY, ART, CHESS or
- new book

Photo shows a recent display on traditional games and featured a hand made scrabble board and (not shown) giant chess pieces from the school's giant chess set.

Source: Author's own photo



In the absence of a T/L or opportunity to talk to students, use displays and posters to get your message across, whether it be rules, instructions or guidance.

I have displayed various posters in the library outlining (for example):

- library rules,
- instructions on how to use the OPAC search
- How to reserve books,
- the Dewey system,
- examples of the consequences of library books + water and
- how books are shelved.

They are my way of getting a message to the students in the absence of teaching opportunities.



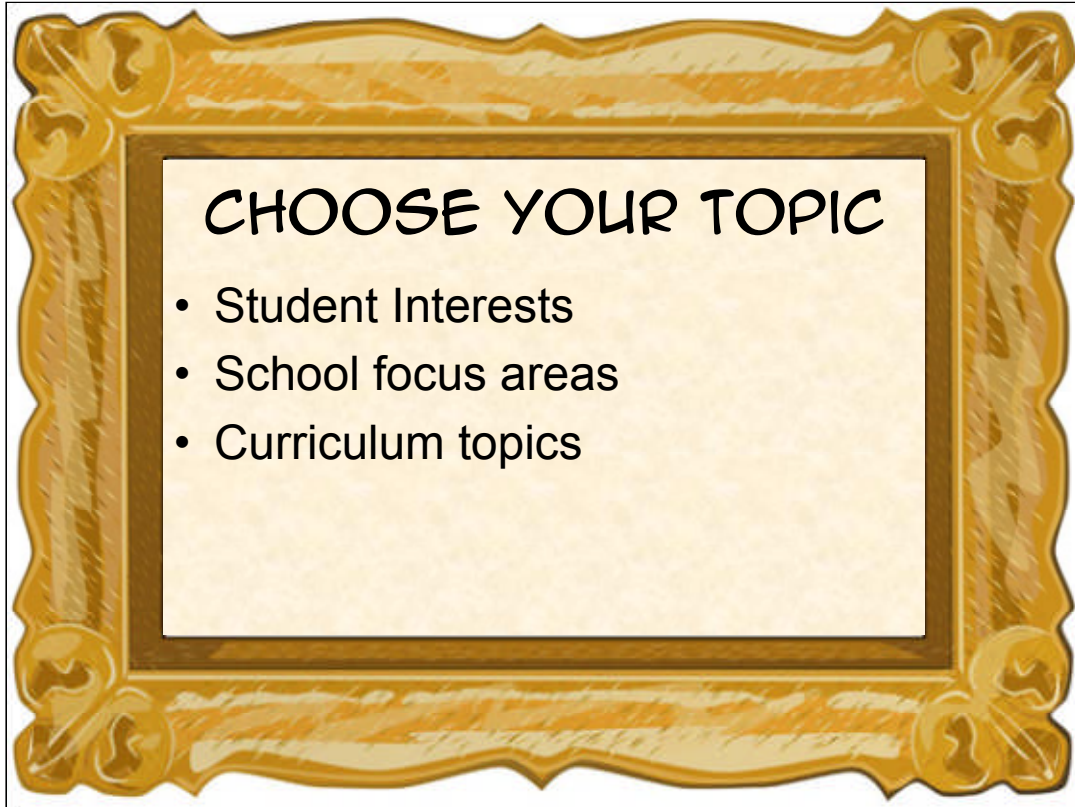
ENCOURAGE READING

Our prime aim is to encourage reading. Displays show book covers rather than just a bunch of spines, so children are more likely to be attracted to a book on display. Hopefully this leads to increased borrowing and reading. Book displays increase fiction circulation by 90% and non-fiction by 25% (source: www.lrs.org/documents/fastfacts/184display.pdf).

I came across a fabulous idea (Sally B Librarian on www.flickr.com) and borrowed the concept to create my own display to highlight a section of my collection that is not often noticed – ie collections of short stories. The shorts add a bit of fun and seeing the covers entice the kids to pick up and look at the books. It only takes one book to get a child hooked on reading.

Photo: Author's own

Original concept: check out www.flickr.com – search for Sally B Librarian – some great ideas.



- “Mrs M, where can I find books on astronauts?” Listen to the students – they will tell you what they are interested in.
- Tie in to school focus areas, eg “Bullying” or “Healthy Eating” – the teachers will love you
- Check out the ACARA website for a basic understanding of topics to be covered in the various learning areas for each year level.
 - <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/> - use the Curriculum tab (eg Year 3 Science includes “Earth’s rotation and night/day”. Year 5 History includes British Colonies and Convicts)

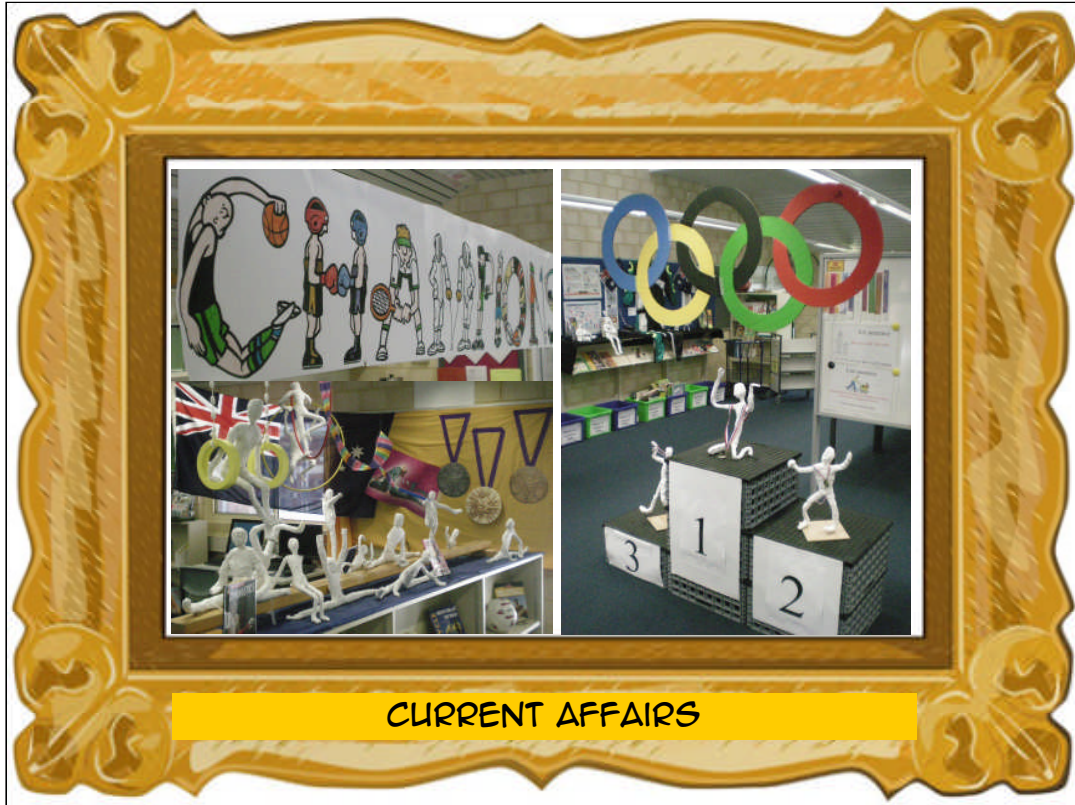


Keep abreast of community events and build your display to complement that

- eg “Sculpture by the Sea”. Last year I created a display on the sea/ocean theme to tie in with a local event “Sculpture by the Sea”. This year I’ve looked at “Art and the Artist”
- Royal Show
- Circus coming to your area?
- Centenary of your school or community?

National Events

- CBC Bookweek
- 2012 is the National Year of Reading (<http://www.love2read.org.au/index.cfm>)
- Australian Calendar – <http://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/> (Mothers’ Day 13 May, Fathers’ Day 2 Sep)
- Australian Government – Festivals & Observances: <http://australia.gov.au/about-australia/australian-stories/festivals-and-observances>
- Australian Government – Calendars of Events: <http://australia.gov.au/topics/australian-facts-and-figures/calendars-of-events> (has links to various Observance websites including that of the United Nations. 2012 is the International Year of Cooperatives and International Year of Sustainable Energy for All



CURRENT AFFAIRS

Tap into current affairs (eg)

- Extreme weather (books for rainy days)
- Elections
- Sporting Grand Finals

- Highlight world events – Olympics (Sport, Countries, Cultures)



Annual events allow you to reuse some parts of your display, so it is worth spending a little more time and money on the elements, such as the poppies for this ANZAC Day display. Each year I take a different aspect – this year I featured some photos and documents of one of my ancestors – great-great Uncle Ted. You can see scanned copies of service papers at <http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/explore/defence/service-records/index.aspx> and war diaries at <http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/records/>

International Observances- Days of...Weeks of...Months of...Years of...Decades of...

- Wikipedia - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Year (eg October 15 is International day of Rural Women and Global Handwashing Day!)
- 2013 is the International Year of Water Cooperation and also of Quinoa



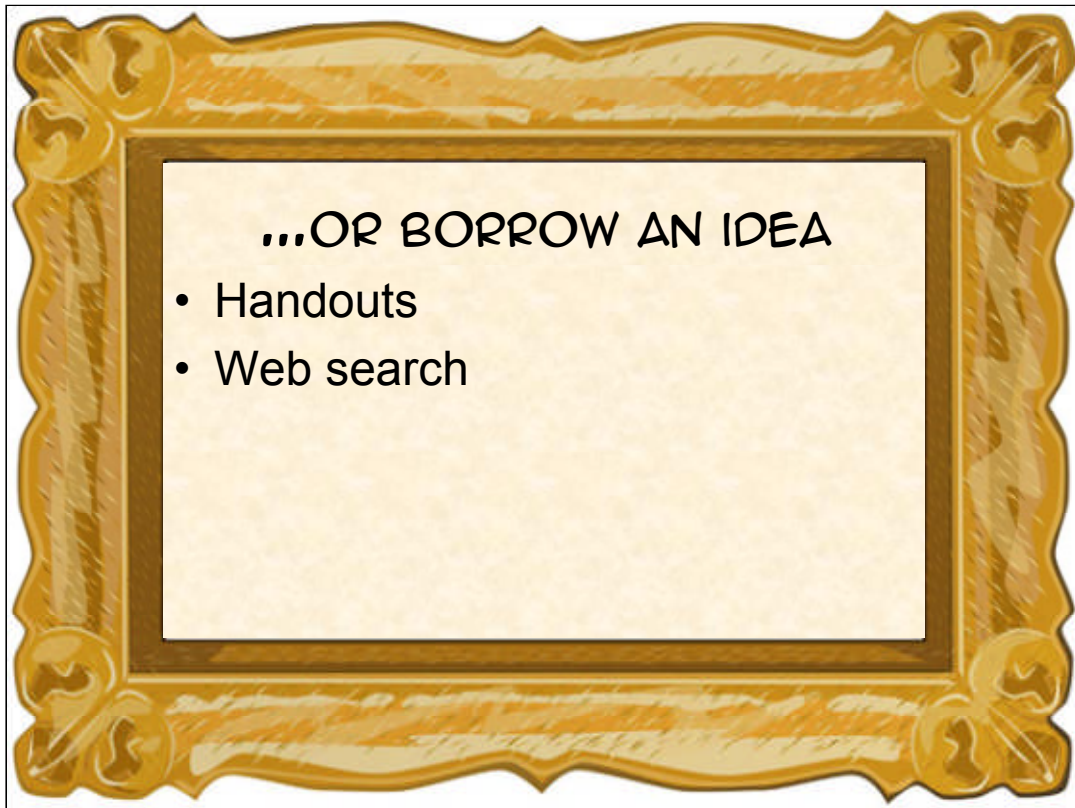
Get friendly with a creative teacher and use a classroom project as the basis of a display. This photo shows part of a display I created last year which featured some Year 3 models of famous buildings amongst books about countries around the world.

Our library has also become a bit of an art gallery, featuring work of students in their Art classes.



ONGOING DISPLAYS

- Consider an area for ongoing themes where the topic changes regularly (eg Author of the Month, New Books or Genres)
- A new book display could feature books popping out of a gift wrapped box



- Don't be afraid to borrow ideas:
 - Handout of themes, titles and ideas (based on a list posted some time ago on WATLNET with my additions)
 - <http://www.memw.edublogs.org/2007/11/14/library-display-ideas> – more great titles
 - <http://www.creativelibrarydisplays.com> - lots of ideas, descriptions and instructions
 - <http://www.squidoo.com/simple-displays> - lots of great ideas & photos
 - http://www.squidoo.com/titles_for_bulletin_boards_and_displays - list of titles and themes
 - <http://www.squidoo.com/Bulletin-Board-and-Display-tips> - useful tips and techniques
 - <http://pinterest.com/dawnkrase/library-display-ideas/> - great ideas, not just displays
 - <http://memw.edublogs.org/2007/11/14/library-display-ideas> - list of titles for displays
 - <http://www.flickr.com/> (search for 'library displays' or Person "cathy oxley", "enokson", "karine knopf" and "sally b librarian" to name a few – not accessible from DET computers)
 - <http://www.barbrahesson.com/category/library-bulletin-boards/> titles and displays
 - <http://bulletinboardideas.org/> - Simple classroom bulletin board ideas.
 - <http://www.schoollibrarydisplays.blogspot.com.au> - enter theme keywords for ideas
 - <http://taylorlibraryblog.blogspot.com.au> - some good ideas & photos
 - Keywords to use include "library display ideas", "book displays", "bulletin board", "classroom display ideas". Be careful of using 'pinup' in your search!



- Draw your audience in with a catchy title. It acts like the title of a book



VERSE, RHYME OR ALLITERATION

- Use a quote, saying or verse (eg "Raining Cats & Dogs")
 - <http://www.quoteland.com/>
 - <http://www.brainyquote.com/>
- Consider alliteration or rhyme (eg "Perfect Pets", "Paws and Claws")
- Use those previously mentioned websites for ideas

Try these websites for more ideas:

- <http://www.scrapbook.com/titles.php>
- <http://theperfecttitle.com/>
- Many others – use keywords "scrapbooking title ideas"



- Have a store of die-cut letters, or customise your title with fonts
 - Die-cut letters are available from Scholastic, Discount Stores or cut your own at scrapbooking stores.
- Download fonts from (eg):
 - <http://www.dafont.com>
 - <http://www.1001fonts.com/>
 - <http://www.simplythebest.net/fonts/>
- Ensure your font is readable. Keep an eye on the time – you can waste hours!

Here are two examples of customised fonts that I've used in the past (and one to show that not all fonts are readable).

"Pakistan" – Samarkan – source: <http://www.dafont.com>

"Circus" – Circus – source: <http://www.dafont.com>

"Leonardo" – Leonardo – source: <http://www.dafont.com>

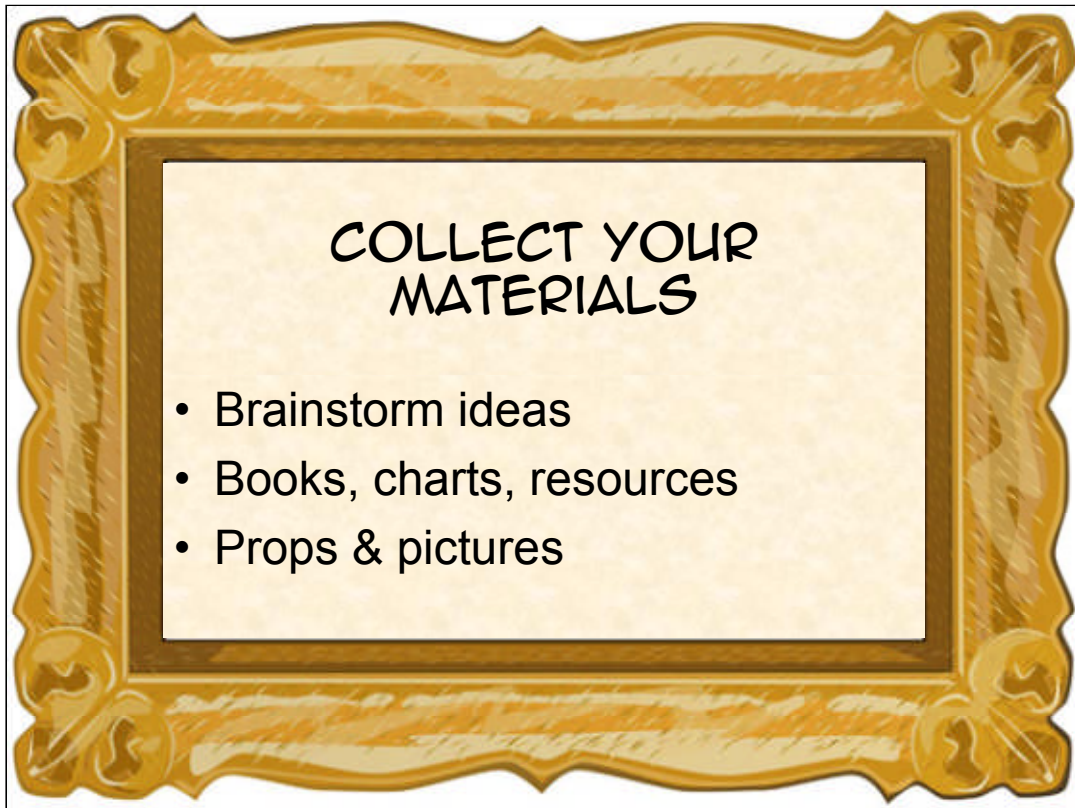


Small library?

- Keep it fairly uncluttered to give the illusion of space - don't overload the room
- Use vertical surfaces – pinup boards, doors, windows, bay ends
- Consider also tops, shelves and ends of shelving and hanging displays

Large library?

- You can create large central displays using furniture such as tables, display cases and mobile boards
- Consider also creating some props from cardboard or boxes



Brainstorm ideas and gather anything and everything that may be useful for your display:

- Books (F, JF, NF), Charts, Teacher Resources & Kits (or items out of those if you don't wish to include TR)
- Props and pictures – be on the lookout for inexpensive and versatile props at discount stores (Red Dot, Gone Bazaar (sic), \$2 shop, Dynamic Discounts, Crazy Clarks). Also try Party Town or Lombard's.
- If you print any images that could be used again, consider laminating them for longevity.
- Found items – from nature, charity stores or verge pickups
- Things from home (nothing too precious!)



SEARCH THE SCHOOL

Borrow resources from around the school (with permission) – eg

- Phys Ed – sports equipment
- Science – skeletons, models, X-Rays (as used above in my ‘hospital’ display on the Human Body)
- Maths – giant protractors, rules, scales
- Pre-Primary – dolls cradles, trucks etc
- Music/Drama – instruments and props
- Playground – twigs, leaves, rocks



- Basic toolkit – here are some of the things I can't do without:
 - Lengths of fabric – about 3m, plain (mostly bright) colours or large pieces of paper
 - Curtain backing – if you are creative and paint your own scenes, backdrops and feature pictures
 - Colour printer and laminator
 - Pins – map pins, dressmaking pins, craft T-Pins (available from craft stores or online eg www.hobbytools.com.au \$7.50/60)
 - Clips – paperclips, bulldog clips
 - Blu-tack & sticky dots
 - Die-cut letters – Discount Stores, Scholastic Book Club, cut your own at a scrapbooking store
 - String, Fishing line
 - Wire book supports and vertical file stands (from large stationery stores)
 - Spare boxes, foam pieces
 - Various multi-purpose props – eg leaves, flowers, flag bunting, photo frames, stuffed animals, shells, bucket & spade etc



- Try to add dimension and interest to your pinup boards.
- Work in layers – from the background through to the features (ie books and titles)



- Disguise ugly pinup boards with fabric, paper or a backdrop
 - Contrasting – eg a bright colour for a circus display
 - Blending – eg green behind a jungle or garden display
 - Paint your own backdrop on curtain backing – stronger than paper. If you are not very good at drawing, copy or trace a picture (eg from colouring book or internet) onto plastic film and project onto paper/fabric with old-fashioned overhead projector or project straight from a computer.

Photos: author's own



- Turn 2D into 3D
 - Bend your pictures (eg leaves and flags) to add dimension
 - Mount small pictures or letters on pieces of foam or at the end of pins (see above)
 - Pin small boxes to board with T-Pins to rest small props on
 - Attach wire book stands using string & T-Pins
 - Drape vines, attach flowers

Photos:

3D picture frame – author’s own

Flag – author’s own

“What’s Your Flavor?” (sic) – source:

http://farm4.staticflickr.com/3319/3538059961_c0be003a0a_b.jpg

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/playfullibrarian/3538059961/sizes/l/in/photostream/>



Think outside the square

- Don't always limit yourself to the rectangle of the board
- Explode off the edge by extending elements to add interest
- Merge your board with any ledge or table underneath

Note how this display extends the pictures and words outside 'the rectangle' and merges with the books on display beneath it.

Source – <http://rachelmoani.com/wp-content/gallery/library-displays-2010-2011/2010summerdisplay4.jpg>

Retrieved: 22 February 2012



- Vary the basic layout of your displays from time to time – don't always put the title in the same place – surprise them!
 - Try the text at the top, bottom, side or around.
 - Group your elements or spread them out
 - Line things up or display in a more informal fashion

Photos:

Merry Christmas (author's own) – title at left of the display

Interesting Illustrations (author's own) – title around the edges

Lest We Forget (author's own) – group elements – you don't need to fill every square inch!



Central displays need to be attractive from all angles, so constantly walk around and check as you are building it.



Ensure all items are visible by creating a 'pyramid' in the centre using old boxes – either paint them or cover with a cloth.



One way to add titles to a central display is by creating a centrepiece.

This is just one of many examples to be found at www.flickr.com (search for Enokson or School Library Displays group)

Source: http://farm4.staticflickr.com/3314/4578598635_a907130b46_o.jpg
[Creative Commons – some rights reserved]

– you could use flower pots, baskets or bags as a base.



You could hang a mobile or poster above the display. Mobiles twist in the breeze, thereby ensuring text is seen from many angles.

If using a poster, try to hang a double sided poster.

To print posters and banners larger than A3/A4, try:

- MS Publisher to create banners and posters
- Download "Tiler" for mac
- <http://www.blockposters.com/>

Another option is a self-made plastic sleeve made from covering plastic and double sided tape. This can also be used to display student work, photographs or display elements – and is double sided. Make your own using a length of plastic book covering and double sided tape. Use an upturned length of contact with gridlines to help you create straight pockets.

Finish off your display by adding props and books.



Here are a few more options for displays that are a little out-of-the-ordinary:

- Borrow or hire a garden arch, bridge or large sculpture
- Hang a fishing net and attach sea creatures
- Make use of a display case



Use the windows – make your props double sided, or print images onto transparency so they are visible from both sides



- If you have a large library and a crafty mindset, use old boxes to create large props. Kids love a car, rocket or castle, especially if they can walk through or climb into it!
- (Get your cardboard boxes at furniture or appliance shops)

This photo shows Virginia Allain in the children's area of the Weslaco Public Library – source: <http://www.squidoo.com/storytime-ideas>

I've also seen photos of supporting columns disguised as a tree, rockets made from large boxes and much more.



NET, WIRE OR POCKETS

- Hang a fishing net and attach all manner of things – not just ocean themed decorations.
- Make your own plastic pocket to display photos, images, titles or student work

This photo shows use of wire mesh at Christchurch City Library to display items. Source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/christchurchcitylibraries/5462384638/> [CC some rights reserved]

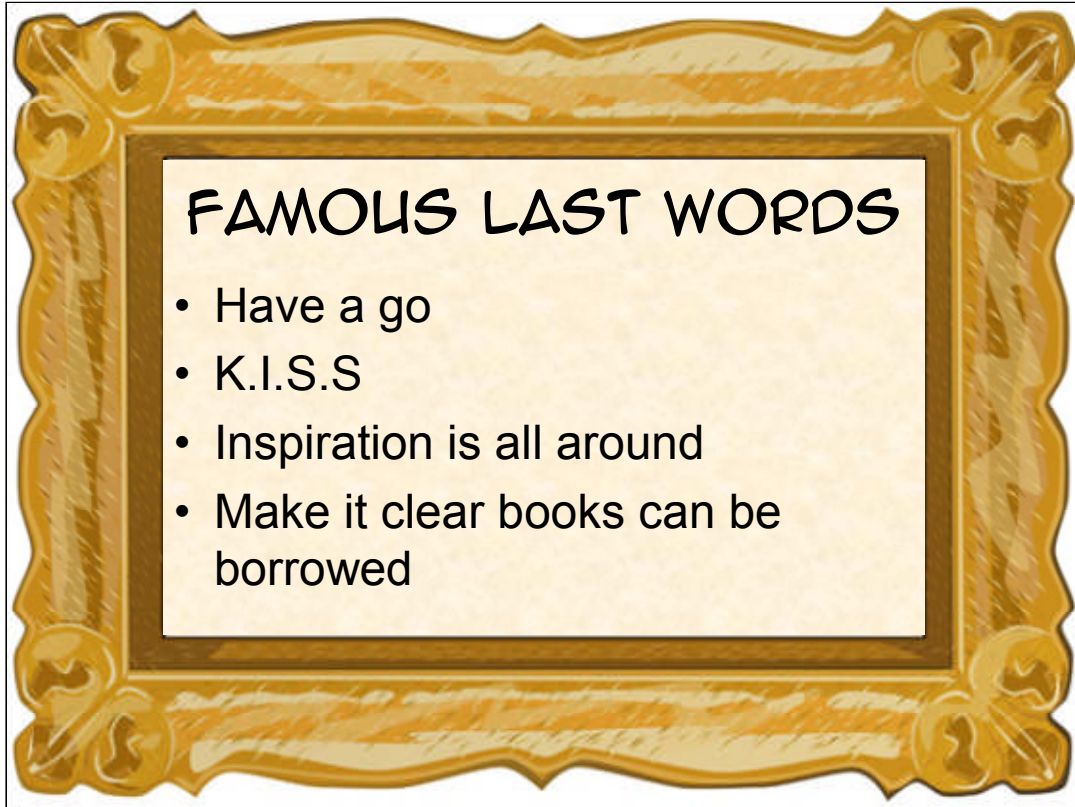


- Place display on top of shelves
- Make yourself some bay-end book displays using aluminium tubing, reticulation spikes and rubber stoppers.
- Or clear off a shelf and install a dowel book support (just a length of dowel with those same rubber stoppers).



I haven't tried this myself, but seems like a great idea for a blank wall or at the base of a pinup board. It is shelving made from guttering (I'd use PVC rather than metal).

Source: <http://someshome.blogspot.com.au/2010/06/rain-gutter-bookshelves.html>



Just have a go. Kids love a display, even if you don't think it is all that great. Remember why we do it!

Keep it super simple

Look all around you for inspiration and ideas - magazines, other libraries, shop windows, internet

Don't forget to make it clear that the books can be borrowed



And finally...be inspired not overawed with these....have fun! An amazing display by someone with too much time on their hands!

Book Man (window display in Manchester Harvey Nichols). Source:
<http://pinterest.com/search/?q=book+window+display>

In the meantime, visit other libraries (and book stores) and share ideas with other Library Officers via WATLNET and network meetings.

MORE DISPLAY LINKS

- <http://www.creativelibrarydisplays.com> - lots of ideas, some quite detailed descriptions and instructions
- <http://www.squidoo.com/simple-displays> - lots of great ideas & photos
- http://www.squidoo.com/titles_for_bulletin_boards_and_displays - fantastic list of titles and themes
- <http://www.squidoo.com/Bulletin-Board-and-Display-tips> - useful tips and techniques
- <http://pinterest.com/dawnkrase/library-display-ideas/> - lots of great pictures and ideas, not just displays
- <http://memw.edublogs.org/2007/11/14/library-display-ideas> - list of titles for displays
- <http://www.flickr.com/> (search for 'library displays' or Person "cathy oxley", "enokson", "karine knopf" and "sally b librarian" to name a few – not accessible from DET computers
- <http://www.barbrahesson.com/category/library-bulletin-boards/> - simple ideas for titles and colourful displays on general library themes
- <http://bulletinboardideas.org/> - Simple bulletin board ideas. Many more suited to classrooms but some good ideas.
- <http://www.schoollibrarydisplays.blogspot.com.au> - enter theme keywords for some great ideas
- <http://taylorlibraryblog.blogspot.com.au> - a few good ideas & photos
- There are loads of others – use search keywords like "library display ideas", "book display", "bulletin board"