

# NEWS

For Immediate Release  
July 14, 2009

Contact: Melissa B. Jacobsen  
AASL Communications Specialist  
(312) 280-4381  
[mjacobsen@ala.org](mailto:mjacobsen@ala.org)

## *AASL announces inaugural best web sites for teaching and learning*

CHICAGO – The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) announces a new resource for school library media specialists and their teacher colleagues. The Best Websites for Teaching and Learning, a list honoring the top twenty-five Internet sites for enhancing learning and curriculum development, is considered the "best of the best" by AASL.

The Top 25 Web sites for Teaching and Learning were named so because they foster the qualities of innovation, creativity, active participation and collaboration. The Web sites honored include: Animoto; Classroom 2.0; Curriki; Diigo; Edublogs; Facebook; Good Reads; Google Reader; Mindmeister; Ning; Our Story; Partnership for 21st Century Skills; Polleverywhere; Primary Access; ReZED; Second Life; Simply Box; Skype; SOS for Information Literacy; Teacher Tube; Twitter; VoiceThread; Wikispaces; Wordle; and Zoho.

"The task force worked very hard to target websites that support learner-centered, inquiry based curriculum. In the hands of knowledgeable educators, these innovative and versatile Web 2.0 tools and resources can be used to engage and motivate students in the learning process and to develop 21st century skills," said AASL Best List Task Force Chair, Pam Berger.

All sites are free, web-based sites that are user-friendly and encourage a community of learners to explore and discover. They also provide a foundation to support AASL's *Standards for the 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Learner*. Valuable information on each site, including tips for effective classroom use are available at [www.ala.org/aasl/bestlist](http://www.ala.org/aasl/bestlist).

The Top 25 offer tools and resources in organizing and managing; content collaboration; curriculum sharing; media sharing; virtual environments; and social networking and communication. Each Web site is linked to one or more of the four strands of the *Standards for the 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Learner* – skills, dispositions in action, responsibilities, and self-assessment strategies. The list will be updated annually based on feedback and nominations from members.

"School library media specialists are indispensable leaders in the school community," said AASL President Ann M. Martin. "These vetted resources are designed to assist with curriculum development that will sustain and increase knowledge and skills growth for the school community."

The American Association of School Librarians, [www.aasl.org](http://www.aasl.org), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), promotes the improvement and extension of library media services in elementary and secondary schools as a means of strengthening the total education program. Its mission is to advocate excellence, facilitate change and develop leaders in the school library media field.