

Lockdown Case Study:

Susan Merrick, Teacher-Librarian, ACS International Schools, Egham, Surrey

Providing support through lockdown

Susan is the teacher-librarian at ACS International School in Egham. When the school went into lockdown, she created several online resources. These included a number of new libguides as well as updating others for specific research projects. She also created slide presentations to go with the libguides and a presentation on a particular genre of books, presenting it via zoom to an entire year group. Topics included: forensics (Year 7 Science); renewable energy (Year 8 science); and an introduction to graphic novels <https://acs-schools.libguides.com/graphic>. Additionally, Susan created templates for referencing for Year 7s to introduce them to the information needed to correctly reference a print book, an e-book and a webpage, prior to them starting to use Noodletools for their next research project.

Each day from 3:30 till 4:00 Susan offers a Q & A session via Zoom on research and referencing to assist students with their research projects (years 7 to 13). She assists students and teachers to access databases such as Massolit and resources such as the free online subscription to the Financial Times and provides an information service by sending a twice weekly email out to staff detailing resources which may be of use to them in their online teaching and with which they may not be familiar. On Wednesdays the entire school is on independent learning; on that day Susan offers all day help sessions for staff and students. She also presents short CPD sessions on a variety of topics to staff and librarians (at the school's various campuses).

There have been several positive outcomes from Susan's support to students and staff:

- Students are using the libguides in conducting research as indicated by the statistics from the guides.

- Teachers are reporting that the sessions on referencing are having positive results as shown by student work cited lists, and an improved understanding and attitude toward academic integrity.
- ACS International is an IB school and the students' extended essays and personal projects are due in the coming weeks. A number of students have been identified as needing assistance with their research and referencing, and teachers have reported an improvement in their work after the library sessions.

The response to the library online initiatives has been encouraging:

- Lots of positive feedback from students and staff both via email and after zoom sessions.
- Susan received a round of applause from students and an email of thanks from the lead teacher after the graphic novel presentation.
- Susan was called the referencing guru by the IB coordinator in an email to a parent; a good title for a librarian to have!