

Lesson Plan: Using the Big6 Model to introduce the social network LibraryThing to faculty at Orofino High School

Grade Level: Faculty

Objectives: Using the Big6 model the teacher-librarian will introduce Library Thing and aid participants in discovering the site's purpose and how it works. They will create their own Library Thing accounts and post to them. They will share their opinions and insights toward this technology with other class members in discussion and via email. They will be told at the beginning that the librarian is using a new research process to present this lesson but they will not be given any other information about the process until the end of the class.

Big6 Skills:

- **Task Definition:** Teachers will have hands-on exploration of the social web site LibraryThing to determine its focus and how it works. They will then create their own accounts and post to them. Finally they will share in an ongoing email discussion their views and possible usages of this social network.
- **Information Seeking Strategies:** Teachers will participate in a discussion about social networks and their knowledge and opinions about social networks. The main resource is LibraryThing.
- **Location and Access:** Teachers will access the site LibraryThing in the media center lab and use the lab's Smartboard technology for discussion and analysis of the site. There is a link to the site on the school library page.
- **Use of Information:** Teachers will discuss the LibraryThing format and note any key words, features or concepts that are important to its working. They must include "tags" in this discussion. Teachers and the librarian will use the smart board to share their ideas and model how LibraryThing works. They will set up accounts and post to them.
- **Synthesis:** Participants will show results by posting to their accounts and by participating in the email discussion about LibraryThing and social networks.
- **Evaluation:** Did participants complete the assignment? What new skills did they learn? How could this aspect of social networking be used in the classroom environment? Will they continue to use LibraryThing?

Materials Required: Computer lab and access to the Internet and Smartboard technology; Big6 handouts and Big6 and LibraryThing links on the school library page.

Time Required: One hour for in-lab lesson. A ten-minute aspect of this could be step #4 when teachers deconstruct the site and use the Smartboard to note various aspects of this network.

Description of Activities: Discussion, accessing and analyzing the LibraryThing web site, creating an account and posting to it and participating in the email discussion.

Assessment: Teachers will review the evaluation in step six as they are presented this lesson plan and Big6 handouts as they are introduced to the Big6 research approach. They will have time to evaluate the librarian and the process. This is somewhat of a teaser as it introduces the Big6 process after the lesson is over. During this time teachers will identify the basis steps and probably tell the teacher-librarian how she could have better done it. And, the TL will be grateful as she establishes a foundation for more Big6 endeavors.