

interns. From the teen portion of their library Web site (<http://www.homerlibrary.org/teens.asp>), an alphabetical list of their **del.icio.us** tags takes the user directly into suggested links for that subject.

Is this what libraries should do?

If our goal is reaching teens and online is where we find them (remember the 55 percent statistic?), then the answer is an obvious YES! No need to refer to those days when fiction in libraries was considered frivolous—let’s just remember when the Internet was new and libraries didn’t have Web pages. What library would *not* have a Web page now?

Social networking is *the* exciting new technology for connecting with teens. Don’t forget the online safety tips and in-house programs on Internet safety for both teens and parents.

THROUGH YA EYES

AOL Instant Messenger

<http://www.aim.com>

AOL, LLC

11 5R 4U



AIM is easy to use, easy to download, and free! The only thing you need to do to get talking is to add a friend’s screen name to your Buddy list. **AIM** has cool features like “away messages” to let people know what you’re doing while not at your computer, Buddy icons (different pictures to represent your friends), and even custom sounds so that when a certain Buddy logs on, you’ll hear a noise that you’ve assigned just to him. Before you even look at the screen, you’ll know who it is. If someone bugs you and you don’t want to talk to him anymore, you can block him. **AIM** is fun, and unlike when you’re on the phone, you can talk to more than one friend at a time.—Simon Watts.

Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com>

Mark Zuckerberg

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Facebook is wonderful! Its main purpose is to keep college students in touch with high school friends. I have even been able to find elementary school friends with whom I have not spoken in more than six years. Members create a profile page with information about them for others to see. There is a place to put unlimited pictures. You can also leave your friends short messages

on what is called the “wall.” Unless you change your privacy settings, anyone at your college can view your profile; otherwise, you must be friends with a person for her to view it. The best feature of **Facebook** is the privacy; you can make it as secure as you would like. I have it set so that only my friends can view my profile. You also can select which friends can view certain parts of your profile. The only thing I would change about **Facebook** is the news feed section. **Facebook**’s homepage shows recent activities of your friends. When it first added this feature, students were upset, but you can set your privacy settings so that your activities do not show up on your friends’ news feeds. I would highly recommend that all college students use **Facebook**.—Jessica Zeitz.

MySpace

<http://www.myspace.com>

MySpace.com

2I 5R 5U



MySpace allows registered users to create a personal profile so that they can upload photos and videos and maintain a blog while messages, comments, and bulletins are posted by their virtual friends. In the music section, you can listen to well-known artists or discover new ones. You can even become friends with your favorite band. In a way, it’s **LiveJournal**, **Photobucket**, **YouTube**, and **Napster** all in one. To create a profile, you are asked lots of questions that you can answer or not. Questions range from your birthday to your income or your school; you can fill out sections that have to do with your favorite movies, music, books, and what you do in your free time.

Why is **MySpace** so cool and addictive? Friends! Add as many as you want or just the ones whom you know best. Post a bulletin so everyone on your friends list can see it and reply. It’s rather handy for announcing a new “about me” section. In this day and age, it’s much more effective than e-mail; a click of a button and every friend you have can see what you said.

MySpace? Or **TheirSpace?** What’s it all about and how safe is it? Parents are really worried about their children talking to people that they don’t know. The phrase “I found them on **MySpace**” shouldn’t be a conversation starter, but to many teens it is. There are ways to try to get as many friends as you can on **MySpace**, even if you have no idea who they are. But there are also ways of blocking weird people from talking to you: Put your page on private, require your friends to know your last name or e-mail to request you, and make all comments hidden until you approve them. You don’t need a picture of your face as your default and you also don’t need 1,000,000 friends. It really all comes down to that

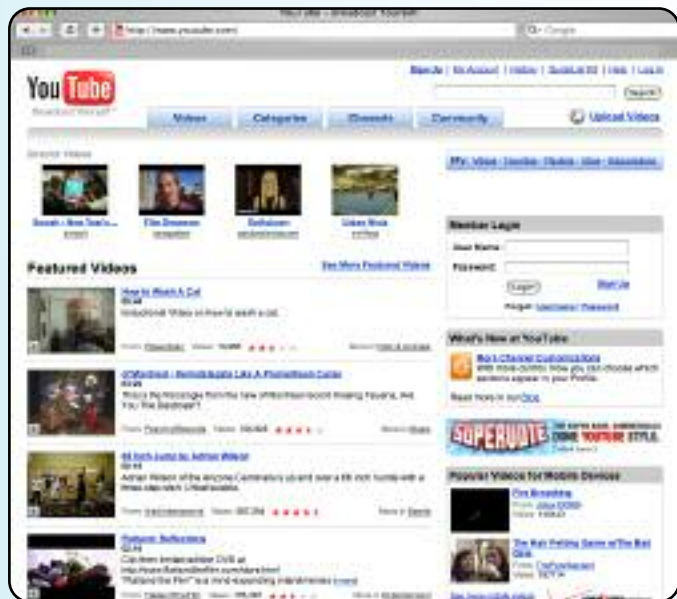
lesson that we all had when we learned to talk: "Don't talk to strangers!" Those million friends aren't actual friends and you will hopefully never meet them, so why does it matter that you have so many and your best friend only has 100? Know what you're doing and have fun. MySpace really is a place for friends.—Courtney Buzzard.

YouTube
<http://www.youtube.com>

YouTube, Inc.
 II 5R 4U

YouTube allows users to upload videos for the world to see. There are a ridiculous number of videos on any subject imaginable. I have used it to watch clips of presidential speeches, a James Brown interview, and an OK GO music video featuring the band members dancing on treadmills. Anyone can watch videos, but only members—accounts are free—can upload their own videos as well as comment and send messages to other users. This Web site has also allowed me to share videos that I have made, ranging from skateboarding videos of my friends to movies that I have submitted for a film contest at the local college.

One of its advantages was displayed when I made a video of my nephew's birthday party. My sister really wanted to show it to her friends. Without **YouTube**, she would have had to drive to each of her friends' homes and show them the movie. Posted on **YouTube**, she simply sends a mass e-mail with a link. The site also has a message service for users. It's a great way to talk with others who are interested in movies. They



can tell what parts they did and did not like. I have received many comments on my movies, both good and not so good, but either way, they have helped me to progress in my filmmaking. I do not know many people who use **YouTube** for social purposes; most simply use the site to share and watch videos. See you on **Youtube.com**.—Zephyr Mann.

WEB SITE REVIEW CODE

INFORMATIONAL

5I Use this site for an A paper.

1I Expect an F.

RECREATIONAL

5R Hours of endless fun.

1R You'll fall asleep at the mouse.

USABILITY

5U Created by an experienced Webmaster.

1U An amateur's page.

GRADE LEVEL INTEREST

M Middle School (defined as grades 6-8).

J Junior High (defined as grades 7-9).

S Senior High (defined as grades 10-12).

A/YA Adult-marketed site recommended for YAs.

KUDOS FOR LIBRARY TEEN SITES

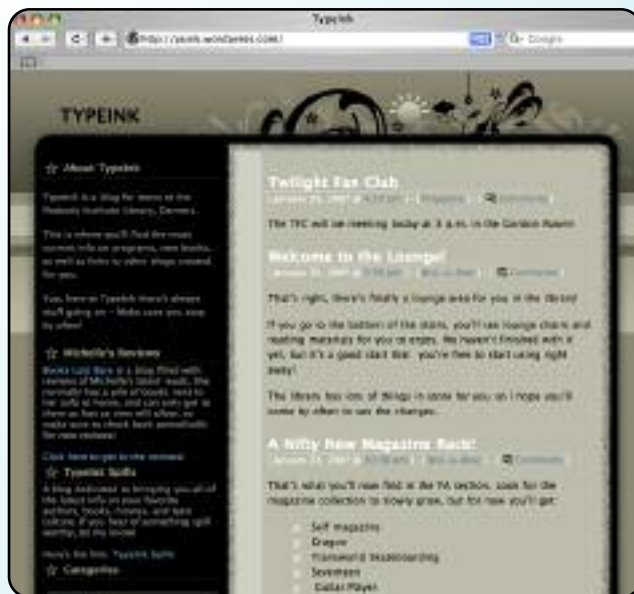
TypeInk
<http://yaink.wordpress.com>

Michelle Deschene-Warren
 Peabody Institute Library, Danvers, Massachusetts

Michelle Deschene-Warren has created a blog for teens that highlights books, programs, and other information. Here teens can find out when the Young Writers Series will meet or what the Manga Group did in December—made "Really Awesome (Manga) Shirts." One of my favorite discoveries was a January entry: "The following titles were ordered today! (Look for them soon!)" It is followed by a list of manga. "TypeInk Spills" highlights recent news and information, whether it's that Scott Westerfeld is planning a fourth book in the *Uglies* series, or great press pictures of *Pirates III* (look for it on May 25th!). By placing the cursor on each of the provided links in the "Blogroll," a small window showing the Web page appears. Teens can leave comments. As further proof that Michelle is interested in her community, teens can even chat with her via the blog. "Talk to Me" lets teens use whatever IM software they have to talk to Michelle as she says, "If I'm online, say hi!" What a great way to be there for your users and get them involved and checking the blog!

[Note on the Kudos section: If you think your library blog, wiki, podcast, or site is worthy of consideration, please e-mail me at rpurdy@crrl.org. The Web Surfers and I will surf

submissions and choose one to showcase for each column.] ■



Rebecca Purdy is the Youth Services Manager at the Headquarters Library of the Central Rappahannock Regional Library system in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The Web Surfers are a collection of teens willing to volunteer some of their time to see their names in print and help young adult librarians find good sites for your Web pages.