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Obituary -- Gerald "Jerry" Curtis

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New Literacies in Developmental ... from page 22

which phase of the information cycle the topic likely falls under.

5. Walk them through important software applications while explaining the limitations of them. Developmental students may access much of their Web-based information through their cellular phone rather than through a computer. In addition to reminding students that books are valuable sources of information, developmental students may need guidance to understand software compatibility with eBooks, as well as features such as bookmarking, search, and subject indexes. These students may also rely on citation generators for their bibliographies. They may not understand that citation generators can create incorrectly formatted citations, so the student should always review the citations in accordance with the current guidelines of the required format of their paper.

Library staff are in a unique position to help students develop digital literacy skills. In addition to being a place of learning, the library can become a place that helps students replace faulty assumptions with a more realistic understanding of information. Students can build connections with library staff that help keep the student in school despite significant barriers to completion, in addition to helping students improve their GPAs and their self-confidence.

Toward a New Understanding of Literacy and the Achievement Gap

The last two decades have been characterized by innovation in information, and while there is some controversy about whether in-

novation and technology always create more inequality, the link between innovation and equity gaps is well-established. The two are interdependent. Literacy has also been the centerpiece of equity for centuries. Lack of literacy stifles creativity, growth, and personal achievement.

Increased access to information has changed the way we interact with the world. Where technical skills such as how to operate equipment or balance the books were the path to success just a short time ago, competence with

information is the expectation today. Reading and writing are still important, but they are not the only aspects of literacy on which educators need to focus. Just as the invention of the printing press created a demand for educated people who could read, comprehend, and apply the written word, the invention of digital media has created a demand for citizens who can analyze, synthesize, and reinvent information to move us toward a better world. Knowledge, after all, is power. 🌱

Endnotes

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for support of some important projects, and EBSCO agreed to partner to help them accomplish their goals. The financial support from EBSCO will be provided via the **Koha Gruppo Italiano** founded by the **American Academy in Rome**, **American University of Rome**, and the **Pontificia Università della Santa Croce**, which will be assisted in this development and integration by key **Koha** contributors **ByWater Solutions**, **Catalyst IT**, and **Cineca**. *Koha-community.org*

Who would have ever believed that **Reed Elsevier** would change its time-honored name to ... **RELX Group plc** as we noted in the **ATG NewsChannel** last week. Reportedly there is a simplified corporate structure. But, not to worry, **Reed Elsevier**, now **RELX**, is still one of Europe's biggest players, reporting full year revenue of £5.77 billion, and an operating profit of £1.74 billion. The *Evening Standard* reported that the "sprawling structure is now combining all assets into a single group entity." www.against-the-grain.com/

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Obituary — Gerald "Jerry" Curtis

by **N. Bernard "Buzzy" Basch** (Concord, NH; Phone: 603-225-5109)
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On January 13, 2015, **Gerald "Jerry" Curtis** died peacefully surrounded by his family, after a prolonged illness. To his many friends and admirers in the library and publishing communities, he was far from "pedestrian," the word he inexplicably used if pressed to describe himself.

Jerry's powerful and towering physical presence kept in trim by daily gym sessions (no matter how late conference sessions ran the night before), the depth and insightfulness of his knowledge of publishing and business (I have yet to meet anyone who is his equal in the hazards and opportunities of foreign exchange), and his passionate commitment to customers and colleagues made it clear that there was nothing "pedestrian" about him.

At **Kluwer**, **Faxon**, and **Springer** and in libraries throughout North America, **Jerry** attracted many friends and admirers with his salty words of profession wisdom and his sympathetic ear in times of stress or trouble.

Jerry's profession life was deeply grounded in his religious faith and his love and pride in his family — his wife **Mary**, daughter **Mary**, and sons **Gerald** and **Patrick**. They were never far from his thoughts or conversation. 🌱

