

## **Services Provided to Schools and Teachers**

### Children's Lending Service

Kerry Library children's services are directed mainly through the network of 9 branch libraries. Junior Library members are entitled to borrow up to 6 items free of charge for a maximum 3 week period.

### Class Visits

Class visits to branch libraries are always welcome. Visits can be arranged by contacting the local branch librarian. Schools are encouraged to use the library for projects and to display their work in the library for the community to appreciate. The library provides a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books that cover many subject areas. As well as these books, a reference section including encyclopaedias is available and computers for project work and homework. During class visits the librarian on duty can give the group a guided tour of the library, showing how best to make use of the various resources available and how to become a library member. An opportunity will also be available to ask questions and select books.

### Local Studies and Archives

The Local Studies and Archives Department of Kerry Library welcomes class visits from both primary and secondary schools. This section is located in the Library Headquarters in Tralee. Visits can be arranged by contacting the department.

### Materials available for Selection

Kerry Library provides a wide range of reading material and multi-media material for teachers and their classes. The collection includes general fiction titles, classic books for children and popular fiction, interactive books, graphic novels, audio-material, CD-ROMs and a multi-cultural collection. A collection of children's literacy books for Learning Support teachers and pupils is also available.

### Homework Clubs

All Kerry libraries are urban based and therefore provide lending facilities and seating spaces for afterschool library usage.



## Events for Schools

Each branch library holds an annual programme of events to which teachers and their pupils are invited to attend and participate in - Seachtain Na Gaeilge, Children's Book Festival, National Heritage Week, Science Week and World Book Day. Included in these events are creative workshops, author visits, competitions and guest speakers. Storytelling for young children takes place in branch libraries on Saturday mornings. Contact your local library for further information.

## Online Resources

The Ask about Ireland website is a wonderful resource for both teachers and children. It has a special Learning Zone for primary school children and second level students. It is an invaluable research tool for homework and projects. It can be accessed directly at [www.askaboutireland.ie](http://www.askaboutireland.ie) or through the library website at [www.kerrylibrary.ie](http://www.kerrylibrary.ie)

Also the Library Edition of the Online Britannica is available through the library website, including both the Junior and Student versions.

**Britannica Junior** For ages 5 - 11



**Britannica Student** For ages 12 - 18



**Encyclopedia Britannica** For ages 18+



## Lifesteps project

Lifesteps is an initiative of Irish public libraries and is funded by the Information Society Fund, through the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The Life steps project consists of 17 guides, which explain how to achieve various life steps using the Internet. Copies available free of charge at all branches of Kerry County Library. These guides are also available on the project website [www.lifesteps.ie](http://www.lifesteps.ie)

## Library Online

There is a dedicated children's Internet at some branch libraries. Children can use the Library Catalogue to search for books and also avail of the book renewal facility.

## Other Links

Our website has direct links to the following websites:

<b>Encyclopaedia Britannica</b>	<a href="http://www.britannica.co.uk">www.britannica.co.uk</a>
<b>Encarta</b>	<a href="http://www.encarta.msn.com">www.encarta.msn.com</a>
<b>Ireland for Kids</b>	<a href="http://www.irelandforkids.ie">www.irelandforkids.ie</a>
<b>Irish Education Portal</b>	<a href="http://www.scoilnet.ie">www.scoilnet.ie</a>

## Reading Challenges/Promotions

Summer reading promotions take place throughout the libraries during the months of July and August. Information is available in all branch libraries and primary schools are also notified in advance. These promotions encourage children to maintain or develop good reading habits while enjoying their holidays

### Summer Reading Promotion for Children 2009- Quest Seekers!!!

During July and August Kerry Libraries will be hosting a summer reading promotion for children. Each participant is asked to embark on a quest to find the “Golden Book”. Each child will receive a special membership to the Quest Seekers’ Club. A range of books will be made available in each branch to help the quest seekers in their task. There are six stickers to be collected and used along with the Quest Seekers Map. Invitations to partake in the reading challenge will be sent to all primary schools and available in all branch libraries.

In September, each Quest Seeker will be asked to complete a Book review on their favourite read (The Golden Book!)

During CBF in October each child will receive a Certificate of Merit and prizes as a reward for their participation.

- For further details just contact your local library.

## Block Loan

A new pilot project is proposed for Listowel Library. Teachers will be entitled to borrow up to 30 items for a 1 month period. For further details contact the library.

