

Facilitation Guide: International Children's Digital Library

This resource outlines a presentation that can be given to caregivers of bilingual students. The presentation discusses the International Children's Digital Library, an online resource that features free digital books in a variety of languages. In this presentation, the facilitator will walk participants through accessing the website and utilizing the resource. The guide also includes instructions for a supplemental activity, as well as a session handout that participants can use to reflect on the presentation and practice using the resource at home.

Additional Resource

For more information, see our blog post ["Facilitation Guides for Working with EL Families"](#) by Sandy A. Schmitz, Ph.D.

International Children's Digital Library

A Facilitation Guide for Working with English-Learning Families

Resource Overview

Resource: [International Children's Digital Library](#)

Author/Sponsor: International Children's Digital Library

Target Skill(s)/Topic: A collection of digital books available in multiple languages

Iowa Early Literacy Standard (s): Area 6: Communication, Language, and Literacy – Early Reading Experiences ([6.2.PS](#))

Iowa Core Standard(s): [Reading Standards for Literature \(K-5\)](#)

English Language Proficiency Standard(s): [Standard 1](#)

Facilitator Preparation

Prior to the training session, the facilitator will:

- Familiarize themselves with the website.
- Review the agenda and activities within the guide.
- Have information available for the participants regarding computer access in your community (i.e., public library, school buildings, churches, etc.)

Learner Objectives

During the session, participants will learn:

- How to navigate the featured website so that they can access the information easily and use it independently.
- How to find digital books at different levels and of different types in the language of their choice.

Materials Needed

- Computer for facilitator with media projector
- Session handouts (one for each participant)
- Computers or tablets for participants to use

Suggested Agenda

(Intended for an approximately 30-minute session)

Introduce the Topic *(2 minutes)*

Greet the participants and review the learner objectives for the session. Then, distribute the handout and explain how it will be used during the session. Emphasize the following points:

- Having many different types of books available to children is very important. This website provides digital books—books available on the computer—in 20 different languages and at many different reading levels.

Navigate the Website *(10 minutes)*

The facilitator will demonstrate important features of the website:

- Explain to the participants that you will be demonstrating how to search for books on this website.
- Explain that there are many features to this website, but for our purposes during this session, we will be exploring the Simple Search feature to find books. Show them the ? icon in the top left corner of the screen. If they want to explore other features of this website, they can click on that icon which will lead to detailed instructions.
- Demonstrate the following actions:
 - Select an age range for books – Click on the icons on the left side of the page.
 - Select a colored circle at the top of the screen if you have a color preference for book covers.
 - Select a language – Click on the drop-down menu on the left side of the box in the center of the screen. Show Any Language (drop down menu) Books.
 - Select a book length – Click on the one of the icons that are underneath the box. (“Short books”, “Medium books” and “Long books”)
 - Select type of book – Click on the icons that are on the left side, right side or underneath the box in the center of the screen. (“Kid Characters”, “Real Animal Characters”, “Imaginary Creature Characters”, “Picture Books”, “Chapter Books”, “Fairy Tales and Folk Tales”, “Make Believe Books” and “True Books”)
 - Select a book to open. Show how to “turn” the pages by clicking on each page.
 - Demonstrate how to enlarge the text by hovering over the text and clicking on it.
 - Demonstrate how to return to the Simple Search screen by clicking on “Simple Search” in the menu bar on the top left side of the screen.
- Demonstrate how to clear their search by clicking on the Trash can in the upper right corner of the box in the center of the screen.

- Do a practice search using the following criteria:
 - Age Range: Six to Nine
 - Language: Spanish
 - Book Length: Medium
 - Type of book: Real Animal Characters
- Show the participants how to bookmark the website so that they can return to it easily on their home computers at a later time.

Present the Content (10 minutes)

Allow participants to explore the website and discuss the content.

- Have participants go through the book selection process to find a book that would be appropriate for their child to read, or one that they would like to read to their child.
- Have participants practice using the features of the books—turning pages, enlarging text.
- Invite the participants to share the book they have selected with a partner.

Reflection/Follow-up (5 minutes)

- Discuss as a group, how they will use this website at home. Have them record what they will do with their child on the Session Handout. Possible suggestions include:
 - *Let your child help choose a book by asking them to pick the type or the length of book.*
 - *Substitute reading a digital book for a regular book a couple of times a week.*
 - *Read the digital book on an iPad or other tablet.*
- Talk briefly with participants about reflecting on using digital books with their child at home. Suggest they ask themselves these questions after they have had the opportunity to use a digital book with their child:
 - *Did my child enjoy reading the digital book?*
 - *Was I able to make this fit in to our daily routine?*
 - *What did my child learn from doing this activity with me?*
 - *If your child didn't enjoy the book that was chosen, search out another book that might be more appealing to them.*

Concluding the Session (3 minutes)

- Check with participants to see if there are any questions.
- Thank them for their participation in the session.
- Make sure that they have the information regarding access to computers or tablets in your community.

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Session Handout

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Notes

Things to remember when using the website:

Key Ideas from the resource:

Follow-Up Activity

Try using this resource with your child(ren) at home. Then, reflect on how it went.

- How did you use this website at home?
- Did your child enjoy reading a digital book?
- Were you able to fit this activity into your daily routine?
- What did your child learn from this activity?