

Kidsmart – Enabling young people to cope with the web

Anne Gannon, Dublin City Public Libraries

Andreas Teubler, HdM Stuttgart BIB 06/09



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- ▶ Irish media focus on cyber bullying and other risks in teenage internet usage
- ▶ Children and young people are threatened and attacked via social networking sites
 - Hateful messages
 - ID theft
 - Harassment

Fears

- ▶ Children are publishing content in an unsafe way (addresses, photos)
- ▶ They give away their login data → ID theft
- ▶ Their self esteem and/or reputation might be damaged
- ▶ Supervision at all times is difficult

Reactions

- ▶ Parents blame schools and technology itself
- ▶ Schools introduce zero tolerance policy towards the matter
- ▶ Local authorities block access to sites

Facts:

Anchor WATCH_YOUR_SPACE Survey 2006

- ▶ 82,5% have logged on
 - only about 20% restrict access to profiles
 - 75% contact strangers
 - 52% of have experienced online bullying

Facts:

Webwise 2008 Survey (I)

- ▶ Internet users get younger (47% are 7–9 when they first go online)
- ▶ 93% said their parents do not supervise their online activity
- ▶ Disclosure of personal details
 - 35% name
 - 32% e-mail address
 - 32% photos

Facts:

Webwise 2008 Survey (II)

- ▶ 27% were asked for contact information by strangers
- ▶ 5% have given out information in this situation
- ▶ 18% have posted hateful material on the web
- ▶ 18% said they had been bullied within the last 6 months
- ▶ more than 25% have been sexually harassed
- ▶ 18% were asked to meet with someone they didn't know within the last 6 months
- ▶ 23% met someone they didn't know before – but only 7% went alone
- ▶ 8% of those were attacked verbally or physically

Facts:

Webwise 2008 Survey (III)

- ▶ only 28% would tell their parents
- ▶ 59% said their mother was their main source for information on internet safety

Why is this libraries' business?

- ▶ Many parents lack the information skills to assist their children in learning to use the internet
- ▶ Most of the surveyed children said they would prefer another source of information over their parents
- ▶ Schools and libraries team up to educate children on how to use the web for study purpose
- ▶ Recreational use outweighs study use
- ▶ Schools cannot be left alone enforcing internet safety
- ▶ **Librarians know best.**

The Kidsmart Project – Idea

- ▶ Workshop
- ▶ Small group of children or young people
- ▶ Skills on demand
- ▶ Teaching services they really use
- ▶ In a relaxed atmosphere
- ▶ Getting parents involved
- ▶ Finding out more in the process

The Kidsmart Project – Outline

- ▶ 2 modular courses derived from Websmart programme: Kidsmart & Teensmart
- ▶ Age specific modules
- ▶ Taylor-made from different sources of material and information

The Kidsmart Project – Topics

- ▶ Basic content retrieval
- ▶ Social networking
- ▶ Cyber bullying

Trial course – Concept

- ▶ Cooperating with Ballybough Youth Centre
- ▶ As a part of their summer programme in July 2008
- ▶ Using the DCPL Learning Bus
- ▶ Maximum of 10 children (10–14) with 2 tutors and one city worker
- ▶ Six modules of 2 hours each
- ▶ Getting the parents informed and/or involved

Trial course – Session outline

- ▶ Telling each other: Brainstorming, visualisation on flipchart, watching short films, collecting existing knowledge ; PCs stay off
- ▶ Activity: search engines, quizzes, games etc.
- ▶ Filling in module sheets
- ▶ Free activity

Trial course – Outcome

- ▶ Children enjoyed the course and asked for more
- ▶ City workers were impressed with the children's commitment and learning outcome
- ▶ Some topics were reinforced, some newly introduced
- ▶ Tutors gained valuable insight in children's way of using the web

Trial course – Outcome

- ▶ Libraries reacting to media outcry in a creative way are appreciated partners of local authorities – which are in charge of our humble funding!

Recommendations

- ▶ Cooperation with city council facilities is valuable lobbying for the library and makes life easier
- ▶ Getting parents involved can be difficult – encourage children to approach their parents
- ▶ Modules proved to be flexible enough for addressing individual groups' needs and interests
- ▶ Free activity time is not lost – it is giving single person activities a social component

Prospects

- ▶ Giving the material a revision
- ▶ From project to programme
- ▶ Possibilities:
 - Devising new materials for parents and carers
 - Train-the-trainer modules for partner institutions
 - ...



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Resources

- ▶ <http://www.webwise.ie>
- ▶ <http://www.watchyourspace.ie>
- ▶ <http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

Auf Deutsch:

- ▶ <http://www.klicksafe.de>

(LMK Rheinland-Pfalz & LfM Nordrhein-Westfalen), auch auf Türkisch verfügbar