

Library Catalogue

Approach: One to one

Level: Year 4 and year 8

Resources: Macintosh powerbook 5300cs laptop computer with simplified library catalogue software containing a school library catalogue of about 1,000 volumes; card listing questions to be answered; cue card for using the software.

Questions/instructions

% responses
year 4 year 8

Start up the computer so that the home page is showing on the screen.

In this activity you are going to use a computer catalogue to find information about the books in a library. Here is a card that you can use to help you use the computer if you get stuck.

Show computer cue card to student.

Once the library catalogue is on the screen, I will tell you what you need to find. You can tell me your answers and I will write them down. Once you have put your number in, the computer programme times itself for 8 minutes, so let's see how many you can do in that time. Please enter your student number on the computer now and open the library catalogue.

Have student log in their student number and select library catalogue. Teacher can assist with this if required. Once the programme has started, the student CANNOT be assisted other than with general prompts such as

Prompt: You can read the screen and the computer cue card to help you.

1. Jim heard that the book called **Hatchet** was a good one.

See if you can find the author's name.

Gary Paulsen ✓

40

87

2. How many books in the library are written by **Patricia Grace**?

3 ✓

30

82

3. Kate is going to do a project on **soccer**.

She needs to read a fiction book about soccer and a non-fiction book.

Find the names of one fiction and one non-fiction book.

fiction book found

13

64

non-fiction book found

18

74

4. Someone wants a picture book about **food** written by a New Zealand author.

Find the name of one of these books listed in the catalogue.

correct book found

6

33

number correct: 4 or 5

11

61

2 or 3

14

25

0 or 1

75

14

Commentary

The year 8 students were quite successful, except for the last question for which the time limit and the task difficulty may have been limiting factors. The year 4 students had much less success, but still enjoyed the task.

Students' cue card

Library catalogue You do not use the mouse for this.

Type in numbers, letters or words then press return.

Library Search

Main Menu Choose how you want to search. Type 1, 2, or 3, then press return

1. Author
2. Title
3. Subject

Type here
then press return

Type quit to go back to HOME page

Type here
press returnRemember to
check your typing

Author Enter the name of the Author, then press Return.

Type here
then press return

B = Back SO = Start Over Press esc to Quit
Press return

Type here
press returnLook here for all the
commands you can
type.

Type B to go back to an earlier screen
Type SO (start over) to go back to the beginning screen.
Press the `esc` key to quit your search

The simplified computer catalogue contained the 6 screens shown here. All manipulation had to be done by typing commands and pressing return. It was designed for NEMP in Hypercard®.

This catalogue is simpler than conventional school computer catalogues in the following ways:

- instructions were repeated at the place where the students type, not just in the box at the bottom of the screen;
- the instructions language was simplified: "type here" instead of "enter here" or "type at the insertion point" for instance
- a maximum of 5 instructions were given in the box at the bottom
- the instruction "press return" was repeated where the student typed

Author Enter the name of the Author, then press Return.

Type here
then press return

B = Back SO = Start Over Press esc to Quit
Press return

Subject Enter a subject below, then press Return.

Type here
then press return

B = Back SO = Start Over Press esc to Quit
Press return

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Author	Title
1 Cowley, Joy	Chicken Dinners
2 Cowley, Joy	Day of the Rain
3 Cowley, Joy	Write on! Joy Cowley's Guide For Young Authors.
4 Cowley, Joy	Beyond the River
5 Cowley, Joy	Bow Down Shadrach
6 Cowley, Joy	Happy Birthday Mrs Feloniust
7 Cowley, Joy	Silent One
8 Cowley, Joy	Captain Feloniust
9 Cowley, Joy	Duck in the Gun
10 Cowley, Joy	Terrible Taniwha of Timberditch

Instructions Number of items found: 13
To see more about a book, type its number, then press Return.

Type here
then press return

SO = Start Over B = Go Back P = Previous N = Next esc = Quit
Press return