School Libraries in Action

Operating RIBIT

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**RIB-IT Folders**

The RIB-IT folders are kept by the classroom teacher or TL/L in the class RIB-IT box. These boxes are available in each class/library for students to access as often as required. Most students use their folders two or three times a week – for a visit to the library, to update their records, to check what certificate they’re owed.

Each time a student borrows a book, they note the date they began reading it. Each time they return a book, they note the date they finished it AND colour over the title with the appropriate colour to indicate how they rated it (Great, OK, Yuk!). This is useful information for the TL/L and teachers and will assist in the development of a reading profile for the school/library. You can also use stars, smiley faces, ticks, stickers to rate the titles.

Student can see at a glance which titles they have read and their assessments. If many titles have been coloured Yuk!, a less demanding title may be suggested. If all easy books are assessed as Great or OK, perhaps it’s time to promote something more challenging. Most students need individual guidance. This system will help students become discriminating readers, while allowing students, teachers and the TL/L to see a student’s RIB-IT overall progress.

Eventually most students become more discriminatory in their selection and independent of the reading guide recommendations. Most of their reading will be directed by the peer group’s evaluations, rather than by the reading lists. The student’s reading record is kept in their RIB-IT folder. Spare copies may be collected from the library when the page has been filled.

All this information is kept in the RIB-IT folder. It is a satisfying achievement for most students when they take this folder home each month and discuss their progress with their parents.

The RIB-IT folders are also used to store activity sheets and other related work.