

Highly recommended:

“Spark your students’ interests as they find their own current events articles.”

“High-interest articles written for children are added daily,” Holzweiss (2014).

“Each resource has associated vocabulary, standards alignment, comprehension questions, and a critical thinking challenge.” (Mersand, 2014).

Selected to appear on the site ALSC exceptional websites which “features links to websites of interest to children 14 years of age and younger.” (Schulte-Cooper, ed., 2010).

Award winning:



Readers choice award honorable mention 2012-2013.



Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) Great Websites for Kids 2016 (since 2010)

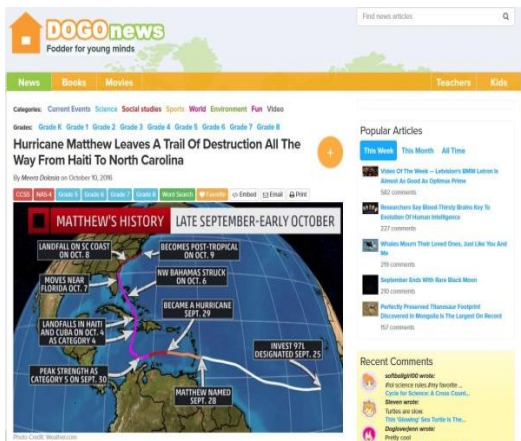
Affiliated site:

DOGObooks partners with ALA’s Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) for third year to review young adult literature (2016)



DOGOnews:

fodder for young minds



Free (or upgrade for \$1.00 per student)
Online availability
(articles may be printed and distributed for offline use)
Published by DOGO Media, Inc.
From 2010-present

DOGOnews will provide students with age and reading-level appropriate informational reading, with a global perspective, which is timely, valid, objective, and well-received by readers, educators and librarians.

Web address: dogonews.com
Interactive map: dogonews.com/earth
Dogo means “young or small” in Swahili.
The site launched in 2010 (Reid, 2013)

Selection Criteria:

Authority. Information about article selection and writer qualifications is not made clear on the website, however the company DOGO Media has produced a much needed news website that is both award winning and highly recommended by educators and librarians. A TED talk provides a character reference for the CEO, Meera Dolasia, and an explanation of the need for online news geared toward the young reader (Dolasia, 2016).

Safety. The site provides a safe place for students grades k through 8 to post comments; students sign in through their teacher’s classroom and use a nickname Crenna (2007?).

Appropriate Content and Treatment. News articles consider interest and reading level of elementary and middle school students and include appropriate graphics to support text. Videos provide the reluctant reader or visually impaired reader with audio content.

Scope. DOGOnews is a valuable resource in the library or the classroom because “[it] offers news from a younger point-of-view” (the Source for Learning, Inc., 2016).

Authenticity. Articles are current and the writing is objective. Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) has used DOGOnews on its social studies page since 2010. Its editors continually “ensure currency and re-evaluate sites when necessary” (Schulte-Cooper, 2010).

Arrangement. Website is easy to use. Student needs to login to reach some educational activities and to make comments. Reading material can't be filtered by reading level and category, so some browsing is expected; a search tool provides keyword searching.

Instructional design. Links to general common core and content standards are present. Key vocabulary is linked to an integrated dictionary. A critical thinking question and comprehension level questions are available at the end of the article.

Special features include an interactive map which is available from

DOGOnews.com/earth along with an interactive vocabulary game at the end of each article.

Reputation. The DOGO Media Group also provides a site called DOGObooks which is accessible from the ALSC site and is participating with the American Library Association (ALA) to review young adult books in 2016 (Lam, 2016)

DOGOnews encourages students to learn current events and meet expectations for 21st century learners. For example: International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) wants students will be able to build knowledge by actively exploring real-world issues and problems (3d) ... and American Association of School Librarians (AASL) standards wants students will be able to read, view and listen for information (1.1.6) ... and use the writing process [and] media and visual literacy ... to create products (2.1.6).

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- The Source for Learning, Inc. (2016). DOGOnews – Meera Dolasia. *TeachersFirst* Retrieved from <http://www.teachersfirst.com/single.cfm?id=12946>

c2016 Kate Hartig

Special to the Library Media Specialist
Teacher: ask students to select and read an article to summarize (Gray, 2016) and create a citation (Davis, 2016);
Collaborator: see general standard activities above each article; *Information Specialist:* Demonstrate the search tool and subject categories to determine best choice for interest or research; *Library Administrator:* Market and add this resource to the library webpage and share with teachers, students, administration, and parents.

The news site contains feature articles under categories: Current events, science, social studies, sports, world, environment, fun, and video. Grade level content and reading level range from kindergarten to grade 8. The site provides a search tool. Within the article, are activities related to Common core standards and individual content standards. By selecting a grade level, the teacher or student will find other articles or videos that may be on content and reading level. News articles are written by free lance writers who may have some expertise on the topic, but emphasis is on quality writing, accuracy, and details. Media CEO Dolasia is interested in broadening the range of children's experiences and providing a place where they may participate by posting comments. An email was sent to the editors of the site to determine criteria for writers and choice of news articles. The site provides a safe place for students to post; they must sign in from a teacher's "classroom." This may be a change from earlier preventions. Crenna (2007?) reports about student's commenting online that "parents need not worry about safety, as kids are encouraged to use a nickname and a parent's email if they're under 13." This web 2.0 experience allows students and their teachers to meet ISTE standards. Teachers in collaboration with the library media specialist could use the news articles to support the units they were teaching to meet individual content standards. As teacher, the SLMS could use a writing strategy, the GIST, to read news, summarize

its text, and practice citation building skills. Media CEO Dolasia described in her TED talk (2015, April 5) that there was no news online which was written for children, though there were monthly news magazines so she began a two page publication that she circulated to her own child's teachers, parents and friends. The project grew. Dolasia's introducer from the State College Campus where she presented describes Dolasia who speaks four languages and was educated in Kenya, India, and the United States: "She really believes in a global world and trying to educate her children on these things was surprisingly difficult. She leveraged her abilities in finance and her love of storytelling to create a media company that tells stories to children and also allows those children to share their own stories." Her communication has broadened to books DOGObooks and movies DOGOMovies. YALSA partners with DOGObooks for the third year in a row for 2015 Teens' top ten voting. In an early review Crenna (2007?) also commented that "Article topics demonstrate respect for and understanding of kids' perspectives: We're talking fun, sophisticated, and interesting articles." Articles are timely, deal objectively with global and local stories and offers the unique perspective that it is geared toward the younger news reader. Not clear from the site however is who makes final decisions on stories. Stories have general reference information and photo credits. It is not described on the website what writers consult with experts at any time. News articles in

newspapers are generally written by non experts who have an understanding of the content and seek out more information through interviews; those interviewed are quoted and mentioned in the article. (checked: Wales mourn their loved one, just like you and me by Maitreyi Mantha October 4, 2015 retrieved from <http://www.dogonews.com/2016/10/5/whales-mourn-their-loved-ones-just-like-you-and-me>) mentioned are scientists not necessarily quotes but summary and reference to other materials or books. And references are given ... nobelprize.org and meera Dolasia, Oct. 8 2016, Chemistry Nobel prize winners used molecules to build tiny machines and cars. *DOGOnews*. <http://www.dogonews.com/2016/10/8/chemistry-nobel-prize-winners-used-molecules-to-build-tiny-machines-and-cars>. Treatment: A tour of the articles shows a variety of stories related to animals and people from all over the world. The visuals are all credited and related to the story to enhance young readers' comprehension. Arrangement is simple with tabs to select for reading level or for content, but not necessarily both. There are examples of how the material encourages problem solving (see the end questions). After using for a number of months I would have students evaluate how they enjoyed and used the resource. Holzweiss (2014) says that there is a teacher tool for "tracking student progress" The interactive map (ASLC, 2010) is located at dogonews.com/earth.

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TeachersFirst. (2016). DOGOnews – Meera Dolasia. Retrieved from <http://www.teachersfirst.com/single.cfm?id=12946>

In an introduction to Meera Dolasia, who initiated the media site, the goal is: speaks 4 languages including Swahili, Hindi, and English.

<http://www.dogonews.com/pages/about-dogonews> and ted talk

[YALSA](#) partners with DOGObooks for the third year in a row for 2015 Teens' Top Ten Voting

Readers' choice award honorable mention in 2012-2013 for school media.

Dogo news (www.dogonews.com) provides current events, sports, entertainment, and nonfiction articles at appropriate reading levels for students in grades K-8. Each resource has associated vocabulary, standards alignment, comprehension questions, and a critical thinking challenge. DoGo News provides articles, activities, and lesson plans, and gives users the ability to track student progress. Suggested activities based on Common Core State Standards are also provided with the articles.

I have to admit it; the articles that can be found on DO

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GOnews.com have me hooked. Spark your students' interests as they find their own current events articles about science, entertainment, social studies, sports, technol
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ogy, and global events. High-interest articles written for children are added daily to introduce them to topics like an 80-year-old man who is scaling Mount Everest for the third time, flexible smartphones, the Perseid meteor showers, and

the new \$100 bill. Teachers can also establish online class

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rooms where they can create lesson plans using news articles, reading lists of recommended books, lists of favorite web

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sites, and an online class calendar. You can sign up for your free classroom today

(<http://www.dogonews.com/teachers>).

HOLZWEISS, K. A. (2014). COMMON CORE CORNER. *School Library Monthly*, 30(5), 50.

What parents need to know: Dogonews opens an enticing window onto world events and thoughtful learning connections. Kids can browse or search for short, punchy articles full of photos and other goodies, selecting grade level or categories such as Science, Sports, Green, or Amazing. Social-media iDogo accounts screen out those under 13 via self-report but give older kids the ability to comment on stories, select favorites, follow others, and be followed. Parents need not worry about safety, as kids are encouraged to use a nickname and a parent's email if they're under 13.

Is it any good? Blog-style Dogonews began churning out challenging and insightful articles in 2007. Article topics demonstrate respect for and understanding of kids' perspectives: We're talking fun, sophisticated, and interesting articles --

including research on the five-second rule or a Rubik's cube champion -- but they also cover more serious, expansive topics. Parents and teachers will really dig the plentiful learning tools, such as one-click vocabulary definitions, age-appropriate comprehension questions, critical-thinking challenges, and relevant academic standards.

It can be hard to discern which reviews and articles are written by kids; bylines that include "kid contributor" or some similar title might help. Although materials are categorized from grade K through 8, younger kids will need an adult to read the material and capitalize on learning resources. The Maps tab houses a world tour of geo-located one-paragraph articles that feels really cool at first but can't be paused -- a definite source of frustration for the majority of readers who will not be able to read all the text before the tour shoves off again for another spot on the planet.

Crenna, L. (2007?). Dogo news [Review]. *Common Sense Media*. Retrieved from <https://www.common sense media.org/website-reviews/dogo-news>

Laura Schulte-Cooper

CHICAGO -- The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), has added recommended Web sites to Great Web Sites for Kids (www.ala.org/greatsites), its

online resource containing hundreds of links to outstanding Web sites for children.

Great Web Sites for Kids (GWS) features links to websites of interest to children 14 years of age and younger, organized into diverse subject headings, from astronomy and space to zoos and aquariums, from games and entertainment to geography and maps. There is also a special section with sites of interest to parents, caregivers and teachers.

Members of the ALSC Great Web Sites for Kids Committee review and evaluate potential sites for inclusion and vote on the sites to be included. They also regularly check the entire site to ensure currency and re-evaluate sites when necessary.

American Library Association. (2010). ALSC announces exceptional websites for children. Retrieved from <http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2010/06/alsc-announces-exceptional-websites-children>

DOGO News has short format articles for kids on current events, science, sports and more plus lots of pictures, videos and an interactive map!

Launched in 2011 as part of an online network of sites offering vetted content for kids and their teachers, DogoBooks is an online community that allows children aged 9 to 13 to write reviews of forthcoming books. DogoBooks is part of the Dogo Media

network that also includes DogoNews—which offers news, current events, and Common Core content for kids and classroom work—and DogoMovies, where kids can rate and review movies.

DogoNews was the first site launched by Dogo Media founder, CEO, publisher, and editor Meera Dolasia in 2010; she was soon joined in the venture by her husband, Rupen Dolasia, who is Dogo's v-p, business development, and a former venture capital investor. The word Dogo means “small” in Swahili. In an interview at the *PW* offices, Rupen Dolasia said that after the launch of DogoNews, the company began looking for “other ways to engage kids.” He noted, “Kids want to express themselves.” So the couple decided to “let them opine” about books and launched DogoBooks. With “kids talking to kids,” Dolasia said, “it just took off and had a life of its own.”

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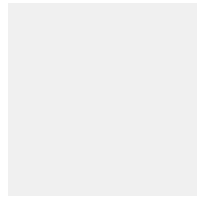


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The Dogo Media Web sites attract more than 500,000 unique visitors each month, including more than 18,000 educators, Dolasia said. Many of these educators find the site through a growing list of partnerships with teacher and administrator organizations and school resource sites. DogoBooks offers an online community where kids can discover, review, and talk about the books that interest them. The DogoBooks site now has more than 28,000 book reviews, written by kids and posted since the site’s launch. The site is a magnet for kids looking “for reviews and other related cool books,” Dolasia said.

DogoBooks generates revenue as an Amazon affiliate, and site visitors can buy physical books (no e-books yet) through Amazon.com. The site also works with publishers to create sponsored content (including contests to receive free advance reader’s copies of forthcoming titles) for both fiction and nonfiction. “We offer programs that range from banner campaigns, sponsored posts, and giveaways to new titles and writing contests,” said Ed Meagher, v-p of sales. The company also works with publishers to create branded book clubs. Meagher said so far DogoBooks has worked with 12 publishers – among them Houghton

Mifflin Harcourt; Little, Brown; Penguin; Macmillan; Papercutz; Amazon Publishing; and Scholastic – on 24 marketing campaigns.

Publishers weekly