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Their Reading Futures: newly designed website

New opportunities to develop essential library staff skills

The Reading Agency is delighted to announce the launch of the latest website version of Their Reading Futures (TRF), which is at www.theirreadingfutures.org.uk. TRF is the online resource which provides training, information and news for all library staff, inspiring and supporting their reading work with children, young people, families and schools.

This new-look TRF website offers significantly improved usability, and a greatly improved search facility. It also allows site visitors to submit their own content for inclusion, and includes a TRF Coffee Break Discussion area for sharing ideas and experiences relating to all areas of users' work in libraries with young readers.

TRF online content is now arranged in two main sections:

- A Best Practice Centre which hosts a number of microsites for reading projects and activities, including Story Times, Reading Groups, and major library reading programmes like the Summer Reading Challenge, Chatterbooks, Fulfilling their Potential and HeadSpace.
- An e-Learning Centre with key learning materials and management tools arranged in themes: National Vision; Planning and Evaluation; Getting Your Message Across; and Core Skills. The TRF e-Learning Centre also offers:
 - Learning Package 1 for frontline library staff: a pathway through the TRF website, selecting content especially useful for induction and refresher training
 - Manager's Package: a pathway focusing on key management tools & strategies
 - TRF: The Training Programme Handbook: a model training programme and resources for running this TRF programme with all front line staff across a whole library service.

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All the resources on the TRF website can be used in library service training programmes, for individual skills development, and for quick reference to get immediate information and guidance.

"TRF has played an important part in our staff development programme since its inception. This new, accessible and inspiring version of the website has been launched at exactly the right time for us. As we move forward with our new staffing structure we are excited by the potential it offers us, not just to support, but also to enthuse our new teams in this key area of library work," says Sue Jones, Head of Young People, Schools & Equalities, Hertfordshire Libraries. ***"The National Year of Reading offers us all opportunities to extend the range of partners we work with, and TRF will be invaluable in helping staff to develop confidence in brokering new relationships and developing new audiences as the year progresses. In Hertfordshire we are building the new TRF into the training package for our team of volunteers who support the Summer Reading Challenge and it has huge potential for supporting the Year of Reading's national volunteering initiative in the autumn."***

The Reading Agency has produced this updated TRF website in conjunction with the web technology and new media company Futurate, who also designed the previous TRF site and whose work combines high-impact content and ease of use.

"The new TRF site supports key library reading programmes for children and young people, providing invaluable guidance for practical delivery as well as for planning and evaluation. The new routes into the material will help all staff who work with children, young people and families make use of this powerful management and training resource," says Liz Dubber, Director of Programmes, The Reading Agency.

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Notes to editors:

- Founded in 2002, The Reading Agency is an independent charity and reading development agency. It aims to get more reading to more people and is passionate about everyone having an equal chance to become a reader. For more general information, please visit: www.readingagency.org.uk.
- TRF is a Framework for the Future Workforce Development programme. It is delivered through the partnership of The Reading Agency with the Association of Senior Children's and Education Librarians (ASCEL), the Society of Chief Librarians

(SCL), the CILIP Youth Libraries Group (YLG), the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), the Chartered Institute of Librarians and Information Professionals (CILIP), and the Arts Council.

- The Summer Reading Challenge reaches 650,000 children a year. Run annually by The Reading Agency with the UK library network, it inspires children to read three million books over the summer holidays. Research shows it improves their reading range, confidence and enjoyment, with potentially life-changing results. Children read up to six books of their choice during the school summer holidays, through their local library. They are given a pack and a set of incentives to collect as they read during the summer – with a medal for those that complete the Challenge. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.readingagency.org.uk/children/summer-reading-challenge/>

It's time to stop reading. It's time to get someone else to start.