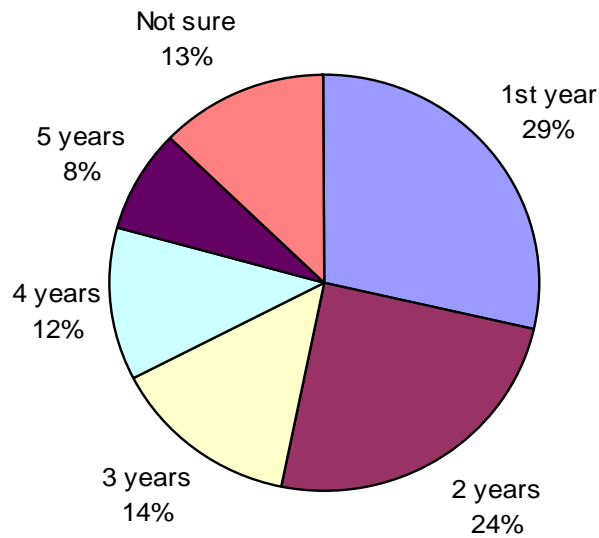


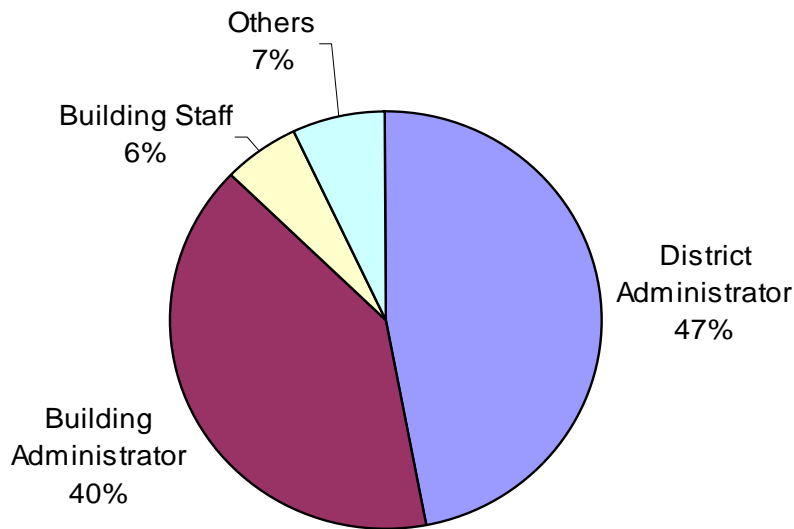
Summary of DLC Member Survey Results

Background: The DLC sent a brief survey to approximately 1,000 administrators, librarians, school counselors and educators at current member schools in early December 2007. 235 people responded to the survey.

1. How many years has your school been a DLC member? N = 234



2. Who in your school or district makes the ultimate decision about whether to become or remain a DLC member? N=235



3. To your knowledge, why did your school decide to join the DLC?

N=236. Respondents could give multiple responses in their own words.

	Count
Good resource, lots to offer	76
Access to online courses	53
Expand offerings to students	35
Cost effective resource	29
Credit retrieval	20
DLC Library	18
Fill holes in curriculum	17
Connected to Gear Up (grants)	14
Schedule timing	8
Teacher training	7
Digital Tools	6
Access high quality resources and up to date information for students	6
Making technology a more prominent part of education	5
Online support	5
Not sure	5
Career exploration	4
College prep	4
Class Tools	4
Helpful to homeschooled families/ students	4
Offer tech. services that supported materials learned in class	4
Received a grant to pay for membership	4
Contacting teachers that know certain subject areas	3
Superintendent encouragement	3
Connected with the DLC Pilot	3
WASL prep	2
Librarian encouragement	2
Teacher encouragement	2
School Board Member encouragement	2
Family Encouragement	2
Homelink Support	1
Lessons plans for teachers/ parents	1
District Admin encouragement	1

Selected representative responses to the question:

To your knowledge, why did your school decide to join the DLC?

“We were experimenting with on line course offerings. I think the original decision had to do with the DLC library offerings. We are FANS--we like your product offerings!!”

“The DLC has consistently provided high quality programs for rural schools.”

We are a rural district and saw the opportunity for some of our students to take courses we don't offer. Sometimes our schedule does not allow a few students to get the classes they want so DLC has helped with this.

“Student/teacher friendly, safe websites and resources for a fraction of the cost we would pay if we were to order them separately.”

“I am a WALA (Washington Alternative Learning Association) board member and have heard about DLC for years. I finally convinced the administrator this would be a good direction for our alternative ed. programs. We JUST joined.”

“We looked at the services that DLC provides and the costs for us to purchase those on our own and there was just no way to make it work with our budget. We also looked at the strong support system and user training provided by the DLC and were impressed.”

“Because of the flexibility in offering classes that maintain a standard of rigor, quality research sites and many other options not only for staff and students but parents.”

4. What in your opinion are your school's greatest challenges?

N=236. Respondents could give multiple responses in their own words.

	Count
Lack of sufficient financial resources	35
Helping every student succeed academically, regardless of aptitude and achievement	24
Meeting needs of a diverse student body	23
Motivating students	22
Offering courses appropriate for students at ALL levels of achievement	19
Limited resources for students	19
Scheduling classes and activities for students	18
Getting teachers up to date with new materials and resources available	16
Passing the WASL	16
Having/ creating a diverse curriculum	13
Updating Technology	12
Credit retrieval	11
Ratio of students to teachers	10
Need for stronger District-level leadership	10
Serving lower achievers	10
Math	10
Meeting course deadlines	10
Need for more family/parent Involvement	9
Supporting needs of ELL students	8
Challenging Students	8
Small schools with no library	8
Limited technology for families	7
Decreasing graduation rates	7
College preparation	6
Attendance rate	6
Hiring teachers who know how to teach	6
Providing quality electives	5
Students not having proper supplies	5
Declining enrollment	5
Integrating technology into curriculum	4
Getting people familiar with DLC resources	4
Reading	4
Meeting graduation requirements	4
Supporting "poor" students/ families	4
Science	3
Teacher training	3
Disruptive Students	3

Career/ workplace preparation	3
Serving special needs/disabled students	3
Finding materials of quality to teach	3
Lack of awareness of available recourses	3
Meeting state and federal standards	3
Need more AP courses	2
Need to improve teacher-student relationships	2
Need to build a sense of community	2
Life and family circumstances that prevent students from learning	2
Maintaining course offerings	2
Need more art classes	2
Students not completing assignments	2
Leaving "NO CHILD BEHIND"	2
Limited classroom space	2
Appointing a person to help w/ DLC questions	2
The distances teachers live from school	1
Students moving countless times	1
Low on Staff	1
Writing	1
Need more tutors	1
Distractions in class (iPods, cell phones, etc.)	1
Getting students through Start Up programs (orientation, etc)	1

Selected representative responses to the question:

What in your opinion are your school's greatest challenges?

“To provide classes for student driven schedules. That includes credit retrieval and advanced curricula. We also need resources for our staff, students, and community.”

“Our greatest challenge is to get teachers to think about doing things differently than they have always done them.”

“Meeting the needs of all students and challenging the more advanced students.”

“Our school is currently in Year 5 of AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress, a provision of No Child Left Behind) so much of the emphasis of our curriculum falls in meeting EALR standards and improving student scores.”

“Not enough time for staff to plan and implement curriculum. Too many students who are not interested in school. Not enough time to meet with parents. Too many students with low skills and not enough support at home.”

“Catching at risk students before they give up for lack of alternatives. Classes in high school are aimed at college bound.”

“Maintaining instructional quality in face of enrollment and retention issues, budget stability, and commitment of funds for technology.”

“Helping every student succeed academically. Countering homelessness, illness, and abuse that keep kids from learning. Hiring only good teachers who know how to teach. Having enough money to hire the correct number of staff to student ratio for optimal learning.”

“The diversity of programs and the learning requirements of each of the students we serve. Some come to us for their GED, tutoring, credit retrieval, WASL prep., Post Secondary prep, home work help, occupational skills and life skills.”

“As a small high school with a diverse student population, our biggest challenge is providing a variety of meaningful classes. Also, our library is limited so the DLC allows our students to tap all of its online resources.”

Note contrast between these next two quotes:

“Heating the building by wood when the electricity is down - seriously. We also are challenged by meeting course deadlines when the internet is down.”

“Students who can't handle owning his/her own laptop.”

5. How does the DLC help you address these challenges?

N=236. Respondents could give multiple responses in their own words.

	Count
Diverse offerings help in lots of ways	44
Providing online courses we don't offer and/or with which students have scheduling conflicts	38
The different tools are helpful (digital tools, online content)	18
Not Sure	15
Provides training for teachers	14
Resources from DLC library helps a lot	13
Helps with recovering credits for graduation and failed classes	13
Quality Resources	13
Provides current quality resources online	10
DLC resources are accessible anywhere, anytime, helps with scheduling conflicts	10
Research for teachers, parents and students	10
Gives students the ability to work from home	8
Courses that helps students focus on certain areas of special interest to them	8
DLC helps keep us organized - can find everything in one place (the DLC website)	8
Supports the independence students	8
Doesn't Help	8
Online access to resources appeals to students	7
Not sure - we're new members and don't know yet	7
The websites are filtered	6
Supports alternative students and English Language Learners (ELL)	6
Encouragement from DLC tutors	6
The instructions are very helpful with questions	5
Affordable resources	5
Extends the curriculum	5
Math (Class tools, ALPS)	5
Extends learning/ challenges students	5
Reduces burden on teachers	5
Offers career and college prep and planning resources	5
Useful content	4
Helps students focus on what they're interested in , not what they already know	4
Students don't/ can't "lose homework"/ students are allowed to save work	4
E-portfolios can help students with culminating High School project	4

WASL prep	4
Reading Instructions	4
Helps address diverse learning styles	4
Keeps students in one remote learning environment	4
Keeping students on track	4
Meets state and federal standards	4
Practice past skills (refreshing memory)	3
Explore career alternatives	3
Alternative for advanced students	3
User-friendly for teachers and students	2
Helps students complete graduation requirements	2
Helps teachers in certain areas	2
Used as an alternative for other classes	2
Professional Development	2
Test prep	2
Helps Families pursue options on their own	2
Helps us stay focused on school goals	2
Support and yearly retreats	1
Technical support	1
Supporting student who are behind	1

Selected representative responses to the question:

How does the DLC help you address these challenges?

“The DLC trainers have been very helpful.”

“Tremendous flexibility.”

“A good proportion of students seem to engage with the online material - not the courses but the other aspects of DLC. Students also don't 'lose their homework.'”

“Through ClassTools, we are able to provide a number of core content courses without reinventing the wheel AND we will have a larger variety of courses available with teachers that are highly qualified through the online classes. Very excited.”

“The DLC provides us with resources, but they have been unable to help us overcome our resource barrier (to computers).”

“Keeps kids in the building using online classes instead of going to WSU for Running Start.”

“The self directed lessons allow students to monitor their own learning. Many of the sites allow students opportunities to practice what they have learned.”

“Because of the growth of our school and not having enough teachers for core classes, we are using DLC online classes in core subjects to provide grade level content so that we can keep students on track. It has also been helpful as we are using it for students to make up lost credits.”

“Class Tools offers content rich curriculum with engaging online activities that students can apply to the world in which they live. Diagnostics allow teachers to tailor classes to create an efficient set of activities to teach students what they need to know.”

“All the benefits to teachers that help all work in the classroom stay student-centered, meaningful.”

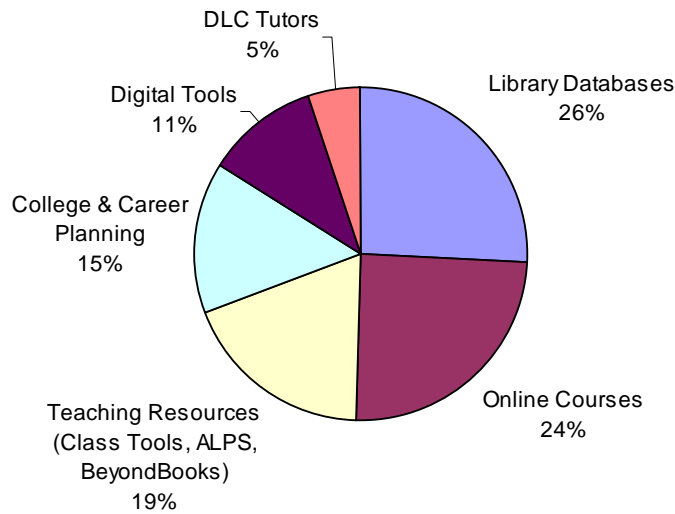
“The library databases are essential to how I instruct students to look for reliable information and do it efficiently, and has become the bread and butter of my space.”

“By providing teachers a variety of tools to design engaging, rigorous curriculum, and by providing tools (such as Catalyst) whereby students might exhibit their work in meaningful, powerful ways.”

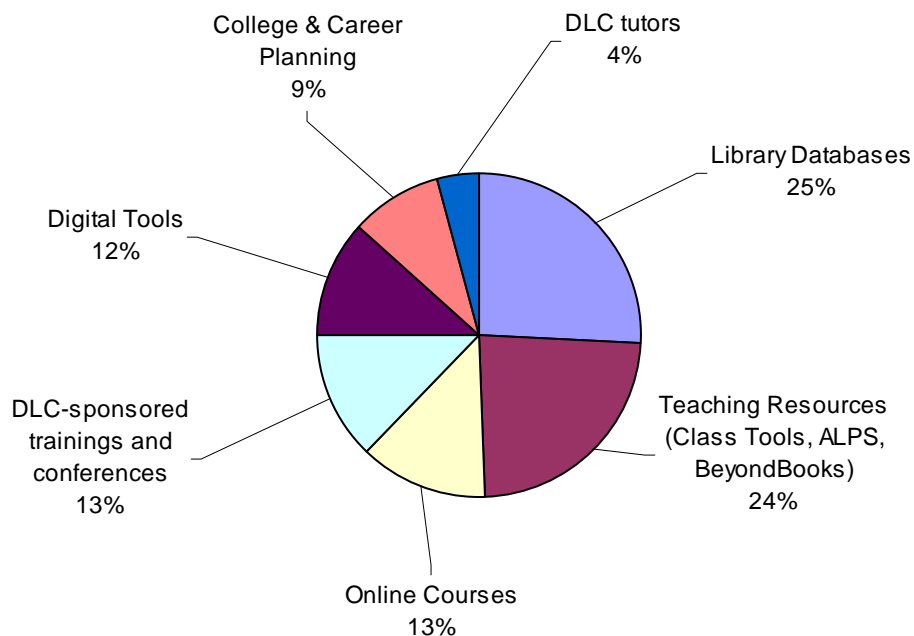
“DLC gives us a curriculum that can be done here or at home and is aligned to EALR's so that it has depth to it. We also like the WebQ for surveys that has been helpful to find out what parents and staff want.”

“The DLC’s credit retrieval classes were a great resource for students last summer. In addition, we hope to use some of the WASL prep resources over the next few months.”

6. Which of the DLC's resources do you believe benefits your students the most? You may choose up to three. N=234



7. What are the most useful resources, tools and services the DLC offers you, as a teacher? N=234



8. How do you think access to the DLC resources has changed or enhanced your teaching?

N=215. Respondents answered in their own words.

	Count
Help with research for students	31
Curriculum assistance	13
Convenience and speed	10
Individualize learning for students	10
Made me a better teacher	10
Allows me to spend more time with my students	9
Integrate technology into the classroom	7
More relevant and useful resources	7
Help with grading and tracking student progress	7
College and career planning	6
Help with lesson planning	5
New, up to date resources for students	4
Hasn't changed my teaching	3
Enhanced my relationship with students	3
Reduce planning time for classes	2
Professional development	2
Helps me connect with parents	2
Offer struggling students a DLC tutor	1
Raised the bar re: quality of educational resources and materials	1
Connection to a larger community	1

Selected representative responses to the question:

How do you think access to the DLC resources has changed or enhanced your teaching?

“I have become a better teacher. Students enjoy my class and are learning. I have fewer discipline problems.”

“It helps with my course organization, it offers another way of interacting with students individually, students are used to reading material online so it is an avenue of instruction which they are familiar with.”

“Digital tools have enabled me to be much more effective in exchanging information, gathering survey results, quick feedback on student progress via WebQ. The classroom is much less reliant on paper, class time is saved previously spent collecting/returning papers.”

“Allows one to focus on teaching, provides better understanding of good teaching practices, provides the best support around.”

“I believe that it has given me that ability to stretch the thinking of the students. I think the students' world has broadened because of the DLC.”

“It has provided me with a limitless number of opportunities for the students. I often think now... how can I use DLC with this.”

“My curriculum and teaching practice are 100% different now compared to pre-DLC. I think that I am a better teacher, I think I spend more time getting to know my students, I am able to provide more timely feedback to my students.”

“I think I've become more comfortable in putting technology in students' hands, or letting student innovation with technology drive their academic work/my curriculum.”

“The surveys in Bridges especially the Learning Styles Inventory help me to understand and meet the unique challenges of individual students.”

9. When planning lessons or activities, how do you make use of DLC resources and tools? N=205

	Count
Generally incorporate DLC resources into existing curricula	49
Don't really use it when planning	26
Find or verify data for students	25
Help with lesson planning	22
Use Portfolio and other tools to track and share student work	12
Career and college planning tools	11
Search for information by grade level or EALR	10
Give especially interested students more resources	6
Bookmark resources for students before class	5
Help struggling students catch up	3
Help with grading and testing	3
Graphics and visuals to enhance lesson plans	1
Use discussion boards with students	1
To help with special lesson plans that aren't directly supported by the district	1
Make sure my information is current and topical	1

Selected representative responses to the question:

When planning lessons or activities, how do you make use of DLC resources and tools?

“I tailor ClassTools to meet learning requirements for academic alternative students.”

“As a counselor I use the resources to help students prepare and plan for their future.”

“I search for age-appropriate websites and bookmark them on our grade-level del.icio.us bookmark pages.”

“I search the teacher resources for lesson ideas and completed courses. I preview resources in the library that we will be using in class.”

“The DLC’s T2T retreat gave me lots of tools to work with my staff and enhance their classrooms. DLC resources are always a quick way to point out materials, provide answers without being lost in the quicksand of the Internet.”

“I will use DLC resources to provide lesson plans for differential instruction.”

“All of my lab work and projects are centered around the use of the Portfolio tool. In my advanced Human Anatomy class, all of my tests are also given via the WebQ tool.”

“It allows me to keep track of student work. Discourages wasting time on worldwide searches. The use of this keeps student and teacher working together.”

10. What other online resources do you use besides the ones supplied by the DLC?

Educators mentioned 125 online resources. Most often mentioned were:

- Google
- Proquest, a library database available to schools at no cost through a grant from the State Library
- United Streaming: video clips available through the Educational Service Districts
- Brigham Young University online courses, which are very low-cost
- Plato and Nova Net, online curricula and diagnostics

A full listed of resources mentioned is available in a separate document: [Other Resources DLC Members use](#)

11. What, if anything, would you like to see the DLC do differently?

	Number of mentions
Don't know/ Not sure	44
Nothing	43
Dictionary on location of various resources	13
Make the resources more use-friendly	7
More funding for schools in DLC	7
Work with building administrators to develop teacher training plans, schedules and programs	7
Simpler online portfolio	7
Bigger allocation for online classes	6
More online training for teachers and administrators	6
Address the multiple password issue	5
More face to face teacher training	5
Continue sending out reminders of resources available to teachers and students	4
Continue with outreach programs	4
Provide access to different websites	3
Making course deliveries become more authentic (at times it is difficult to understand and words are not at most students reading levels)	3
More classes in Class Tools (e.g. Washington State history, Western civilization, etc)	3
Easier way to access progress reports and make them available for parents, students, and teachers	3
Specific break down of cost per student/ school for specific programs and other resources that SLC provides	3
Teachers and parents are allowed access to providers when students are choosing classes	2
Create folders that students can save/ hand work into that teachers can access	2
Have drop dates for certain programs	2
Make "reports" more efficient in class tools (keeping track of time that each student spent on activities online)	2
Have a more "advanced" DLC training session after school hours	2
Check up meetings (update on how DLC users are doing)	2

Selected representative responses to the question:

What, if anything, would you like to see the DLC do differently?

“Just continue what you are doing. Change takes time--I know we are not even touching the surface of what we can use the site for. But with time, we will improve.”

“Add more vocational programs - i.e. basic electricity, engine mechanic theory.”

“I sure enjoyed the training course I took up in Auburn this past summer (Train the Trainer). Just sitting down and using the material available really helped me find my way around!”

“I would like to see a more comprehensive break down of cost per student for specific programs and other resources available through the DLC. I would also encourage the DLC to make a greater effort to meet with District Administrators regarding their program.”

“I would like to see the membership costs broken down by what schools are using and want to use. I know of other schools which would sign up for some of the resources but can't afford the current price. They don't need all the resources.”

“More regional meetings to let us share how we are using the DLC”

“I really can't think of anything. The creative and talented staff seems to keep coming up with better and better opportunities for us.”

“Provide a more in depth description of some of their offerings. Also, I see that they are offering more things for elementary grades, but even more would be nice.”

“Lower cost :)”

“Have a reunion of the "charter member" schools at Sleeping Lady!!! Seriously, I think the DLC is doing a great job. When our site coordinator occasionally has problems with providers and the DLC always is there to help smooth the way which makes it easier.”

“Student friendly (YouTube) tutorials of skills; note-taking, paraphrasing, writing a thesis statement, library Dewey numbers, online citation anomalies.”

12. Are there any resources or tools that we currently don't offer that you'd like us to consider adding?

A full list of suggested resources is available in a separate document: [Other Resources to add from DLC members](#)