

## IHM's in Action: [www.facts4me.com](http://www.facts4me.com)



Theresa Fix, IHM

When former teacher Theresa (John Christopher) Fix, IHM, and third-grade teacher Sandra Morgan noticed a scarcity of Web research sites for primary school children, they decided to address the situation.

Their site is [www.facts4me.com](http://www.facts4me.com).

"We had a very clear vision of what we wanted the site to be," says Sister Theresa. "It went from concept to reality in less than six months."

The two came up with topics - which range from ancient Egypt and endangered animals to world capitals and musical instruments - and began looking for writers.

"We recruited teachers from Sandy's school and another local school who enthusiastically agreed to write for us," Sister Theresa notes. "Then we put the word out to IHM Sisters and Associates and more writers came on board. Pretty soon, we had teachers from all over the country writing for the site - they'd found out about the project from word-of-mouth!"

"The writers decided what they'd cover under each topic," Sandy says. "We coordinated their efforts so there'd be no duplication. Once they submitted their pages for editing, we'd choose colorful stock photos to illustrate the information. We kept the writing at a second- to fourth-grade reading level, but we've found the site engages children and adults alike."

Facts4me currently has 400 pages, with another 250 being edited. Sister Theresa and Sandy hope to double the size within the next 12 months. The site offers visitors "sample tours" to get a feel for the information offered. Affordable subscriptions are available for teachers, schools, libraries and families.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

"Parents like it because it's safe," Sister Theresa says. "With many other sites, children can find themselves on inappropriate pages through an innocent click of the mouse."



Sandra Morgan

"And teachers are excited because there's such a need," adds Sandy.

Both agree that children like [www.facts4me.com](http://www.facts4me.com) because they're getting information about topics that interest them, written in a way they can understand.

"I think this is giving children a deeper appreciation for the world around them," says Sister Theresa. "We hope it sparks their curiosity."

Sister Theresa and Sandy are also co-creators of [Sandalstrap](http://www.sandalstrap.com) in Westmont, Ill., which offers inspirational gift items.