

## The School Librarian's Role in Reading



The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) states that school librarians play a critical role in providing learners with the opportunities and resources that increase their chances that learners will become readers and choose to read (Krashen 2004). Deep reading for comprehension and meaning making is the foundation for constructing knowledge (Todd 2015, 13).

As literacy leaders, school librarians are positioned to elevate the importance of reading as well as reading instruction. School librarians should provide a variety of reading materials that are accessible and engaging to all learners.

Foster independent and curriculum-based reading, information literacy, and inquiry skills to support lifelong learning.

- x Promote an inquiry process that includes posing questions, finding answers, and developing critical thinking and communication skills through information exploration (AASL 2018, 54).

### Include

Provide a variety of formats that reflect diverse and inclusive points of view and contribute to a culture of reading for informational needs and for personal enjoyment. School librarians:

- x Select resources according to principles of intellectual freedom, and provide learners with access to information that represents diverse points of view.
- x Enable equitable physical and intellectual access by providing reading-level appropriate, universally designed environments and adaptive devices.

### Collaborate

The school librarian is an instructional partner who models and supports independent reading and the development of reading comprehension through curricular planning, instruction, resources, and literacy activities. School librarians:

- x Co-design, co-implement, and co-evaluate interdisciplinary lessons and units of instruction that help learners increase reading proficiency through inquiry learning experiences.
- x Collaborate with classroom educators and specialists to integrate paper and online reading comprehension strategies in library instruction that supports all learners.

## Curate

The school librarian creates a rich reading environment and culture within school libraries and school communities to Q X U W X U H O H D U Q H U V ¶ M R X U Q H \ V L Q I L Q G L Q S H W K H L U S D V V L librarians:

- x Organize and maintain a current, diverse, and inclusive collection of reading and information materials in multiple genres and formats that support the developmental, cultural, social, and linguistic needs of all learners.
- x Create, evaluate, and maintain policies that reflect the principles of intellectual freedom, provide O H D U Q H U V Z L W K D F F H V V W R L Q I R U P D W L R Q D Q G S U R W H F W O H D

- x **Information Literacy:** Information literacy is knowing when and why information is needed, where to find it, and how to evaluate, use, and communicate it in an ethical manner (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals 2004, cited in AASL 2018, 277).
- x **School Librarian Leadership:** The ability to influence and inspire a school community in order to move toward identified goals and/or a shared vision.
- x **Intellectual Freedom:** Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation (ALA 2019).
- x **Inquiry:** Stance toward learning in which the learner is engaged in asking questions and finding answers, not simply accumulating facts presented by someone else that have no relation to previous learning or new understanding (AASL 2018, 277).
- x **Literacy:** The ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate, and compute, using materials associated with varying contexts (UNESCO 2006, cited in AASL 2018, 278).
- x **Multiple Literacies:** Multiple literacies include information literacy, media, visual, and technological literacies (AASL 2009, 23).
- x **Open Access:** Free, unrestricted availability

