

ALBERTA EDUCATION SCHOOL LIBRARY SERVICES INITIATIVE



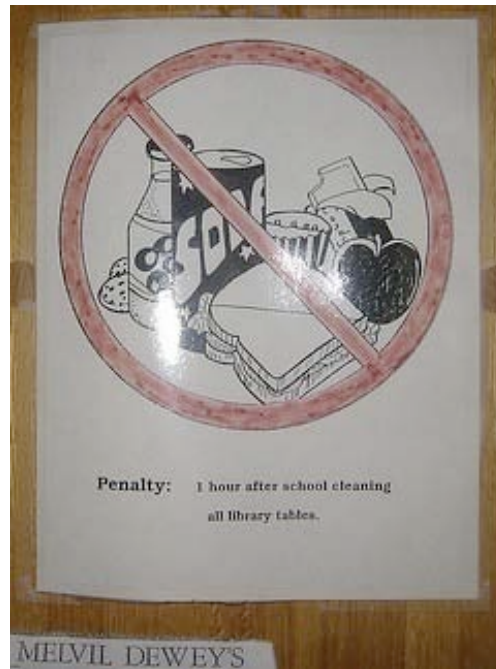
*"The library is a growing organism."
S.R. Ranganathan,
The Five Laws of Library Science*

"With my library card I am rich. It is my access to the inviting learning world."

Loreta Jordan (Washington, D.C.)

Quoted in the ALA national campaign Libraries Change Lives

The Past



Concord-Carlisle Regional High School. Concord, MA

Imagine...

<http://media.stream.cbe.ab.ca/media/LearningCommons/ElemLC.wmv>



The Future...

<http://concordcarlislelibrary.blogspot.com/>

Concord-Carlisle Library Learning Commons



"2029 ... libraries as bi-directional feeding tubes connecting the life-giving digital data streams and the user populations that nourish them."

Future Libraries: Nerve Centre
of the Community
(Thomas Frey)

Alberta Education School Library Services Initiative



- Alberta Education initiative that focuses on reviewing K-12 school library school library services and support resource(s).
- External advisory committee includes Alberta Teachers' Association, Library Association of Alberta, Alberta Association of Library Technicians, Alberta Association of Library Trustees, Alberta Regional Library Systems and University of Alberta.
- Inter-branch committee includes Alberta Municipal Affairs, the On-Line Reference Centre, and Alberta Advanced Education and Technology.

Alberta Education School Library Services Initiative



- Anticipated revised *School Library Services Policy and Guidelines* shared with schools commencing Spring 2011
- Aligns with GOA Integrated Library Policy under development; *Inspiring Action, Inspiring Literacy Framework*
- Implementation incremental and contextual

Alberta Education School Library Services Initiative



- Proposed perspective for transforming school library services is that of a student-centered, collaborative “learning commons”
- Supports learning and teaching innovation in collaboration with staff, students, other libraries and the community
- Developed through a school library learning commons plan that is part of the whole school plan focused on student learning outcomes

Policy Background

School Library Literature



- Extensive research (21 states, Ontario) supports a correlation of student achievement and reading growth with quality school library services. (Krashen; Lance)
- *Achieving Information Literacy, Standards for School Library Programs in Canada (2003)*
- *American Association of School Librarians. Standards for the 21st-Century Learner (2007)*

"How can we ensure that students leave school having learned how to learn? Having learned how to know when they need information? Where to find it and how to know if it's any good or not?"

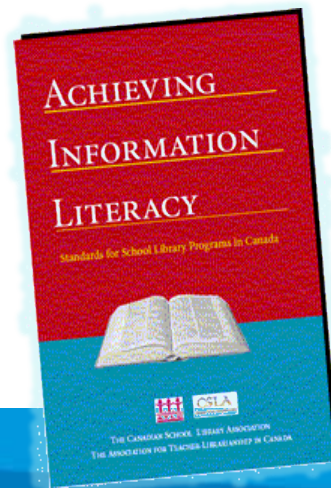
(Lance 2007)

Achieving Information Literacy (AIL)

Canadian Association for School Libraries (2003)

A Vision for School Libraries in Canada:

- *“Cultural equalizer”*
- *Preserving and fostering Canadian identity*
- *Building a learning society of information literate citizens*
- *Lifelong learning, active learning, resource-based teaching and learning, collaborative learning and teaching*
- *Gateway to the world*



“AIL” defines an information literate citizen:



- Works independently and collaboratively to solve problems
- Analyses information critically in all formats and media contexts
- Applies information strategically to solve personal and social problems
- Makes decisions based on accurate and current information
- Uses information and communication technologies with skill, purpose and wisdom
- Respects information sources and diverse perspectives
- Honors intellectual property and privacy rights
- Appreciates the aesthetic qualities of various creative and scientific expressions
- Communicates effectively and expressively using a variety of information and media formats.

“Brain compatible environment” - a real or virtual learning commons?

“....a large open environment for up to 150 people, working together for several hours at a stretch...everyone is a learner and both young people and adults can be facilitators...the furniture is reconfigurable, the reference materials are delivered on demand through networked interactive multimedia, and the place is constantly buzzing with activity.... video-taping on location... physical and computer-generated models of real-world projects...guided by a team of about five teachers facilitators who move around and maintain a big picture of what is happening with the group as a whole.”

Renate Nummela Caine and Geoffrey Caine;
Education On The Edge Of Possibility

Other Ministries:

- *Connections: Policy and Guidelines for School Libraries in Saskatchewan (2008)*
www.education.gov.sk.ca/adx/aspx/adxGetMedia.aspx?DocID=1870
- *Ontario School Library Association. Together for Learning: School Libraries and the Emergence of the Learning Commons. (2010) Ontario Library Association. [On-line] Available:*
http://www.accessola.com/osla/bins/content_page.asp?cid=626-648

Effective School Library Practice Themes

“A conceptual age”

A Whole New Mind
(Daniel Pink)

The more that you
read, the more things
you will know. The
more that you learn,
the more places you'll
go.

(Dr. Seuss)



Brain Research Informs ...

- Enriched environments
- Enriched intellectual climate
- Emotional connections strong



Enriched Environments

- Seamless access for each student 24/7
- Current resources – physical and virtual spaces and collections
- Flexible furnishings and designs; collaborative spaces, “commons”





Intellectual Climate

- “Learning laboratory” - critical thinking, inquiry, action research, interdisciplinary, brain-based
- Active learning in the physical space and on-line: project and problem-based, experiential, cooperative, guiding centers
- The Written Word - **reading** fiction and non-fiction in multiple formats to access, examine, evaluate, restructure, create, communicate, reflect

Emotional Connections

- “Warm and Welcoming” School Library Staff (real and virtual)
- Team or teacher-librarians (e.g. vice-principal, technology teacher, language arts teacher) who are:
 - learning leaders - learning commons facilitators
 - catalysts for change
 - connectors of learning to the world and allowing the world in
- Library Community Partners





Moving Forward?

- Having a school library plan in place with clearly stated, measureable student learning outcomes that align with school, district and provincial education plans
- Provide for student access to library services including access to qualified library professionals such as teacher–librarians, teacher–technologists, community librarians and school library support personnel (library technicians, library assistants) using a variety of school-based, team or shared access models;
- Recognizing *“that IT and library programs overlap in so many ways, & that benefits can be reaped with staff members working closely as a “school library team”**
- Developing program-based budgets, grants, partnerships

**...strive for a philosophical, functional, and physical merger of the school library with the IT program, with a faculty center and spaces for staff development, as spaces where teachers can work with (and learn from) students, school librarians, and IT staff...servicing students wherever they are, both at and away from school (Erikson & Johnson)*

Moving Forward



“Our library”

- continually revamped from flooring/shelving/resources to add a sense of space, be more accessible and welcoming
- students part of the process - many of their ideas implemented: displays of student art work, more books, roomier, brighter space for collaboration, reading areas
- areas for classrooms and groups working on collaborative, inquiry-based projects
- projects guided into classroom practice through the collaborative efforts of teachers and teacher "Cybrarian"



Library Collaboration Literature



“... Connect[ing] with a larger network, regional system, or consortia ... no library can operate on its own any longer... Collaborative efforts enable us to leverage our resources for greater effect and see possibilities ...”

(Ken Haycock 2006)

Common Library Service Goals

- Education
- Literacy
- Lifelong learning
- Student/Youth success
- Library use



Unique Mandates



Taylor Family Digital Library



- School Library Services - support K-12 students in programs of study and information literacy development through infusing inquiry-based learning into cooperatively planned, taught and assessed learning experiences
- Academic Library Services – support post-graduate students study and research
- Public Library Services - a broad public focus (free access to collections, resources and services) to patrons of all ages to obtain information relating to personal, educational and professional needs (self-defined pursuit of knowledge)

Current Challenges Facing School, Public and Academic Library Services

- Many school libraries do not meet Canadian standards (2003) for student access to services
- Post-graduate institutions find students information literacy skills declining
- Graduates cannot access specialized libraries
- Increased pressure on the public library to address school library needs when already dealing with own limitations e.g., home-schooling programs depending on the public library

Library Relationships



- Long history of library service relationships: partnerships, co-locations, licence agreements
- Range from public library “outreach programs” to complexity of co-located school/public or academic libraries, state-wide” virtual libraries
 - e.g. Alabama state virtual library, OhioLink state library
 - e.g. Alberta’s Online Reference Centre on LearnAlberta.ca
- 20% of Alberta Public Libraries co-located in schools (Public Libraries Housed in Schools Facilities Report 2006)

“Positioning Alberta Libraries for the 21st Century” (MLA Library Committee Report, Alberta Municipal Affairs 2009)

- Alberta’s library sector includes school libraries, under the jurisdiction of Alberta Education
- Collaboration and innovation among libraries key with 18 recommendations: GOA accepted 15 and accepted, in-principle, the remaining 3

<http://www.alberta.ca//acn/200904/25715AF69E6BB-BADC-ACB8-B247942628738419.html>

“Positioning Alberta Libraries for the 21st Century”

Five specific recommendations impact “*School Library Services Initiative*”:

- Recommendation 1: Integrated policy work
- Recommendation 6: Collaborate on program and policy initiatives
- Recommendation 11: *“Actively find ways for public libraries and schools to work together on student supports, co-location, staffing, literacy, and sharing of resources, including video-conferencing. Municipal Affairs will continue to participate in the School Library Review. Municipal Affairs will actively encourage municipalities to consider co-location of libraries and school libraries in new subdivisions.”*
- Recommendations 14, 17: Province-wide technology plan/one library card
- Recommendation 17: Digital licensing

Relational Advantages

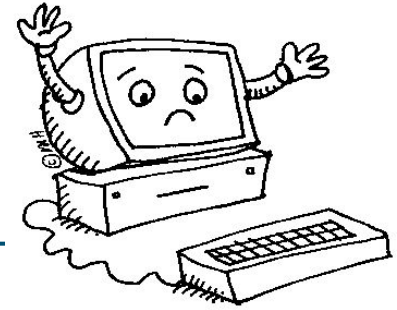


- Anywhere/any time library services: expand networks, databases, cost/resource sharing
- Arrangements benefit all parties; not one at expense of another
- Provide educational and public library services, especially in areas where badly needed

“When the level of service will be at least equal to, or better than, two separate entities... When two equal partners solve common community problems together, for example, an outcome-based joint family literacy initiative.”

(Ken Haycock)

Relational Challenges



- Student achievement: few studies report significant educational gains unless the collaboration involves a teacher-librarian
- Division of responsibilities: entering complex relationships without cooperatively developed agreements around communication, staffing, collections, facilities, and planning
- Not “library administrative convenience”, rather, address function and purpose around unique mandates

Seamless Access

Innovative Physical Models

- each library (school, public, or academic) serves as a gateway to seamless access to quality resources and collaborative tools
- traditional (single-site) and non-traditional (combined sites); pathways are used for all ages and stages of life regardless of location or fixed hours
- single site or combined site libraries provide or share innovative staffing models for user's education and/or support around seamless access
- one library card (youth and adult) for borrowing anywhere/anytime for the province



Shared Virtual Networks

- a rich array of electronic information with support is available 24/7 to all Albertans
- province wide licensing achieves significant economic savings
- one website with innovative shared staffing support allows Albertans to access the rich array of resources



Seamless Access to Library Services

- every citizen, student and teacher has seamless, user-friendly access to accurate, reliable, appropriate, current and scholarly information and information professional support



School Library Inventory Survey June 2009

- Informed draft revised School Library Services Policy
- 37% response (629 principals)
- Gap analysis:
 - student learning planning
 - student seamless access to physical or virtual school library services
 - student learning pedagogical support
- Full report
<http://education.alberta.ca/departments/ipr/slsi.aspx>

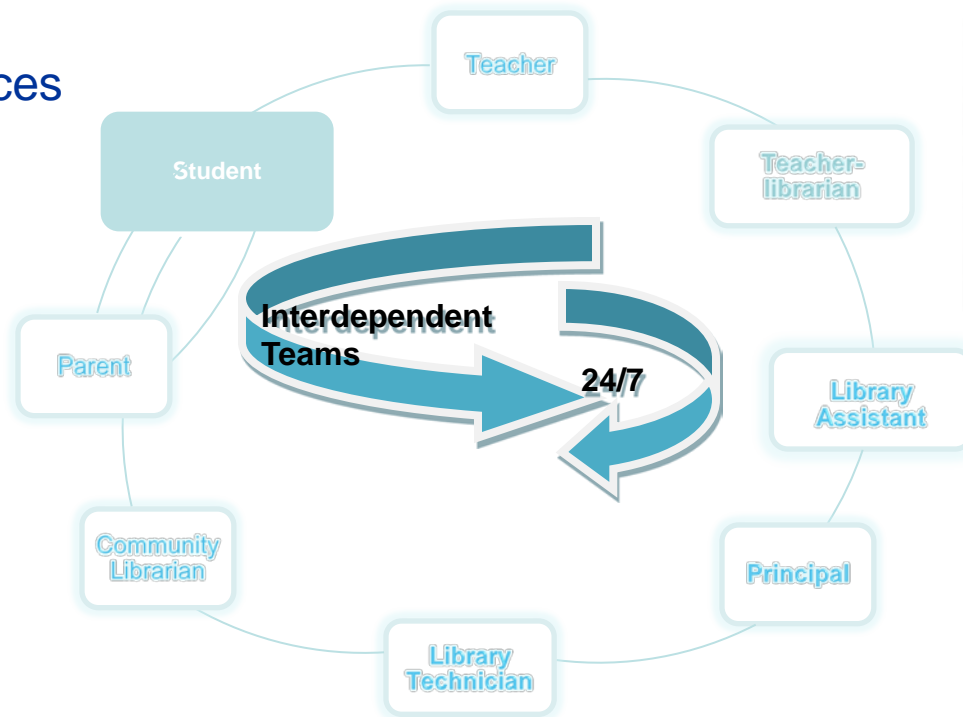
Student Learning Planning: Implementation Supports - Getting Started

- Planning Template
 - Context
 - Linking student learning outcomes to school library strategy and school measures
 - Collections
 - Budgets
- Sample K-12 learning models, knowledge building centers
- Student learning rubrics e.g. scaffolding for accommodating a variety of student learning modalities

Student Learning Planning: Implementation Supports

Roles and Responsibilities
Exemplars
Links to key resources

Student Learning



Student Seamless Access Physical or Virtual School Library Services

“Life time libraries”



Seamless Access Strategies for Library Services

- Planning Templates: Context, Student learning, Collections, Budgets
- Student access to qualified library professionals such as teacher–librarians, teacher–technologists, community librarians and school library support personnel (library technicians, library assistants)
- Using a variety of school-based, team or shared access models; e.g. vice principal, technology teacher, language arts teacher, virtual librarian
- Innovative models/exemplars

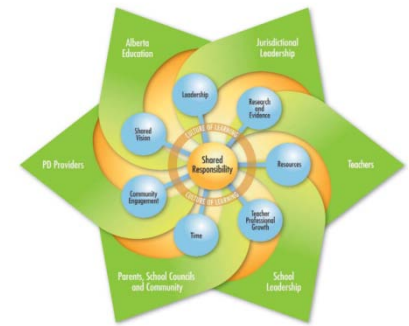


Licensing Digital Content



- Access to proprietary resources that meet the needs of all sectors and allows for flexibility within a coordinated approach for each sector to license for its own needs.
- E.g. World Book, General Reference Centre, National Geographic, Academic Search, Canadian Periodical Index, Canadian Newstand.
- Reviewing current state in Alberta, other models, gaps, and best fiscal recommendations with Education, Municipal Affairs, Advanced Education & Technology

Student learning pedagogical support: In-service



- Models on-line, video conferencing, mentorship, team planning
- Build capacity on inter-dependence of a school library learning commons team
- Web content to support revised policy: seamless access models/strategies, student learning implementation supports, digital content literacy
- Anticipated 2011/2012 information implementation sessions
- A Guide to Support Implementation: Essential Conditions
<http://www.eric.ca/essentialconditions/essentialconditions.html>

Connecting with other Provincial Initiatives

- GOA Integrated Library Policy under development
- Inspiring Action
- Inspiring Literacy Framework
- Action on Inclusion
- School Technology
- Francophone Education
- First Nation Métis Inuit Education
- Career Technology Studies
- High School completion/Transition to post-secondary



School Context Action Planning

- In consideration of the presentation and your current school library vision/plans, what are the desired elements of a learning commons?
- What needs to change? Why?
- How will you know when you have been successful?
- How will you get there? (incremental steps: short/long range)

- *Create a vision...by 2015 our school library will...*
- *Create a goal for 2011...this year we will...*
- *Create a first step for Monday...*

Further Information... School Library Services Initiative

- FAQs, Survey results, Research Paper, Presentation

<http://education.alberta.ca/departments/ipr/slsi.aspx>

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