

# **EMPOWERING SCHOOL EDUCATION: ROLE OF INNOVATIVE LIBRARY PROGRAMS**

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## PREFACE

### **ADINET is a Network of 2500 Libraries and Information Centers in Gujarat.**

It was established in 1994 with an initial grant for a few years from National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT), DSIR, Government of India, **It caters to all types of Libraries:** school, college, universities, institutional libraries and even public libraries. Hence, **access is provided to hundreds of libraries, librarians and organizations through the ADINET Network.**

Information is a **vital & Crucial resource**. It is available in **Libraries and Learning Resource Centres**. They play a central key role in enhancing the **quality of education**. Libraries are the **fulcrum of support** for the entire range of academic activities. A **School Library** is the **heart** of the school. Libraries can very effectively increase the **Information & Knowledge base** of both the **students & teachers**.

The tremendous developments in the field of **Information & Communication Technology** (ICT) can be used to make maximum use of **both**, the resources available in the Library and the vast amount of **free Open Access Resources** (such as Course Material, Software, Teaching Aids, etc)

Only very few School Libraries are well equipped with adequate resources. There is a **huge** gap between the **financial haves & have not**. There is therefore an urgent need to bridge this gap even to a small extent and to **provide better information facilities** to School Libraries which lack resources. There is also a need to conduct **Training Programs** to develop specific skills & also bring about a change in attitude.

The **objectives** of this **Seminar for School Librarians** are:

- ❖ Create **awareness** about the issues which need to be addressed.
- ❖ Build a **Network of large School Libraries** to enable Resource sharing & Collaborative work.
- ❖ Check the possibility of a **corporate house** adopting a Library.

The role of the **School Librarian** involves various roles: teacher, instructional partner, information specialist & program administrator. Besides helping with the **teaching & learning process**, Libraries & Librarians can play a very critical and important role in moulding the **character of children**.

We are very grateful to **DPS-Bopal, Ahmedabad** for hosting this Seminar.

# Collaborative Learning: A Tool to Enhance School Library Programmes

Rashmi T Kumbar\*

*When you need to innovate, you need collaboration.*

*- Marissa Mayer*

## **0. Introduction**

Collaboration is the need of the hour in almost all fields, be it history, music, technology, business, etc. Every outcome of collaboration has more impact than an individual effort. The result of collaboration is the power it gives to all those involved and the learning that takes place along with the feeling of being enriched with the whole experience. In today's self-obsessed wired world, it has become a social necessity to interact often and work together in conducive environment, sourced with information and enabled with tools and technology, especially in the education field. Sir Ken Robinson (2013), in his TED talk has said that 'Part of education is learning and what drives learning is curiosity and collaboration'. Current education system calls for collaborative learning and library provides the collaborative learning space and environment for various group activities involving resources to yield a positive outcome.

It's a known fact that the underlying mission of every academic library be it a university library or a school library, is to create opportunities for lifelong learning. Promoting collaborative learning is one of the ways to create such opportunities.

## **1. Need For Collaborative Learning In School Libraries**

As educators, we need to be aware of the need for creating a platform for collaborative learning. Here are some facts that necessitate the creation of such opportunities.

- As the library's goal is to aid the teaching and learning process happening in the school, there is a pressing need to integrate curricular activities with the library activities.
- The advent of technology has certain impact on budget, space, resources and expertise which can be setbacks for an educational institute and these setbacks can be overcome by encouraging collaborative learning initiatives in the library.
- It goes without saying that collaborative learning optimizes use of library resources as it is a platform for students to work together and teachers to connect them to the resources.
- The creative explosion that is happening world over across disciplines will get a boost as students engage in collaborative learning and think creatively & critically.

- Today's complexity calls for students to be better decision makers and problem solvers. Collaborative learning enables them to be so.

Along with the needs, there are numerous advantages of creating collaborative learning initiatives for enhancing school library programmes.

## **2. Advantages Of Collaborative Learning In School Libraries**

In the context of the school library as a platform of collaborative learning, the benefits to the students are immense. To identify a few of them,

- Working outside the formal classroom on an academic topic especially in an informal environment like the library will inspire the students to be less stressed and more enthusiastic.
- Students when working together on a project will learn to share the information suitable to their topic as well as suggest resources to other groups working on different topics.
- Since the students must research their topic by referring to various resources together as a group, they learn the art of evaluating the resources from various perspectives.
- The basic life skills like effective communication, better decision making, problem solving, critical and creative thinking, interpersonal skills, managing emotions will be enhanced, when they come together and use library space.
- Collaborative learning will result in mutual benefit – the students get the information required and the library will get an opportunity to know the strength of its collection.

## **3. Concept And Definition Of Collaborative Learning In School Libraries**

According to Kenneth (1993), Collaborative learning is a situation in which two or more people learn or attempt to learn something together. Collaborative learning is an educational approach to teaching and learning that involves groups of students working together to solve a problem, complete a task, or create a product. According to Gerlach (1994), "Collaborative learning is based on the idea that learning is a naturally social act in which the participants talk among themselves. It is through the talk that learning occurs."

In the context of a School Library, Collaborative Learning can be defined as a 'Technique wherein group of students work together to achieve a common goal or objective through tasks which will enhance their understanding while each take responsibility for the tasks undertaken'. It may be as simple as working in teams to learn new words by collecting word meanings from the dictionary or as complex as, working on an environmental project on 'Endangered species of butterflies of South America'.

Since collaborative learning brings together groups of students, teachers and librarians together in the library, it is essential to know the purpose and role of collaborative learning as tool or service offered by a school library.

## **4. Purpose Of Collaborative Learning In School Libraries**

The purpose of initiating collaborative learning activities in library is

- To create awareness that library serves as the major source for projects & assignments

- Help the librarian to be a facilitator and the students to be active learners
- To provide guidance for structured use of resources
- Enable the librarian to reach out to the teams working on tasks, channelize and guide them to use right resources

## **5. Role Of Collaborative Learning In School Libraries**

To promote optimum use of resources, various facilities and services are created for the students and the educators. One such service is to create a platform for collaborative learning which plays a crucial role in shaping the holistic personality of the students. A few roles of collaborative learning initiatives are examined below:

- They guide students to the right resources necessary for their assignments, projects, etc.
- They encourage them to compile the literature collected, discuss, debate and evaluate them.
- They direct them to analyze and synthesize the information collected and organized.
- They present the outcome of the exercise.

## **6. Collaborative Learning Initiatives In School Libraries**

There are various aspects of collaborative learning and various modes of collaborative learning. Miriam Clifford discusses a very important observation that 'Collaborative learning teams are said to attain higher level thinking and preserve information for longer times than students working individually'. She goes on to explain that groups tend to learn through "discussion, clarification of ideas, and evaluation of other's ideas." Research on this subject suggests that students who worked collaboratively on math computational problems earned significantly higher scores than those who worked alone. Plus, students who demonstrated lower levels of achievement improved when working in diverse groups. (Clifford, 2014). So, it emerges very clearly that the mode of collaborative learning is group activity, interactive sessions, pair activities, etc.

Collaborative learning initiatives can be arranged in the following ways:

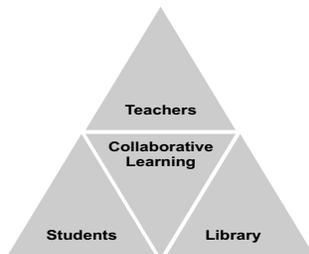
### **6.1 Library, Teacher/S And Students**

When scholastic and co scholastic sessions are planned between the library and teacher/s and students of a class, or level or age group, sufficient care must be taken to assure that exclusive sessions are conducted with following things in mind:

- Space earmarked for the session & specific time duration
- Objectives of the activity
- Resources necessary for the activity
- Sequence to be planned for the activity to be carried out

For example, suppose class sixth of your school is doing a project on 'Adaptation in animals'. The science teacher would like the group of students to explore the basic reference sources like dictionaries, encyclopedias, atlases, etc. to collection information about different animals which have adapted to

various habitats and at the same time wants to show a video on adaptation in animals. The teacher should coordinate with the librarian regarding the required resources, the date and time, the audio video facility, etc. so that the librarian can arrange the screening of the video, readjust the library classes, arrange the seats in such a way that every students' group will have access to minimum number of resources, etc.



**Figure 1: Collaborative Learning sessions between Library, Teachers & Students**

As professionals, we should see to it that the routine functioning of the library does not suffer and at the same time, the session should be successful.

## **6.2 Library and Teachers**

It's important that we introduce to the teachers the potential and excitement of collaborative learning in the library. Also, we as librarians need to educate them about various collaborative tools and resources. Encouraging the teachers to explore the resources and find ways and means to use them as teaching resources and sharing them with fellow teachers in a formal set up like the library will further strengthen the teaching learning process. Activities like 'Adopt-a-Book Project' should be encouraged as it enables the teachers to locate the right resource, use it and share it with others thereby encouraging optimum utilization of the resources.

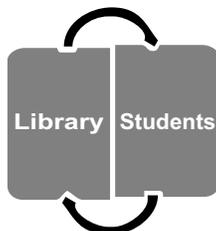


**Figure 2: Collaborative Learning Session between Teachers and Library Staff**

Most schools like to schedule training programmes, workshops, seminars, etc. on Saturdays as the students have holiday or half day. Library can schedule collaborative learning activities for teachers on such days. For example, introducing Open Access Resources in the relevant subjects, how to search for scholarly resources in their subject, etc. A group of teachers who teach the same subject can explore the said resource and share it with their colleagues. It saves the time of all and at the same time has required information regarding the availability of the resources in the library.

### 6.3 Library and Students

When organizing collaborative sessions for students, the outcome of the activity has to be well thought and accordingly students should be grouped and tasks should be given. The groups should be formed in such a way that each student gets a chance to participate and each student's potential will be utilized by the team. The tasks to be done collaboratively can be related to their curriculum as well as personal development activities. They should empower them with confidence, equip them with more knowledge and excite them to explore more resources. The mechanism of the collaborative activity should be explained to them and their consent sought so that the activity will be carried out whole heartedly and results in a positive outcome.

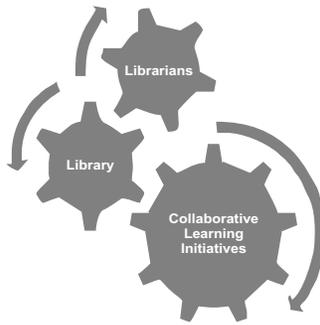


**Figure 3: Collaborative Learning Sessions of students in libraries**

The best example for students' collaborative learning would be their preparation for House Competitions. Say, the students' groups representing different Houses must present posters on a theme. The criteria would be the same for all the students. But the difference that can take place is the research skills that library can teach the students to locate, evaluate and present in the form of the poster. The students who grasp and make use of the techniques will be more successful in their task compared to the other students. Other examples would be students working together for the presentation of their seminar topic, preparing for debates, etc. which will encourage the use of resources of the library. International Book Mark Project is another very successful collaborative learning initiative which many Indian school libraries are now a part of.

### 6.4 Collaboration with Librarians of other schools

Collaborative learning can happen among our fellow professionals too. When we network with the colleagues of the schools of our city, or our state or at national level a lot of learning takes place. Lot of work we may be duplicating can be avoided. New ways of doing things or doing things in a faster and innovative is possible when we get together and create a collaborative platform. As we deal with students and educators, we need to be well informed about the ergonomics in the field of education. Getting together to discuss and deliberate as forums, conducting focus group discussions, attending seminars and conferences, reading resources which help us stay updated is essential and all these act as platforms for collaborative learning for us as school librarians.



**Figure 4: Collaborative Learning Initiatives between fellow librarians**

Occasions like International School Library Month, National Library Week can be more meaningful if collaborative learning sessions like Focused Group Discussions on a contemporary topic, Workshop by a leading professional on the trends in school librarianship are conducted. Such opportunities will help those who may not be privileged to have support system in their schools, or have access to know more about the advances in the professional field.

**7. Implementation Of Collaborative Learning Initiatives In School Libraries**

Creating opportunities for collaborative learning, planning the sessions, executing the sessions, documentation, feedback mechanism etc. are part of the implementation process of using the library as a platform for collaborative learning. The three phases of the implementation of any collaborative learning activity can be presented as



**Figure 5 – Illustration of Implementation of Collaborative Learning Initiatives**

**7.1 Planning phase**

Collaborative learning calls for collective work. So, the opportunities for collaborative learning can be planned during the library periods. Most of the schools have minimum one library period per week for every class. If the activity is planned well in advance, then the students can keep working in groups on the work assigned to them while the issue-return process is on. The only challenge would be crowd and resource management.

If the schools have more than one library period, it is more beneficial as the librarian can do the issue return process in first period of the week

and is free to assist the students proactively in the second period of the week and guide them to make the most of the opportunity.



**Figure 6 – Illustration of Planning Phase of Collaborative Learning Initiatives**

Another way of initiating collaborative learning is partnering with the teachers who teach various subjects. Since they have more number of periods in every class, they can plan at least one period in every month for literature review in the library. The academic assignments or projects can be planned in such a way that groups of students can work on a topic and can collect information together in such periods under the guidance of the concerned teacher. The important events in the school, say special days like world forest day, world literacy day, etc., visit by eminent personalities, celebrations of national and social festivals can all be integrated by creating relevant material either to be put up on various soft boards or to present or to create awareness by utilizing the library space and the resources.

## 7.2 Execution phase

When collaborative learning initiatives are planned to be conducted in the library, then creating the right kind of infrastructural facilities is essential to carry out collaborative learning activities. Especially the collection should cover all the curricular recommended books, essential reference books, best sellers, most popular magazines, newspapers, etc. The area earmarked for collaborative sessions should have the facilities like projector, Internet connectivity, etc. along with proper seating arrangement. Having well planned rubrics is essential to help the students to carry out the tasks and record their progress. Presentations, either oral or power point well help the students to feel successful as it signifies completion of work and their efforts will be recorded and applauded by the school community. The execution phase can be explained diagrammatically as



**Figure 7: Illustration of Execution Phase of Collaborative Learning Initiatives**

## 7.3 Documentation phase

For the success of any programme, documentation is crucial. Documenting the planning, executing of the collaborative learning initiatives in the library, will serve as guidelines for conducting further such activities on various occasions. Also, the library can maintain records of such initiatives and create anecdotes for the educators to research further and shape them as best practices.



**Figure 8: Documentation Phase**

## **8. Standards And Best Practices Of Collaborative Learning In School Libraries**

Leading School Library Associations in the developed countries have documents giving detail of certain standards of collaborative learning. For example, one can go through ‘Leading Learning: Standards of Practice for School Library Learning Commons in Canada, 2014’ which presents a model for the development and implementation of the school library as a Library Learning Commons. It provides educators with a common set of standards of practice for moving forward. (Leading learning, 2014). The Bookmark Exchange Project during International School Library Month is one of the best practices of collaborative learning sessions that take place in school libraries around the world.

## **9. Technological Tools**

Technology is the major factor that drives today’s education. School education is undergoing a major overhaul due to integration of technology. Introduction of computer aiding learning in all areas be in administrative, teaching, design, etc. is fast gaining grounds. Schools Computer-supported collaborative learning (CSCL) is an emerging branch of the learning sciences concerned with studying how people can learn together with the help of computers. CSCL proposes the development of new software and applications that bring learners together and that can offer creative activities of intellectual exploration and social interaction. (Stahl et al. 2006). An example of technology aided collaborative learning can be witnessed in the form of observation of Global Collaboration Day. Many online activities are planned for the occasion. Events involving tools like ‘Blackboard Collaborate Virtual Room, **Interactive white boards** and many Web 2.0 technologies, etc. are organized.

## **10. Conclusion**

Henry Ford’s most famous quote ‘Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success’ summarizes the essence of collaborative learning better than any amount of theories. Collaborative learning is successful when interactions are productive and positive.

To conclude, as facilitators and users of library and its resources which is a scholarly asset of every school, we need to work as an important life line of the academic environment. It is beyond doubt that a proactive librarian and collaborative learning initiatives will optimize the library usage and increase student achievement considerably.

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❖ At the moment that we persuade a child, any child, to cross that threshold, that magic threshold into a library, We change their lives forever, for the better

- Barack Obama

❖ Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.

- Frederick Douglass

❖ The more you read, the more things you will know.

- Dr. Seuss

# Student's Friendly Library

Anshula Srivastava\*

## 1. Introduction

The school library is a central point for all kind of reading, access to information and for knowledge building. It is a storehouse of information and a key to knowledge.

The purpose of any school library is to develop learning skills, critical thinking and skill oriented learning, but in the era of information revolution ,specially the internet has lured the budding readers away from the printed works like the Pied Piper .There is a great need for the improvement and transformation of school libraries to meet students' expectation, otherwise it may lead to a reluctance to use the physical library materials and to a decrease of visits to the library by them. So while redesigning a school library we should keep in mind the need for a balance between old and new, print and electronic, traditional and innovative methods.

There are challenges that librarians need to face to provide quality and efficient library and information services, but to meet the changing needs of library clientele, librarians are expected to think out of the box. Librarians must continuously enhance their knowledge and skills in the use of technologies in order to improve productivity, efficiency and competitiveness.

## 2. Need for Transformation

Now-a-days many young children comfortably use a wide variety of new formats associated with new technological tools to construct and distribute knowledge.

A growing literature focuses on today's students who were born into the era of burgeoning information and communication technologies. They are growing up connected to the world and each other and see technology as their primary tool to communicate, empower, solve their problems and to shape their lives.

Our students are comfortable in digital spaces although they do not intuitively have the skills needed for academic learning in print and digital formats. However, they are spending a lot of time in learning on their own and collaborating with each other through video gaming, social networking, and content creation. They are used to being active learners, and so they are ready for the challenges that school libraries provide through information-based learning

## 3. Changes in Traditional Librarianship

Librarians are moving into dramatically different roles even though the traditional services of acquiring, organizing, retrieving and disseminating information remains the same.

## a) Acquisition

With the advent of analogue technology that expanded library collections to include electronic equipment also. It means now select and purchase is not limited to traditional material like books and journals only library collection must include a whole range of elements, from eBooks, to academic databases, to innovative programs that allow students to explore their creative inclinations, learn new skills, and apply their learning in innovative ways .

Librarians must be aware of the appropriateness of electronic material for their students. The librarian will have to do additional responsibility to decide the software and hardware requirements for their library according to their needs.

## b) Cataloger:

A cataloger has to deal not only with title, author or subject of printed materials but rather CD ROMs, e books etc. Online cataloguing is essential for today's young learners.

**c) Classifiers** : have to seek for new classifying devices for classifying digital library holdings like CD-ROMs, DVDs, floppy diskettes, tapes, and Internet resources, besides the traditional print material.

**d) Reference** This service is not restricted within walls of the library, growing users are asking queries through emails also. They need assistance in online database. Thus reference librarian is the one who has to face the daunting task of adapting ICT skills, social networking skills and other adaptive skills that will make her/him to be relevant in information services provision.

**e) User education** : is a traditional service rendered mostly by the most of the librarians. This is essential if the users are to make the most effective and productive use of network and electronic information services.

**f)** Librarians are expected to provide value-added services by carrying out searches across a range of informative resources, downloading the results, analyzing it and repackaging it to suit the users' needs.

**g)** The traditional role of librarians as the custodians of their physical holdings is changing into one being responsible for the security of their electronic information as well along with the system administrators.

## 4. Ways to Transform Libraries

### 4.1 Transform from Manual to Digital

This is need of hour to equip school library with the latest software for providing speedy services. With the wide use of online availability students expect online library facilities. Digital library management system, offers the students, faculty and staff a comprehensive, reliable, and easy-to-use system providing instant access from any computer or mobile device 24 hours a day .Online library services can be made available on the school portal/website. Updating readers about the new arrivals through these channels time to time to increase footfalls in the library.

### 4.2 Transition to the Role of Information Guide

In an era of digital resources, school libraries no longer function as warehouses of information, but as guides to information. Students don't understand how

to evaluate, sift through and use information from the Internet. School libraries can take up this gigantic task to teach how to surf the net ,how to use search engines, how to evaluate and how to change information format as per use.

#### **4.3 Keep Up With the Time**

As more resources move from print to digital, school libraries need to reflect that shift. Libraries won't be relevant if they don't have digital resources, digital devices and online facilities in present time.

School libraries should provide equitable access to the digital research tools that students need for academic assistance. These resources include e-books, databases, websites, subject directories and wikis. It should also run independent learning programs, which integrate information resources and technologies.

#### **4.4 Collaborate With Teachers**

Collaborate with teachers to plan, implement and evaluate inquiry-based programs that will ensure students acquire skills to collect, critically analyze and organise information, problem-solving and communicate their findings.

For example, maybe the class is studying U.S. Presidents, and library has some resources about a particular president, offering a list of available resources highlighted with important features to teacher and invite students for extended study. After all, it's all about helping the students to learn and grow!

Update teachers about the new collection so that teachers can encourage students to use library resources for extended study.

Also provide teachers with access to relevant curriculum information and professional development materials within and outside the school.

#### **4.5. Transform Library Spaces**

The school library space needs to change as well. In the past, the school library was a place that students either loved or ignored, based on their personal approach to education. Today, school librarians need to rethink that model by creating an open, comfortable, student-friendly space that invites learning, creativity and collaborative problem-solving. A school library might move to incorporate elements of either a learning commons or a maker space model or both where students can experiment with different media forms and craft and also create opportunities for hands-on learning and make the school library more appealing

#### **4.6 Include Social Media**

Social media is playing a very vital role in present era for marketing library collections and facilities. It is a powerful medium to modernize the library's image and its reputation. It is also useful in providing quick updates and services to students and teachers

### **5. Resource Development**

Strong and successful school libraries require broad collections of resources in many formats to support students and school community in using and applying information resources to build new knowledge.

The School Library will strive to provide:

- Resources in support of student abilities and needs
- Resources that cover the reading range and interests of all students
- Resources in support of school curriculum
- Resources in alignment with the classroom libraries
- Resources requested by the school staff
- Resources included on “best” lists in literature, information, media, and technology
- Resources in print and electronic format
- Resources of varied technologies

Additional Digital Resources

- Internet access
- Online magazines, periodicals, encyclopaedias, databases
- Electronic books and e-book readers
- Audio-visual equipment and materials such as flip videos, digital cameras, DVDs
- Computers and peripherals such as a projector, document camera, interactive white board
- Computers including a laptop and large screen computer
- Kindles/ iPad
- Student’s software such as “extra marks”

School Library resources will also be evaluated for their condition, relevance, and use. Resources may be weeded due to:

- Outdated content or availability of newer editions
- Poor condition such as missing pages, mildew, and other damage
- Shelf space or availability in electronic format
- Lack of interest or circulation
- Broken or obsolete technology
- Unsupported software

## **6. Library as Activity Center**

Shhhh!” is no longer the most common noise to pass through the lips of a librarian. Today, an intellectual “hum” is the new “quiet.”

To make the library more innovative and much more inviting, transform the library in to a comfortable space for students to collaborate, experiment, brainstorm, design, debate, storytelling and presentation.

A Librarian function as an instructor, coach, teacher, and cheerleader — while all around his/her students and teachers engage in multiple forms of learning. To spend a day in a contemporary school library is to witness users in research, collaboration, communication, problem solving, creativity, and more.

**6.1 Library Orientation** to familiarize students with library resources at the beginning of academic year, gives them a fair idea about the library resources and will help them to choose right resource for their academic need.

**6.2 Learning Commons** is a term that refers to a mixed-use space for research, study, collaboration, global connection, and more — with librarians embodying the all-important connection between resources and students

The library learning commons is the physical and virtual collaborative learning hub of the school. The Learning Commons is a place for sharing knowledge and learning. We provide the technology that students need in order to access, evaluate, and utilize information. Some of the learning tools that have been utilized are web tools eg. blogs, twitter, wikis, facebook.

**6.3 The Collaborative Zone** is focused on project-based learning and group work. Teamwork, multimedia collaboration and displaying student work are encouraged. Tables can easily be moved and reconfigured. Seating options should be lightweight so that they can be easily picked up and rearranged to encourage spontaneous collaboration.

Power access and connectivity are important considerations for students who want to charge their devices, and media tables allow students and teachers to plug in and share their screens.

**6.4 Author Meet:** School visits by authors have the potential for jumpstarting not only writing projects, but for following any dream. Author's experiences inspire students to connect with the world of books. Students identify the struggles and joys of the writing and publication process because they hear about it directly from the author.

**6.5 BOOK FAIR:** Book fairs give children a motivation to read by offering them a wide selection of books to choose from that they can look at before they decide to take. Book fair also enables them to know about new titles of the books.

**6.6 Literary Activities:** Libraries can organise many literary activities to optimize student's reading base.

Design some interesting literary activities such as book based quiz, title related crossword, book characters painting etc. to be conducted during library periods. That will encourage student's reading base. School libraries can arrange some powerful activities outside the library walls like World book Day, library week celebrations etc .

**6.7 Display Screens/Projectors:** From a scientific perspective, it's been found that using visuals help the audience remember the information more effectively. By showing some children films with moral, book based movies, lesson explanations by videos stimulate thinking and improves learning and reading. Of course display screens can be used for bulletin boards, new arrivals etc. To motivate students for reading, award them as "Reader Of Month" and display it on the screen.

**6.8 New Collection Awareness:** Publicising new collection by putting interesting charts on different notice boards, uploading them on school website /portal, social media etc.

**6.9 Parent Connect:** Invite parents to visit school library to give an idea about resources and library facilities. Parents can see their child's reading history, reading logs, favourite books, reading preferences, book reviews and more. Parents can recommend books to their children.

**Some others :** encourage students to send videos of review of read books and display it on library display screens, Upload E books (fiction) on school portal during vacation period when students cannot approach library for reading.

## 7. Skills & Knowledge Required Combating the Changes

The old image of the school librarian whose main responsibilities were to curate books, help students learn research skills and cultivate a love of reading is gone. Today's school librarians are expected to be tech-savvy media specialists who pursue all those goals and more. With education's growing dependence on digital resources and the trend toward personalized learning, school librarians should connect students and teachers with the resources they need to both learn and teach

The broad, but essential digital competencies for school librarians are listed below. The school librarian should have the,

- Basic skills of Information technology
- Awareness of Communication & Networking Technologies
- Knowledge of Web based tools & technologies
- Knowledge of different types of databases like the Bibliographic databases Non- bibliographic databases, Statistical databases, Full text databases, etc.
- Library automation in-house operations
- Knowledge of all types of e-resources and Web based resources
- Skills of using Information Retrieval Tools and Web based Search Tools
- Knowledge of E-learning tools and technologies
- Aptitude for Integrating digital content with school curriculum
- Information Literacy skills with regard to digital resources
- Awareness of Multimedia Tools
- Awareness of use of social media
- Skills to keep track of recent trends in information technology, digital resources

## 8. Nutshell

What's important	What's not
Physical and virtual libraries as hubs of creating new knowledge and educational innovation.	libraries as stand-alone centers of knowledge consumption.
regular collaboration with the technological teams to ensure consistency in skills, approach to technology, and technological policies.	librarians teaching technology in a vacuum, or ignoring the technology curriculum, while staying out of the conversation about technology policy or plans for the school.

Keeping a curated selection of books and digital resources that are used, and weeding and updating the collection on a regular basis.	Keeping an archive of books and resources that are rarely used.
Encouraging the librarian to experiment and play with new digital resources and tools.	No opportunities to offer e-Books and new media to students and faculty due to budget constraints.
Offering collaborative workspaces for students and noise-cancelling headphones for those who want silence.	Shushing students all day.
Lending gear from laptops to iPads, from phone chargers to video cameras, from rulers to calculators.	Advocating in-library use only for many materials.
Librarians active in their personal learning networks in order to stay aware of the rapidly changing field and to help lead the discussions about new and meaningful avenues for technology in the curriculum.	Librarians not willing (or not given the opportunity) to implement change in the library program or services offered.
Collaborating with teachers to create inquiry-based projects that seamlessly integrate information literacy skills into the academic curriculum.	Leaving the librarian out of the planning process and implementation in regard to academic resources.
Learning how to search Google effectively.	One million hits in your Google results list.
A library space with numerous digital facilities, moveable furniture, and easy access to the virtual library.	Inflexible learning spaces.
A welcoming, student-centered library that supports learning and curiosity.	A library where students feel there are too many rules with no purpose.

## 9. Conclusion:

Adaptive, strong, and resilient are the words I would like to use to describe a library. Libraries always demonstrate a sense of optimism even in the most challenging of situations. Just think about it – libraries have existed since 2600 B.C. They have remained relevant even after undergoing transformations for over 4,600 years.

Libraries have now moved from clay tablets and papyrus scrolls in favor of books and magazines and e-books and cloud-based collections.

Surely, this new year will bring many more new ideas, technology and approaches to make school libraries more student friendly.

# **School Library: Innovative and Engaging Library Sessions for Gen Next Kids**

**Anubha Arora\***

## **0. Mission and Vision of a School :**

A school envisions and empowers students to acquire, demonstrate, articulate and value knowledge and skills that will support them, as life-long learners. They encourage students to participate in and contribute to the global world. A School preaches and helps them practise the core values like mind fullness, passion, excellence, compassion, collaboration, safety and responsibility. These teachings are quite significant in their primitive years of education.

On the general term, every school believes and recognizes that each child is an individual with some specific traits. Every child is born with a unique natural potential. A school tries to nurture a child's natural potential and creates a learning environment to help build up his/ her potential, enhancing and maximizing its development in the process. Different and diverse teaching aids/ methods are used to benefit each child with their varied learning styles.

Learning is ever expanding and never ceases. The child continues to seek knowledge, adapting to changing times and constantly evolving through further experiences and interactions. Thus, helps develop the social, emotional, physical, intellectual development of each child. School prepares a child to succeed and develop innovations aiming towards global contribution.

## **1. Objectives of a School Library**

School libraries today have to be different from libraries of the past. They need to get rid from a "Warehouse space" tag. The times have changed and so have the users need. To meet the demands and requirements of the users, libraries need to be engaged in adaptive yet innovative library services. This shall make it more worthwhile than ever before.

School library has always been the centre of knowledge creation and knowledge consumption. They have always supported students in their learning endeavors and been a common spot for information. It familiarizes the students with diverse and quality reading material. They are reference for budding writers. They are a showcase to current or upcoming materials in the market.

Thus, it is a foundation for education system and specialized learning which caters to overall development of a child.

## **2. Importance of Reading**

As we all know, benefits of reading are immense. This is more relevant especially for a growing up child. Thus, it proves to be more vital to instill and inspire a child for reading at a young primitive age. This virtue could stay with him as a lifelong asset.

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- Reading adds to the brain power by mental stimulation and boosts up their imagination skills.
- Reading open doors to the students and can help gain experiences.
- It improves language, vocabulary skills. It further helps in communication building.
- Reading makes an individual more knowledgeable. This enhances his/ her social skills too.
- It helps a reader to be more focused on learning. It surely builds up concentration.
- The aim is to create confident readers, who have good independent learning skills and develop a range of interest through reading.
- Books open an individual to diverse cultures. It helps to understand diverse cultures and accepts them.
- It helps in building analytical skills.
- By reading different authors and books, derives a better and personal writing skill.
- Lastly, it is a great form of stress buster.

### **3. Role of a School Librarian**

A librarian wears many caps like a Program administrator, an information navigator, collaborator, a technology facilitator. They prove to be an extension to the school mission, tirelessly functioning towards fulfilling the vision of the school.

- **Acquisition**

Librarians stay tune with current available resources and literature. They select the publications and book titles which align with the school vision. While acquisition, other than acquiring age specific and relevant materials-it is imperative to keep a balance of fiction, non-fiction and reference materials. This is a key to good content development.

- **Book Processing**

After the acquired books are inward, they classify and catalogue the reading material as per any of the Classification System.

- **Organizer**

Library is generally organized as per the prevalent Classification system. This determines an easy access and retrieval of information. This saves time and helps in research or a project work by the students. Fiction books though need to be arranged as per Author arrangement.

- **Collaborator**

They collaborate with other faculties to design, integrate and implement lesson plan/ education programme to satisfy across all grade levels and subject disciplines.

- **Information Navigator**

Effectively manages library program. They empower students by guiding them to be critical thinkers, enthusiastic readers, skillful researchers and ethical use of information.

They inspire the students for learning through books and instill a love of learning in them. They also ensure equitable access of information.

- **Information Disseminator/ Guide**

It is important to keep the library lively to attract the students, engaging them in pleasure reading, individual study, research, group collaboration and large group presentation. Librarians advocate reading, promote literature for children across all grades through engaging library activities.

Librarians play a vital / critical role as a mentor for a child, to gather information, engage in and learn from each experience. They aim to develop reading skills with the students providing them with life skills and to promote reading for pleasure and enjoyment.

They are willing to break out from the traditional rut and move towards more engaging and learning environment for all students.

- **Definition of Innovative Library Session**

The services rendered by the librarian to meet the demands of the present users and help build a life long learner. These are the adaptive, engaging and innovative ways to make library a “happening place.”

#### **4. Innovative library activities**

The engaging and innovative library activities to motivate students towards reading are mainly categorized into seven parts here, for better understanding. The activities with almost similar objectives are categorized accordingly to make it more objective driven.

##### **4.1 Orientation**

Ideally an yearly library session need to be initiated with an orientation programme. It could include a presentation to guide the students in a way they benefit by the library facility and the contents therein. The presentation need to be age specific and in a simplified language and more picturesque.

The librarian may start the orientation by specifying the vision and mission of the school. Later, the goal and objectives of the library need to be clearly stated for better functionality. The facilities provided by the school and the services offered may also be included.

Physical layout of the library can be discussed or shown.

Library collection in different formats, available in the library need to be communicated.

Rules and regulations of the library need to be clearly stated, including the circulation process.

A brief about the prevalent classification system is recommended. This will ensure the motive behind the books arrangement.

##### **4.2 Categories of Activities During Library Sessions**

- **Book based**

- ✧ **Parts of the books**

A book has many parts starting from cover page, spine, Index, Contents, preface, Glossary etc. Each part beholds different kinds of information. Relevance and importance of each part need to be brainstormed. To optimize the value of any book and its content to its maximum, attaining this information is critical.

## ❖ **Types of the book**

The children need to be aware about the different genres of the book along with their specialization. This is to identify the genre and information it comprises.

Awareness could be spread by briefing them about various categories of fiction books starting from fairy tales, fables, comics, mythology, adventure, horror, science, classics etc.

Similarly categories of Non-fiction and reference books too may be discussed with examples like Biographies, Atlas, Almanacs, Encyclopedia etc.

The next library session could comprise of an engaging fun filled activity to the class. A group of 4-5 students could be formed to design a poster for the library. Each group is rendered with varied objective like –depicting library collection, library rules and regulations, types of the book and parts of the book. These activities shall provide them with deeper understanding of the world of books.

The best piece of work can go to the library board. This shall act as a confidence building and motivating exercise.

## • **Reading based**

The activities categorized herein are reading based, wherein a student is desired to read a certain book.

## ❖ **Author/Genre of the Month**

An author/ genre of books will be announced each month. Biographical facts and beliefs of the author/ characteristics of that genre will be displayed in the library through posters.

Books by that author / genre could be displayed in a separate corner. Learners can read these during library sessions.

## ❖ **Theme books**

A particular theme could be announced each month for different age groups considering the library collection. The students need to find books to read or issue satisfying the said theme.

## ❖ **Student reader presentation**

All the students of a particular class may read a specific book and discuss about its content, characters, storyline etc.

## ❖ **Non-fiction reading**

One of the students needs to read aloud a non-fiction book article. It could be from a magazine. He would later ask at least two questions to the audience. This would help them build confidence and public speaking too.

## ❖ **Tag a friend**

The students shall be paired with the ones whom they know little about. They later find books for each other. The student may pick up a varied or an unnoticeable book. This could be very different from his regular interest. This activity shall make them widen their reading interest.

#### ✧ **Book buffet**

Place different genre of books on each desk. Students will be reading the book for 5-8 minutes and then will switch with some one else. Books should be of great variety. Ask them if there are any books they started that they would continue to read.

#### ✧ **Musical books**

Chairs are placed back-to-back in a straight line and the teacher places a book on each chair. Every child then sits on a chair. The children walk around the chairs when the librarian starts the music. When the music stops the children sit down and begin to read the book kept on their chair. After a few minutes, the librarian starts the music again. After the game, the teacher asks each students about the book they liked the most and would continue to read.

#### ✧ **Prepare timeline of books**

Students will record name of all those books they have read throughout the year. Students can produce a timeline by naming their favourite books. Students can include all the work they did throughout the year, like, poems, books, book covers, illustrations, etc.,

#### ✧ **Study buddy**

Some of the elder students could volunteer to sit with the younger children helping them with reading a book.

#### ✧ **Book tasting menu**

Different genres will be listed on a paper. The student need to browse the library and read books. Later after reading a paragraph/ blurb they would classify books as per different genres.

#### ✧ **Library wall**

A wall is dedicated for book reviews by the children. The students may share their written book reviews with the librarian. The best motivational reviews is selected and added to the library wall every week. They have the privilege to write their book review on library walls along with the illustrations, making it more colourful and attractive.

#### ✧ **Reading Challenge**

Each learner will be given a 25-40 point checklist about things they must do and read during the reading week. Each learner will be required to do the things mentioned on the list, tick it off and get it signed by a witness. They will submit these lists at the end of the week.

#### ✧ **Book challenge**

This is a book challenge session wherein a student, class, teacher can challenge an age appropriate book to be read by anyone. The Challenger must mention the title and author of the book.

The challenger mentions a particular task with specifications that should be completed along with the reading of the book.

Learners' challenges have to be accepted and completed by the person being challenged to be declared as 'completed'.

- **Research based**

Objective of these activities is to empower and help the students build research skills. In the process they also gain knowledge in diverse fields. They are able to explore books of diverse interests. These activities are generally beneficial in a group.

- ✧ **Class dictionary**

Students can be paired and given a specific alphabet to each pair. They shall brainstorm for a at least 3 new words. The words need to be written along with its meaning and pronunciation. They may also like to illustrate it. Once the task is completed, the piece of work could be bound and used as a Class dictionary. It helps in vocabulary building.

- ✧ **Glossary making**

This activity is almost similar to the one above. Each group is given or can select a non-fiction book of their choice. The difficult words need to be listed out. The students find the meanings to the words listed and jot down. In the process they make glossary of that particular book. This acts as a team builder activity.

- ✧ **Creating word search/ puzzle/crossword**

Students are paired in groups. Each group gets a theme/ subject for making word search/ puzzle/ crossword. They find new words and are able to define the same.

- ✧ **Scrabble/ Jumble words**

This activity too requires working in groups. The famous book titles and Authors could be jumbled up. The students can also play scrabble or a hangman game. This shall induce fun element in them. Also this would be the time they are sharing age specific information about literature with each other.

- **Boosting creativity/ artistic skills**

These set of activities are the ones, which require a bit of creativity, improves the artistic skills. They could be either performed as an individual work or in pairs.

- ✧ **Making book jacket**

Students will visualize and create a book jacket based on their logic and imagination of what should the jacket convey to a reader.

- ✧ **Making Bookmarks**

There are various ways to make bookmarks. Librarian can share one of those as per their age group. The students can further personalize it and use it for their own personal use. This activity would help them to connect and motivate them to read.

- ✧ **Quiz**

Students will be reading news paper, magazines and non-fiction books to prepare themselves for quiz or can prepare their own quiz. The quiz could be circulated to the next group as a challenge.

- ✧ **Book reviews**

A format of book review is designed by the librarian. The students shall fill up and submit the same after reading a book.

#### ✧ **Making collage**

The students will create a story with cut-outs from magazines/ newspaper without writing much.

#### ✧ **Touch and feel book**

To create a story in a blank book using indigenous materials and vocabulary and touch and feel the book.

#### ✧ **Creating Book character**

Using the themes in the story, write your own story, creating your own characters and situation.

#### ✧ **Cartoon sketch**

Teacher will read some interesting articles from the news paper and will discuss with students. Students will draw cartoon sketches with bubbles to showcase their understanding.

#### ✧ **Puppet story**

Librarian or an elder student could volunteer to tell a story through puppet. This is recommended for younger age group.

#### ✧ **Cover page**

The students can sketch their favourite book's cover page. They can make it colourful to make it look attractive.

#### ✧ **Book poster**

Imagine the book was turned into a movie. Create a poster to advertise it. The students can use their own imagination, representing a particular scene or a character of the book.

#### • **Out of the box/ library**

These activities would prove to be more engaging and motivational for special students.

#### ✧ **Library hunt**

Different groups of students are allotted a list of tasks to be accomplished. This task could be finding a particular book, a picture, a piece of information or an author etc.

#### ✧ **Video story**

Video session related to a book could be arranged. This would motivate them to read that particular book.

#### ✧ **Role play**

Students in group select a story to enact it as a play. They write their own dialogues and present it before the class.

#### ✧ **Life of prominent authors and their works**

Librarian can share life of prominent authors and their work with the class. This will help them draw connections, making reading more enjoyable.

#### ✧ **Story weaving**

Students sit in a circle. One of the students initiate a story. Later the student holds onto the end of a ball of string and rolls the ball to another student, who will give the next part of the story in sentence form. This is repeated until the story has been told. Soon students will have a spider's web in students' circle.

#### ✧ **Shelf presenter**

The students are allotted a particular shelf to organize and present the shelf to the class.

✧ **Workshops on speed reading, read aloud sessions, reading comprehension, creative writing etc.**

✧ **Contributing to library boards- newspaper clippings**

✧ **Visit a library**

A guided tour to visit a large library could be arranged. A small talk from the librarian could be requested beforehand.

✧ **Book exhibitions**

✧ **Book fair**

• **Creative writing**

✧ **Quotes on reading/library**

Students may write quotes related to reading/ library/ books for display.

✧ **A new celebration**

Students may be asked to illustrate a new celebration which they would like to initiate by which the world would be a better place to live.

✧ **Writing a letter to the author expressing your opinion of the book.**

✧ **Writing a letter to the character conveying the individual views on solving his/her problem**

✧ **Story writing**

After reading the story, students will pick favourite character from their book and write a new story or play including their favourite characters.

✧ **Twisted tale**

Supposing the age old story, students are required to give a futuristic treatment to the story.

✧ **Twisted poems**

Favourite rhymes/ poems can be given a modern angle.

✧ **Pizza story**

Different stages of the story could be placed in the form of pizza slices. The students can fill each of the slices of pizza with their imaginative story.

✧ **Story prompts**

A prompt or a set up could be initiated by the librarian to which the students continue and pen a story.

✧ **Illustrate your favourite part of the story**

After reading the book, the favourite part/ scene is illustrated with their own imagination. The library sessions with innovative activities above will surely add value to your class.

### **4.3 Benefits of Library Activities**

A student benefits immensely from these innovative, engaging and adaptive library activities. They are necessary to groom the students since it helps in language, literacy and intellect development. They tend to acquire new skills and gain understanding of the unseen world. Most importantly it shapes up their attitude and strengthens their value system.

Some of the benefits of them are enlisted for better understanding and making it more apparent.

- It exposes them to different genre of books and identify their interest.
- It proves to be an engaging task wherein all kinds of learners like Visual, Aural, Verbal and Kin-esthetic learners are satisfied.
- It motivates them for better reading skills.
- The activities not only act as an enhancer to child ability, to comprehend various concepts with ease, but also develops critical thinking.
- This also guides them further for good reads and not just get stucked on to mass appeal books.
- The engaging library activities boost up their imagination.
- The adaptive library activities helps them with brainstorming stimulating their brain muscles.
- Teaches them team work.
- Enhance their creativity and artistic skills.
- Helps the students in language building and improves their vocabulary.
- Develop and strengthen their research skills.
- Preparing them for future life skills.
- Awaken the curiosity in the child.
- Help them being a contributor, thus making them a confident child.
- It helps find them connections with their world and give them a sense of belongingness.
- These activities also foster particular interest in a child.
- It opens a wealth of information to them and help them become a life long learner.
- Provides them a mental break from monotonous academic sessions.

Thus, adaptive Library activities prove to be a boon for holistic overall development of a child.

#### **4.4 Barriers**

- Limited time frame- A librarian caters to the needs of students by issuing books and also performing library activities in a given time slot of around 30 min, which is difficult practically.
- Students' strength- Handling more than 20 students and engaging them with library activities is more often difficult to manage, wherein one to one interaction is not possible.
- Non availability / timely of required items - Some set of things like stationary, items or facilities are planned to perform a certain library activity. In case, it's not received timely hampers or delays the outcome. This may also lead to change in the planned session.
- Allocation of too many classes- A librarian effectiveness is at stake while he/ she is allotted too many classes since a School librarian not only takes classes but also is responsible for acquisition, classifying, cataloguing and further processing and organizing books in the library.

- Library structure- A warehouse turned into a library is a passé. In today's time it is essential for a library structure to be appealing and colourful, possessing kid's friendly furniture and a pleasing atmosphere to attract the users.
- Perception- Image of a librarian is more of an Administrator/ Support staff or a store keeper. This needs to change since the librarians are not merely circulation master and book keepers but take regular library session interacting with children -teaching and guiding them. Thus, they are now termed as "Teacher librarian".
- Qualified librarians- Schools generally recruit unqualified individuals for the post. In the other case they may give an additional responsibility to a subject teacher who may not be able to do justice to the library and its functions.
- School Timings- Librarians are made to work in a general shift along with the Admin Staff though they interact and work as teachers. This diminishes their work value.

## **5. Conclusion**

As is evident, the benefits of adaptive library activities are much more apropos the barriers caused there in. Thus, these barriers need to overcome for the larger interest of grooming students as life long learners and for the future of Gen Next Kids.

This can be achieved by creating awareness, more understanding, better communication, change in belief system and perception, a pro- active approach.

With the changing times, librarians are willing to adapt to the situation of providing an adaptive and innovative library activities. To facilitate their continuing efforts and optimizing the same further, schools need to initiate a library reading programme. This programme may include the reading and library activities which align with the School Mission.

Librarians could collaborate and take suggestion from other subject faculties in the interest of students. The activities selected and enlisted could be in pace with the learning outcomes of any particular theme but most importantly should motivate reading. This shall make a significant and remarkable development in the child.

The fact that the librarians are one of the major contributors to a school vision of educating a child and making him/her a life long learner. They tirelessly work towards the mission of the school. Thus, its high time we the librarians understand and value our contribution and work towards it. This will surely change the belief system and perception that follows.

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# School Librarian as an Educator

Chhavi Pandya\*

## 0. Introduction

The School Library is the central hub that supports and helps every member of the school community – students, staff, parents to gain new knowledge, skills and disposition for learning and personal development that they will use throughout their lives. The school library provides information and ideas that are fundamental to functioning successfully in today's information and knowledge-based society. The school library equips students with life-long learning skills and develops the imagination, enabling them to live as responsible citizens. In schools where student's learning is a top priority, librarian's role includes teacher, instructional partner, reading motivator, information specialist, curator, and program administrator.

## 1. The Purpose Of The School Library

The school library exists to provide a range of learning opportunities for both large and small groups as well as individuals with a focus on intellectual content, information literacy, and the learner. In addition to classroom visits with collaborating teachers, the school library also serves as a learning space for students to do independent work, use computers, equipments, project work and assignments etc., to host special events such as author visits and book clubs; book exhibitions and for tutoring and testing.

## 2. Role of the Librarian

The fast evolving digital world has created a dichotomy where there is an increased opportunity to access troves of information, but... access isn't guaranteed. That's where Libraries come in... Again library users need regular instructions to analyze and research to find the needed information or book. Today's students for whom reams of information on almost any subjects are available at the touch of the finger, are in greater need than any of guidance on how to select, sift and make use of the best of what is on offer. And that's where need of librarians come in...It is rightly said that *"Google can bring you back 100,000 answers, the Librarian can bring back the right one."*

In fact school librarians are long been at the forefront of technological development in schools, many of them building their own websites. With so much information out there, it is vital that we teach children how to identify reliable sources and evaluate information.

## 3. Fostering Love of Reading

Fostering a love of reading is crucial .We want children to read for pleasure and for meaning. As, Educators it is our responsibility to find ways to encourage more young generation to enjoy a good book...I will share some ways which can help in the educational processes.

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### **3.1 Introduce Them To The Author**

Indeed there is something quite magical about listening to a writer describe the roots of their ideas and inspiration. Author with their enthusiasm for a good story, can fire the imagination in ways the few others can.

### **3.2 Using Comics in The Classroom.**

Comics are versatile. Comics can help in Presenting Old Information in a New Way. One of the most obvious uses for comics is to get reluctant readers to actually read. There is an abundance of options available, from standard comic books to more in-depth graphic novels. If you simply want your students to enjoy reading, then comics are a great option. Recently, publishers have offered a larger variety of graphic novels to readers, including historical non-fiction, memoirs, and even textbooks. Reading comics is no longer an activity reserved for children or superhero fans - today, the world of graphic novels is very compatible with classroom use. Another popular way to use comics in the classroom is to allow students to create their own comics. Allowing students to create their own comic strips or political cartoons on a particular topic. For example, one teacher allowed students to create comic strips based on a societal conviction that they had. Several students make comics that voiced their distaste for the school uniform policy, a few protested wars, and some student make a comic about the spread of AIDS. It is amazing what students will create when they are given the freedom to express their ideas.

## **4. Great Ways to Use Social Media in Classroom.**

When you try to think of the favorite activity of today's students, you'll most probably come up with the obvious answer: social media. It seems like students of all ages are obsessed by it. These social media channels have mesmerizing power, so they can often become great distractions in the classroom. What most us don't realize is that they can use social media to their advantage. These platforms have the power to enhance the collaboration and healthy competitive spirit in the classroom.

### **❖ Set an example**

Students learn plenty of new things every single day. However, they rarely get precise instructions on how to use social media platforms. Thus, they rely on their intuition and the examples they see from other users, which don't always lead them in the right direction. It's time to set an example. Explain how social media can help them learn and establish a great online reputation. Be a great example for them and introduce them to the concept of responsible digital citizenship.

### **❖ Invite guest speakers**

You can easily use social media platforms to present speeches by guest speakers in the library. Skype video conferences are cool, but you can also connect through YouTube and Face book. Thanks to technology, your students will have access to new resources for learning and inspiration.

## 5. Promote Teen Reading in Your School Library

Be Adventurous!

**5.1** Step out of your comfort zone and promote something other than fiction. Many teens (boys especially) are not fiction readers; they may be more interested in your magazine collection. Let your teens know which magazines are available in their library.

**5.2** Get graphic. Graphic novels are appropriate for boys and girls and for teens. Many times they appeal to students who wouldn't ordinarily pick up a book. If you have concerns about age appropriateness and have a collection that serves both middle and high school students, you can always break out the collection by division or grade level.

**5.3** Create some library leaders. Make the library in your school a place for young leaders to develop their skills. They can run your circulation desk, shelf books, and more.

**5.4** Sponsor a poetry slam contest or partner with your school's literary magazine to host an event.

**5.5** Have a "Book Love" session once a month. Serve cookies and ask teachers and students to talk about a book they have recently read and liked.

**5.6** Consider reviewing for a young adult magazine and have your students review as well. Sometimes the lure of seeing their name in print may push them to read more books.

**5.7** If you have all boys or have very competitive students, have a word reading club and stand back and watch the numbers grow! Some librarians have reported that they have several students who read more than a million words in one school year.

**6. School Libraries** have maximum impact when they:

1. Provide collaborative programs for reading instruction.
2. Select and provide resources to meet the learning needs of all students.
3. Assure seamless integration of technology, teaching, and learning.
4. Provide resources to support state and national standards.
5. Offer resources that enhance leveled classroom collections.
6. Encourage students to independently seek, access, and use information.

**7. Quality School Library Programs** have maximum impact when they:

- ❖ Encourage classroom teachers to integrate literature and information skills into the curriculum.
- ❖ Offer opportunities for teachers and school librarians to collaborate on projects that help students use a variety of resources, conduct research, and present their findings.
- ❖ Are supported fiscally and programmatically by the educational community to achieve the mission of the school.

**8. The Professional Certified School Librarians** have maximum impact when they:

1. Promote reading advocacy by matching students to books in all formats, including print, audio, and e-books.
2. Teach information collecting skills.
3. Collaborate with teachers to meet the intellectual needs of students.
4. Acquire, Organize, manage, and physically maintain a collection of valuable resources.
5. Provide resources and activities for students that are meaningful now and in the future.
6. Share the findings of reading research with teachers.
7. Promote resources and activities that spark student interest in reading, learning, and achievement throughout the school years.
8. Assign leadership in the groups for achieving school missions, objectives, and strategies.

In order to address growing concerns about the actual quality of education, policymakers are increasingly focusing their attention on ensuring that children in school are in fact learning. However, evidence has demonstrated that adding more teachers or textbooks is not necessarily an effective way to help those children who may lack the basic skills to take advantage of such resources. In order to improve the quality of education for students, it is important to first identify which strategies result in strong measurable gains among the targeted students. This study focuses on one aspect of that mission: understanding how the provision of libraries with age-appropriate reading-material and dedicated librarians helps improve educational attainment in a Library.

❖ A library should be like a pair of open arms.

Roger Rosenblatt

❖ The books that help you the most are those which make you think the most.

Theodore Parker

❖ Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his deep and continuing needs, is good for him.

Maya Angelou

# Developing Reading Skills Among Students

Kalpana Makwana\*

## 0. Introduction

Language development and reading are closely knit together so are reading and thinking. By reading, a reader infers by reconstructing the information that author has implied. Reading becomes more meaningful when it is connected with background knowledge and past experience.

Parents are more concerned about their child's progress in reading than in any other subject taught in school, and rightfully so. In order for students to achieve in Math, Science, English, History, Geography, and other subjects, reading skills must be developed to the point that most of them are automatic. Students cannot struggle with word recognition when they should be reading quickly for comprehension of a text.

Research shows that children learn about reading before they enter school. In fact, they learn in the best manner-through observation. Young children, for example, see people around them reading newspapers, books, maps, and signs.

Thus, developing reading skills in students is addressed comprehensively in this article.

## 1. Reading Methods

**The phonics method:** The phonics method is probably the best known and widely used method to teach reading and writing in the English language. It relies on children being taught the alphabet first. They learn the names of the letters and the sounds they make. Once they have learnt the letter sounds they will begin to blend two letters together to make simple words then three letters, then four and so forth.

**The 'look and say' method:** With the 'look and say' method children learn to recognize whole words or sentences rather than individual sounds. Your student will look at a word which you sound, and in turn will repeat the sound (the word). Flashcards with individual words written on them are used for this method often accompanied with a related picture.

**The Language experience approach:** This particular method actually uses student's own words to help them read. Your student may draw a picture of Dad in the car. In that case you would write underneath the drawing; Dad is in the car.

**The Context Support Method:** When your students are just learning to read it is important to choose books that really interest them. If boys like cars, choose a book with pictures and simple words about cars. This will

keep their interest and they will enjoy learning with you. If girls like dolls, obtain video, movies, book with doll pictures and simple words. Again it will encourage enthusiasm because they are actually looking at something they can relate to.

## 2. Benefits

- **Develops language skills:** different sounds, different pronunciations, rhyming words, etc. help in developing language skills and increases effective use of language. Children can express themselves more effectively.
- **Develops imagination:** fictional stories play a major role in developing imagination in children. Children are better able to think about abstract things and relate them to the real world object.
- **Increases critical/analytical thinking:** Cunningham's studies have found that analytical thinking is boosted by reading. Logical, rational, coherent thought process develops and children become more realistic and aware of their environment.
- **Enhances vocabulary:** reading not only increases the number of words in their vocabulary but it also improves effective use of words at correct places. Essentially, efficiency of the vocabulary increases.
- **Helps in speech and prose:** early speech development requires adequate amount of reading by children as well as listening what is being read. Extremely low exposure to reading & listening could result in stuttering like speech issues.
- **Improves hand-eye coordination:** hand-eye coordination is extremely important development especially for kids interested in sports. Moving while reading hand does it at small scale which can be expanded to other activities.
- **Fun yet productive way of spending time:** parents and siblings could spend time together. It can be done at any place like a vacation, a family visit to relative's, etc.
- **Reduces stress:** in today's competitive world children are becoming competitive from the onset which increases stress. For example, homework stress, class test stress. But, by reading books(non-academic) they focus shifts to pleasure of reading than stress of test, develops higher order thinking skills, today a reader tomorrow a leader.

## 3. Motivation for Reading

- **Encouragement and positive feedback:** at its face, reading is a boring task for children, so it is essential to encourage and motivate them to read more. Children are inherently impulsive so reward must be given for each reading task.
- **Reading motivational and self-help books:** it is necessary that children do not suffer from inferiority complex. These books provide energy and motivation to do more reading as well as other productive activities.

- **Use of picture-books:** A book full of paragraph easily becomes boring. Picture books such as comics, Do-it-yourself, etc. books are lighter form of reading. Gradually children can move from picture books to others.
- **Reading camp and contest, quiz competition with prizes:** they can be organized at inter class/school or at national levels. Prizes motivation kids even more to read.
- **Book-talk by Author:** children do make a bond with certain authors. Book-talk can be organized or children can visit a book-launch event.
- **Book-review writing:** Not a real book review per se but children can be asked to write what they feel about the books, what they have learned.
- **Story hours:** dedicated hours for story reading like bedtime story, story-telling by librarian,
- **Drama, puppetry, etc. innovative activities:** they increase creativity and innovation in children. It breaks the monotony of reading.

### **Library Resources**

- Books: fiction, non-fiction, drama, mystery, self-help, etc.
- Magazines, journals, newspapers, etc. in all forms i.e. Paper and electronic.
- Audio and video resources.
- Library software for easy search and management.

### **4. Role of Librarian**

- Provide pleasant and positive environment
- Motivate to read and improve
- Motivate to think
- Supplement education formally/informally
- Obtaining and classifying resources
- Management of resources
- Help them to publishing of their article.
- Small anecdotes writing.

### **5. Suggestions to Parents**

- Provide a good role model — read yourself and read often to your child.
- Provide varied reading material — some for reading enjoyment and some with information about hobbies and interests.
- Encourage activities that require reading — for example, cooking (reading a recipe), constructing a kite (reading directions), or identifying an interesting bird's nest or a shell collected at the beach (using a reference book).
- Establish a reading time, even if it is only ten minutes a day.
- Write notes to your school-age child; encourage written responses.
- Ask your child to bring a library book home to read to a younger sibling.
- Establish one evening a week for reading (instead of television viewing).
- Encourage your child in all reading efforts.

## 6. Conclusion

Early cultivated habit of reading can make children lifelong readers. Books provide a different world of their own. Reading is extremely important not only for academic success but for life success as well.

Reading is one of the most essential life skill and it must be treated as so. Classroom teaching must be aided with library reading in order to make children responsible citizens of future.

"I declare after all there is no enjoyment like reading! How much sooner one tires of anything than of a book! — When I have a house of my own, I shall be miserable if I have not an excellent library." - **Jane Austen** [2]

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❖ Larger school library collections and longer hours increase circulation.

- Stephen D. Krashen

❖ Children have to have access to books, and a lot of children can't go to a store and buy a book. We need not only our public libraries to be funded properly and staffed properly, but our school libraries. Many children can't get to a public library, and the only library they have is a school library.

- Katherine Paterson

❖ Throughout my formal education I spent many, many hours in public and school libraries. Libraries became courts of last resort, as it were. The current definitive answer to almost any question can be found within the four walls of most libraries.

- Arthur Ashe

# How to Create the 21st-Century School Library of Your Dreams

Komal Vaghela\*

**“Google can bring you back 100,000 answers.**

**A librarian can bring you back the right one.” —Nail Gaiman**

## **0. INTRODUCTION**

The Internet and digital technologies in general have massively reduced the costs of producing and sharing information. It has allowed for an explosion of creativity, allowing for new ideas to emerge, partnerships to form, and innovations to take shape. E-Books, apps, and the web are now a part of student's daily lives. So how do we determine the best way to turn our library space into a learning centre. The Internet has changed the way we think and learn, and will continue to do so as our technology evolves. In particular, the ability to access enormous amounts of information at any time from almost any place is forcing schools to redefine the idea of a classroom and the way we approach teaching. It is also reshaping the notion of school library services — what libraries look like and how libraries and librarians best serve schools.

Increasingly, we hear the questions: “Are libraries necessary today? Isn't everything on the Internet? Can't we use the library space for better purposes?” We read about prominent independent schools that have chosen to eliminate most or all of their print collections in favour of digital resources. Other schools have replaced trained librarians with technologists who are expert at connecting students with digital tools and websites, but not at maintaining and expanding the carefully curated and already owned print and digital collections. Some independent school librarians are being asked to dramatically weed their print collections to accommodate a move to a space smaller by half or more. More than a few school leaders see this as a good time to cut library funding in order to save money in the overall budget.

Clearly, a popular impression out there is that the plentiful free information on the open Internet will answer all academic needs. Still professional, trained librarians are very much required to shape the future citizen rather than fully rely on artificial intelligence.

## **1. WE RESPECTFULLY DISAGREE**

Today's school libraries have an increasingly different look and function from libraries of the past, even the recent past. They continue to grow and change with the growth of technology tools (devices, applications, and information resources). But good schools know that libraries and professional librarians are still essential to their missions. Maybe it is more essential than ever, if excellence in education remains the goal.

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\*Librarian DPS-Bopal

A school might support a traditional library model or move to incorporate elements of either a Learning Commons or a Makerspace model or both. “Learning Commons” is a term that refers to a mixed-use space for research, study, collaboration, global connection, and more — with librarians embodying the all-important connection between resources and students. The term “Makerspace” refers to an area of a library focused on production — offering, for example, digital cameras, a 3D printer, and photo manipulation and layout software. The Maker space idea reinforces the library’s role in the entire learning spectrum from recreational reading to research to production and sharing.

A school library can be successful using aspects of either or both of these models, or the school’s own interpretation of these models. Strong and successful school libraries require broad collections of resources in many formats and enthusiastic, trained librarians to support students in using and applying information resources to build new knowledge.

## **2. THE HUMAN TOUCH**

Libraries are bridges, enabling people access to many of the information tools that might help them improve their lives and grow their careers. Libraries constitute collections of knowledge, reflecting not only cultural memory, but also the changing import of information, learning, and literary expression in different times and places.

School librarians provide the all-important human connection between students and information, as well as between teachers and information. They promote a love of reading and learning. They curate collections that support a sense of wonder at the immense possibility in the world. Their human touch lifts information access from a rote and random activity to purposeful, meaningful learning.

## **3. LIBRARIANS ARE ESSENTIAL**

Professional librarians are experts in teaching the search skills that help students and educators. Study report is essential: how to best evaluate the quality of information, how to recognize what information is and is not relevant to the question at hand, and how to synthesize information from multiple sources into a coherent piece of work.

Commercial search engines often complicate the process of finding balanced information. In an age where computers are becoming what Eli Pariser, author of *The Filter Bubble* (2011), describes as “one way mirror(s),” search results tend to provide individuals with search results based on their searching habits, which reinforce what they already believe about any given topic. Students (and many teachers) need training to find the best information because it is hidden by Internet “page ranking” and search personalization.<sup>4</sup> In other words, students need to be taught how to be critical researchers. Students who don’t understand strong search methods will be at an increasing disadvantage as they advance in school. They need to know how to dig deeper for the varied and more interesting results that will build an academic project to excellence.

Librarians are focal points of collaboration and entry points to global connection. A well-supported school library is at the heart of student academic growth and integral to academic success. In short, Librarians leverage the mission of the school.

#### **4. THE 'HUM' OF THE LIBRARY**

School libraries have been and should remain welcoming places where educators work with students, where students access information and collaborate on projects. But in recent years, they have extended their reach and purpose.

#### **5. MAKE SURE YOUR SPACE IS FLEXIBLE.**

Educational environment are rapidly changing and to cope up with changing trend we put in our best to design spaces which are accessible, inviting, with a choice of learning space. Reading for pleasure is at the core of the new curriculum. Creating a **stimulating and vibrant library space** is the main key to helping children develop learning strategies, as they need to become *independent and lifelong learners*. Having a dedicated school library or learning area encourages children to pick up books, and enjoying reading at an early age . School libraries offer a variety of models from campus to campus that reflects each individual school's mission and community. Flexibility is vital; traditional library furniture can be cumbersome and make multiple configurations impossible. Make your books and magazines more attractive (and more visible!) to students by taking advantage of displays, mobile fixtures, signage, and lighting.

At DPS, AHMEDABAD LIBRARY, We have experience in crafting learning spaces for children of all ages.

#### **6. REMEMBER YOU ARE NOT RUNNING A WAREHOUSE!**

It's time to stop warehousing books and start merchandising them. Instead of focusing on how many shelves you need, think about how the print collection can enhance your digital resources. Printed books are still an essential tool, especially for beginning readers.

While you're breathing new life into your print collection, don't shy away from e-Books and digital reading devices. After all, which reading format do you think most digital natives crave? A print book that's stored in an 84-inch-high stack (classified according to Melvin Dewey's 1876 system), which requires a step stool to reach? Or an e-Book that can be downloaded onto a Kindle, Nook, or Sony Reader in less time than it takes to find a step stool? There is now another e-reader alternative—Ectaco's jet Book, designed especially for K–12 schools.

#### **7. TRANSFORMATION TO THE ROLE OF THE INFORMATION GUIDE**

Students don't understand how to evaluate, sift through and use information from the Internet, and their parents don't either. That's why they need information experts to lead them. When a student discovers the perfect resource to answer a question or need — whether it is a database article, a book published in the 1880s, or a website — there is usually a librarian

who facilitated that discovery, marking the path from the student search term to the discovered source.

The librarian can help students in all phases of the creative process:

1. Search for good reliable information
2. Production of the digital article
3. Publication in repositories and Open Educational Resources

This will engage students and enhance deep learning. It will also create new and challenging opportunities for libraries and librarians and prepare them for an even more important role in the future of learning. There are many tools for creating digital articles. Lots of them are free and provide free online web space. Feel free to have a look at the following suggestions:

- **Top 10 Free Content Curation Tools for Teachers**
- **The 5 Best Free Flashcard Creation Tools for Teachers**
- **The Ultimate List of Cloud-Based Authoring Tools**
- **Free Authoring Tools for eLearning**
- **The 5 Best Free Collaboration Tools for Teachers**

When the article is ready, the librarian can help the student to publish the article in the library's repository or in other online **Open Educational Resources** (OER). As the digital world becomes ever more pervasive, Librarians should ensure that teachers get the best support possible. Librarians are in constant collaboration with the educational technology specialists. The librarians and technology specialists team up to collaborate with faculty members.

## **8. TRANSFER RESOURCES TO THE CLOUD**

By weeding out print collections and moving many of them to the cloud, libraries will free up room for learning spaces and provide access to digital resources 24/7. Through a library service called LIBGUIDES, librarians answer student questions online and put together guides for different areas including library orientation, language arts and book club. Number of readers will increase and book circulation will also double.

One thing that I think helps us to stay relevant is not only to collaborate with the teachers, but also to take all those resources that we have available and push them up into the cloud. Kindle E-Reader gadgets are giving free cloud space.

## **9. WHEN LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE, EXPECT TO SEE...**

1. Offering collaborative workspaces for students and noise-cancelling headphones for those who want silence.
2. Keeping a curated selection of books and digital resources that are used, and weeding and updating the collection on a regular basis.
3. Lending gear from print to i-Pad, E-book reader gadget.
4. A library space with powerful Wi-Fi, numerous outlets, smart boards, moveable furniture, and easy access to the virtual library.

5. A wide variety of online reference tools like full text periodical indexes, encyclopaedias, atlases, concordances, dictionaries, thesauruses, reader's advisors and almanacs
6. Educational computer programs including practices, simulations and tutorials that support the curriculum
7. The library maintains a useful, up-to-date web presence with linked resources for students, staff and parent.
8. Librarians should seek common cause with technologists, inside and outside of libraries, in the public and private sectors — and develop strong technical (coding, information architecture, design, etc.) skills across the board within the library profession.

**School librarians** as professionals must learn from how networked organizations function that will help libraries to thrive. School libraries and i-schools have a big role to play, as do funding agencies and organizations that focus on professional development for librarians. Libraries should maintain physical spaces but use them for lots of things other than the storage of physical materials. We have to recreate the sense of wonder and importance of libraries, as public spaces, as research labs, as maker-space, and as core democratic institutions for the digital age.

❖ The BBC's aim, along with schools, libraries and literacy groups, to involve more people in reading groups is an exciting idea and one that I hope will keep readers all over the UK exploring and sharing the wonderful world of books.

- Tessa Jowell

❖ The library, I believe, is the last of our public institutions to which you can go without credentials. You don't even need the sticker on your windshield that you need to get into the public beach. All you need is the willingness to read.

- Harry Golden

# Impact of Digital Age on School Library Services

Nupur Masih\*

## 1. Introduction

Information is a vital and an indispensable component of any academic environment. It makes for effectiveness in any academic system. Both teachers and students need to use information daily in their various academic endeavors. For decades students and teachers have used the library resources actively as their main source of information, and Libraries have served as repositories of information and knowledge.

We live in the information age where access to information is just few clicks away. The technology integration has made a swift take over among the students and youth alike. It's a proven fact that technology has brought in many opportunities. Librarians have enthusiastically adopted technology for providing user oriented services. The challenge is whether the school librarians possess the competencies to adopt technology. With proper training, school librarians can become the main link between digital resources and users.

The word 'library' is rich in tradition, meaning, and usage, it is said to be the heart of the school. The school Library provides information, inculcates ideas, and develops knowledge that is so essential to functioning successfully in today's information and knowledge based society. It is fundamental to school library to equip students with lifelong learning skills and develop in them, creative thinking and imagination, and enabling them to live as ideal and responsible citizens. Librarians have always played a key role in education and have formed relationships with subject specialists to build library collections. In most cases, a librarian's role was limited and in some cases more passive than proactive in the area of instruction. A librarian's role has traditionally been more of the builder of library collections and maintainer of library collections.

The world around us has changed so much in the past decade—and even in the past two years. As technologies advance, almost everyone is touched by digital information. Digitization is now a global phenomenon as well as the new trend in managing a library. We are living in a world that is changing rapidly due to the technological revolution and, as such, both libraries and librarians seem to be struggling to maintain their traditional roles. It is essential to respond to and integrate this new technology into library services, while maintaining the traditional role of librarians.

## 2. The Traditional Library

The traditional Library was the repository of books, magazines, journal and newspaper. School librarians were always there to help them with the resources available in their library, the collection was made according to the curriculum and the basic requirement.

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\*Librarian, Navrachana International School, Vadodara

The traditional role of the Librarian was to offer the students, assistance in finding information in the library. The Librarians were the keeper of knowledge and also facilitated the students to find out more about the curriculum books and find different publishers for acquiring the books and used to assist the students and teachers for finding the resources according to their requirement.

### 3. Traditional Role of the School Librarian

**Selection:** Choosing and acquiring information, resources available in the market place, based on user needs and quality standards.

**Storage:** Maintaining the availability of publications though short-term as well as long-term storage and presentation.

**Services:** Making information resources available to the students and teachers.

**Support:** Providing guidance and assistance to users, including the development of support systems such as catalogues user education and information services.

### 4. The Changing Role of the School Librarian in the Digital Age

Today, in the digital age, librarians can no longer be simply information providers or the 'keepers of knowledge'. The changes in technology using electronically stored and retrieved information has changed the way teachers and students are able to access, retrieve and use information.

The instantaneous access of information through the Internet has made vast amount of information and data available to anyone with a computer, a modem and a provider. In the last 10 years, education has benefited from a real e-revolution. Most schools now have a **Virtual Learning Environment**. Students no longer carry heavy bags with books instead they use tabs and laptops with an access of internet. There is also an online system that allows teachers to share educational materials with their pupils via web. Digital information has changed the role of librarian from assisting in finding information to someone who provides services and instruction regardless of place, time or format. The process of evaluating books and purchasing books is still vital in building a quality library collection. But providing important and valid information available to teachers and students that appear on the Web where every five minutes some new information is posted. The instantaneous access of information through the internet has made vast information available at just one click. Today the library has the e-resources collections database, cds and also have the subscription of online library and the internet facility too which adds on to virtual information.

Today students are losing interest in reading and browsing resources available in the library for their research. Instead they are attracted to the internet and in their free time rather than reading they prefer playing games on their tabs and laptops.

### 5. Enhancing Reading Skills/Developing Literacy Skills

A library by its very name is a repository, a treasure trove of knowledge. Reading is a initial skill for the 21st-century learners. Guiding learners to become engaged and effective users of ideas and information and to appreciate literature

requires that they develop as strategic readers who can comprehend, analyze, and evaluate text in both print and digital formats. Learners must also have opportunities to read for enjoyment as well as for information. School librarians are in a critical and unique position to partner with other educators to elevate the reading development of our nation's youth. The School librarians should take a leadership role in organizing and promoting literacy projects and events that engage learners and motivate them to become lifelong readers.

**Different activities** in the school could be undertaken to develop literacy skills and make our school library a hub of learning.

**Library Orientations** Every year students could be introduced to the school library resources, new arrivals, how to use the library software to find the specific requirement and how they could use the open access library with freedom.

**Celebrating The Book Week, World Book and Copyright Day-** Celebrating these days enable the students to realize the importance of reading, research and acknowledging their work. These days could also be celebrated as Library week where some different activities could be conducted, such as Newspaper designing, book cover designing, biographical sketch of authors, designing comic strips, making book marks, designing picture dictionary.

**Celebrating Author's Birthday-** By observing this the students would get acquainted with different authors his/her writing style and this could motivate them to read more about the concerned author.

**Book Fairs-** Organizing book fairs in the school premises, students could be taken to visit the fairs where they could browse different types of books and select the books of their choice. Book fairs provide a good platform to introduce the student's to a plethora of authors of varied subjects.

**Book Reviews-** Students could be asked to write reviews of the books read. This would help in developing the reading as well as writing skills. Describing their favorite characters, writing the plot of the book or identifying the twist in the story are excellent ways of honing their creative skills.

## **6. Major Challenges of 21st Century Librarian**

Information Explosion has caused rapidly increasing amount of published information and the effects of the abundance of data. As the amount of available data grows, managing the information becomes more difficult, which leads to information overload. One characteristic of Information and Communication Technology as represented by the internet is that individuals and organizations can publish information on the web without censorship, for authentication today our students need to be guided.

### **6.1. Develop Information Literacy Skills**

Today students need to be given guidance in how to sift the information and identify what is relevant. Information Literacy skills need be developed, the set of skills needed to find, retrieve, analyze, and use Information. The twenty-first century has been named the information era, owing to the explosion of information and the information sources. One cannot achieve the study

target without practicing special information literacy skills. In other words information literacy skills empower the students with the critical skills which will help them to become independent lifelong learners. The librarian needs to take regular sessions with the students for this.

With the growth of the Internet and availability of vast amounts of information in an instant, a librarian's role must be one of teaching critical thinking and resource-based learning. Students need to acquire the skills of evaluating information, they need to be made more active by learning information literacy skills. This new environment is bringing new challenges in library instruction. The ability to locate, evaluate and cite information - is a crucial part of the educational process for students today. Easy access to high-quality content is a key foundation for good research.

The ability to use information technologies effectively to find and manage information, and the ability to critically evaluate and ethically apply that information to solve a problem are some of the hallmarks of an information literate. This will be the key role of the Librarian in the 21st century.

## **6.2 Guiding For Citations/Acknowledgements**

Another important role of the Librarians is to guide the students while acknowledging their work and understanding the importance of citations. Intellectual honesty is important Students must provide the readers with an honest representation of his/her work'. Proper citation demonstrates the depth and breadth of research. Librarians need to guide the students to protect their work from being plagiarized.

### **Helping Students For Choosing a Citation Style**

These are the three major citation styles which we use:

- American Psychological Association Style (APA) - the most common style in the social sciences (psychology, education, sociology etc.)
- Chicago (or Turabian) Style - commonly used in the humanities (history, philosophy, and etc.)
- Modern Language Association Style (MLA) - used in English and in some other disciplines in the humanities

## **7. Conclusion**

We have moved from books and print materials to individual databases with single search engines towards the open environment of the World Wide Web. Librarians are the most appropriate professionals to lead the team of people in finding the answers to the challenges we are facing in the digital environments of electronic information and the Internet. Librarian have always been the experts at teaching people how to use the tools to locate that information regardless of format. We are the most effective searchers and researchers and our basic role of teaching those skills has not changed. The technology and varied format of information is changing and making new demands on our profession. In this fast-paced world it is important that we change with the changing roles and challenges.

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❖ Teaching vocabulary lists is inefficient - the time is better spent reading alone.

- Stephen D. Krashen

❖ It is not enough to simply teach children to read; we have to give them something worth reading.

- Katherine Paterson

❖ One important key to success is self-confidence. An important key to self-confidence is preparation.

- Arthur Ashe

# Innovative Library Programmes: Overall Impact

Sangita Bhatt\*

“Spectacular achievement is always preceded by unspectacular preparation.”

-Robert H. Schuller

## 0. Introduction:

If you have a burning desire to change the world for the better, consider making education innovation the main initiative.

‘Education’ and ‘library’ are two inseparable—indivisible concepts, both being fundamentally and synchronically related to and co-existent. One cannot be separated from the other, and the existence of one is impossible without the other. Neither of them is an end in itself; rather both of them together are a means to an ultimate end. One cannot survive without the other. This inter-relation, this co-existence, this dependence of one upon the other has been coming down from the birth of human civilization to posterity through a process of evolution in accord with varied needs, changes, and circumstances of various stages of human life.

Education is an ‘aggregate of all the processes by means of which a person develops abilities, aptitude, and other forms of behavior positive value in the society in which he lives. According to Carter V. Good it is a ‘social process by which people are subjected to the influence of a selected and controlled environment (especially that of the school) so that they may attain social competence and optimum individual development. Education is thus the result of acquired knowledge and the accumulation of observations and experiences. And the Library is an instrument of self-education, a means of knowledge and factual information, a centre of intellectual recreation, and a beacon of enlightenment that provides accumulated—preserved knowledge of civilization which consequently enriches ones mental vision, and determines his habit, behaviour, character, taste, attitude, conduct, and outlook on life.

A Library makes available all the records of knowledge of the past and present, whereas a man acquires that conserved knowledge and can choose between good and bad, the right or wrong. This distinguishes him from the other animals that have no rational power or thinking.

## 1. Vision of the School

Learning and Development is a key component in the first formal learning institutions, called schools. The foundations laid in these institutions go a long way in making responsible citizens and good human beings. Universal goal of school education is - to develop students who are well informed, self-reliant, & lifelong learners.

A school can have a vision of imparting **KSAH** i.e. Knowledge-Skills-Attitude-Habit which means School passes on these behavioral aspects in the

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process of Holistic Development of a child. The school also grooms the child in Social-Physical- Emotional-Spiritual domains. At the same time parents wish that their child excels in all areas that is he/she should be at the top of the class: ahead in the rat race. Both the parties, the providers & beneficiaries are almost same in give and take but it is only possible with collaboration: a team work. All teachers, each classroom & all activity centers & knowledge centers need to join hands to help the school in attaining the vision and justify the practical expectations of parents.

A School library plays an important role in achieving the schools' academic goals as well as shaping the students' personalities through its resources, facilities and services. A school Library becomes a 'source & force' for educational excellence only when it functions as an integral component of the total teaching-learning process, hence libraries & librarians do have a crucial role to play in molding the young minds & achieving School's goals. They also have a positive impact on student achievement. A School Library is the 'Temple of Learning' and the School Librarian plays various roles like a teacher of Information Skills, an advocate for reading, a technology facilitator, a guide , an information navigator, a collaborative teacher and learner etc...

A school library plays an immense role in the life of a student & the school librarian can help the users/students to be **Information Literate** which is an essential life skill.

It's a known fact that the underlying mission of every academic library be it a university library or a school library, is to create opportunities for lifelong learning. Promoting collaborative learning with new ideas is one of the ways to create such opportunities.

## **2. Need of Innovations in Library Programmes**

"We must be the change we wish to see in the world"—Mahatma Gandhi

At its core, innovation is the process of making lives better: Whether it is a small improvement for one person or a breakthrough for society, persistently asking "what's next?" This pushes us to strive for a better future. The goal of getting an education isn't to solve some of yesterday's problems, but to tackle problems in the future that we don't know about today. Given this, what is needed in education is radical revolution – in both what is taught and how it is taught.

In a meaningful way, we are starting to see the dawn of incredible innovation in teaching and learning, these are innovations that go beyond technology. In every sector of education, talented people are insisting that changes are very essential.

In the same way libraries today have changed from traditional working to using technology in all aspects from acquisition, data entry, classification, services, and user education etc...

**It is rightly said:** "Innovation comes out of great human ingenuity and very personal passions".-Megan Smith.

In this age of information and technology new ways of accessing information with variety of tools has made it difficult for school librarians to survive in productive manner. It is the need of an hour to include innovations using technology.

School Librarians have to innovate themselves in all aspects of the Library work.

### **Innovation**

- In library management
- In conducting library classes
- In providing library services to all stake holders of the school
- In planning & executing activities with students of all levels

These innovations are to be included with the strategy of applying "ABCs"

"A": to articulate the vision

"B": to be strategic and

"C": to continuously communicate

Without these exercises desired outcome from change cannot be expected.

### **3. Challenges**

In a School Library, the challenge is, to Celebrate and Understand the Information, not just focus on finding the information.

Celebrating and understanding information could be the goal of each good School Library where at the end of the day the Learning Outcome of the students is the main focus of whole School Community.

### **Research Tells Us: A Good School Library**

- has a qualified librarian: both a leading teacher and a qualified librarian
- supports the mission and continuous upgrading plan of the school: explicit and concrete library policy focusing on learning outcomes
- actively supports the curriculum: provision of up-to-date resources, provision of curriculum-based school library activities and instruction in collaboration with classroom teachers
- provides individual and group instruction in information to teachers and students
- provides an integrated and rich information technology environment to support teaching and learning
- provides leadership to students and staff in the use of electronic resources and integrating information technology into learning

### **3 Core Beliefs About Role Of School Library Are:**

- Information makes a **difference**.
- Making a difference does not happen by chance: **Teaching-learning** role is the central dimension of the professional role of teacher-librarians
- Learning outcomes matter: belief that all students can learn, and develop new understandings through the school library, and **exhibit outcomes**.

## **In A Nut Shell: A Good School Library Focuses On**

- MAKING A DIFFERENCE
- ACTIVE INTERVENTION
- VISIBLE TRANSFORMATION

### **4. Implementations of Innovations in School Library**

Innovation is defined as “the process of making changes to something established by introducing something new.” It applies to “...radical or incremental changes to products, processes or services.” Over the years there have been many changes in the way Library is designed and services delivered in all parts of the world. For implementation of new ideas or creating an opportunity to bring Innovations in School Libraries requires them to pursue all phases.

#### **Planning ’!Execution’! Record Keeping ’! Feedback ’!Improvement**

When we plan the activity whether with student/teachers /students & teachers, it should be planned in such a way that with in limited time frame users can achieve the required outcome.

#### **Planning Includes: Name Of Activity’! Groups Of Students’! Objective ’!Need ’!Procedure’! Learning Outcomes**

For this, proper execution is must & i.e. if we keep everything [required reference resources, infrastructure, etc] ready before class then only activities can be completed in a given time.

#### **Execution Includes: Making Groups Of Students ’! Delegate Task To Each Group ’! Keep One Student In Charge Of Each Group ’! Give Time Limit ’!Execution’! Completion Of Activity With Oral /PPT Presentation.**

For execution of any activity the librarian needs to be ready with the instructions & guidance to be given in first five minutes & with the required leaflets of tasks written for each group, rubrics for evaluation of the final presentation etc.

#### **Record Keeping Includes: Presentation’! Evaluation’! Feedback ’!Finally Jotting Down All Phases.**

After the activity is completed the **Record Keeping** is very important. One has to record, plan & execute in detail which will be of great help in conducting such innovative activities in future.

### **4.1 Innovations in Library Management**

Now the process of acquisition, technical processes and display of collection has been totally changed. Now it's not only books & magazines the librarian has to get but also to manage to acquire reliable digital resources, databases, etc for the library. The Librarian also has to handle not only class libraries but also department libraries, Principal's library , Director's library etc.

### **4.2 Innovations in Conducting Library Classes:**

Now the classes cannot just be for transaction of books & materials but they need to be more well planned, interesting & at the same time productive. This is only possible if the School Librarian is Proactive in action.

### **4.3 Innovations In Providing Library Services: To All Stake Holders**

Library is a service based place where stake holders come with expectations & need, and if we fail to fulfill them even once then they might not visit your Library with the same enthusiasm. If we want to make our Library a Vibrant place 24/7, then we need to welcome our users, be well prepared, well-informed, enthusiastic & proactive for catering more than they expect. We also need to be innovative in providing Management Information Services.

### **4.4 Innovations in Conducting Activities With Students Of All Levels**

**Here a School Libraries Student's Achievement is the Bottom Line.**

So, keeping that in mind we need to plan activities as well as support the Curricular & Co-Curricular activities by playing an important role of Information & Resources Provider. For this the Librarian has to be well versed with School Calendar & activity Planner; so that e-resources & other required material can be gathered & kept ready well in advance of the activity. We need to transform our Library in to: the HUB of the SCHOOL and the HEART of the LEARNING EXPERIENCE.

### **4.5 For Playing The Role Of Innovative & Effective School Librarian One Has To Spend More Time In..**

- planning co-operatively with teachers
- identifying materials for teachers
- teaching information literacy skills to students
- providing in-service training to teachers
- managing a computer network through which library's learning program reaches beyond its own walls to classrooms, labs and offices

### **4.6 To Make This Happen ...**

The opportunities are immense, but there are also technological limitations in many parts of developing countries. Barriers to technological innovations for supporting Libraries & in turn education include lack of trained support staff, and the cost and the availability of computers

**Some recommendations are required like ...**

- Funding of school library sufficiently to allow for adequate professional and support staff, information resources, and information technology
- School policies and practices that encourage librarians to assume positions of leadership in their school
- Network technology to make school library resources available throughout the school
- Flexible scheduling to allow maximum student access to libraries
- Collaborative approaches to learning and teaching
- Identifying relationships of library to learning outcomes

## **5. INNOVATIVE SCHOOL LIBRARIES DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Students' outcome is the development of new knowledge: new meanings, new understandings, new perspectives, new skills, new attitudes & much more

### **5.1 Improves Students' Learning Outcomes**

School library encourages curiosity, innovation and problem-solving. It is integral to the cultural and social life of the school. The school library is a central point for all kinds of reading, cultural activities, access to information, knowledge building, deep thinking and lively discussion.

Research shows the significant difference, well-resourced libraries can make to student learning outcomes. Library's collections, services and environment are all designed to help the school meet its targets and goals for raising student achievement. One has to record the vision and principles for managing library in school's library manual.

### **5.2 Enriching teaching and learning programmes**

The school library is uniquely positioned to take a school- and curriculum-wide view of resourcing and technology for learning. They also work with individual staff and students to understand their particular information or reading needs, then help them access the materials they need.

"The school library provides information and ideas that are fundamental to functioning successfully in today's information and knowledge-based society. The school library equips students with lifelong learning skills and develops the imagination, enabling them to live as responsible citizens."

— International Federation of Library Association's (IFLA) Manifesto (2008)

### **5.3 Welcome people in**

The library welcomes people in and provides a safe space for them to be. The library's physical and digital spaces connect readers and learners to their peers, to others within the school and the wider community, or even globally. With a flexible multi-use approach, your library's physical space enables a range of activities including quiet reading, study, collaboration, performance or community events.

Online library services can change the way your school community accesses the information resources, stories, technology and supports its needs. They make these things available beyond the school walls.

### **5.4 Can bring Information together**

School libraries are unique but they're also part of a much wider information landscape. The school library can have connections with other libraries and can use them to access information on behalf of learners. This connections

- provides access to more sources of print and digital materials to support reading and inquiry learning
- improves achievement through involvement in other library programmes such as inter school competitions etc

## 6. CONCLUSION

An old adage states: "Tell me and I forget, show me and I remember, involve me and I understand." The last part of this statement is the essence of inquiry-based learning, which could be one of the outcomes of well planned Innovative Activities in the School Library. Here the Librarian plans the activities in collaboration with teachers & inspires the students to inquire more & more. This in turn helps them to achieve more.

Using innovative methods to better serve students and to teach them about the benefits of innovative thinking does so much more than just "fill the pail." It ignites a passion for learning and provides students with the tools they need to succeed in the innovation economy.

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❖ There is no remedy so easy as books, which if they do not give cheerfulness, at least restore quiet to the most troubled mind.

- Mary Wortley Montagu

❖ When something bad happens you have three choices. You can either let it define you, let it destroy you, or you can let it strengthen you.

- Dr. Seuss

# **Empowering School Education : Role of Innovative Library Programme**

**Shirali Parikh\***

A school library is the heart of the school and its services are visible in the everyday functioning of the school. It is also a nest for culture and knowledge and thus forever changing. A school library is an organized collection of study and teaching material aimed at pupils, teachers and other staff alike.

The mission of school libraries is to make sure students and school staff can effectively use ideas and information. That includes teaching students how to evaluate resources available in different formats. We, the Librarians are responsible for encouraging and motivating young people to be readers and to be excited about literature in all its new and glorious emerging formats.

Libraries can stay relevant in today's digital world by becoming information guides, keeping up with the times, moving resources to the cloud, working with teachers and helping students evaluate research materials. In an era of digital resources, school libraries no longer function as warehouses of books, but as guides to information, Students don't understand how to evaluate, sift through and use information from the Internet, and their parents don't either. That's why they need information experts to lead them for researching information from the internet Schools provide equitable access to the digital research tools that students need to succeed, particularly in high school and college. These resources include e-books, databases, websites, subject directories and wikis.

To cope up with the recent changes in the 21<sup>st</sup> century pedagogies and curriculum, library facilities and resources should be organized in such a manner which supports learning goals within the pedagogic goals of the school. Thus the core school library services essential for development of literacy, information literacy and teaching-learning should be checked which

- a) Supports and enhances educational goals as stated in school's mission and curriculum
- b) Develops and sustains in children habit and enjoyment of reading and learning
- c) Offers opportunities for experiences in creating and using information for knowledge, understanding, imagination and enjoyment
- d) Supports students in learning and practicing skills for evaluating and using information ethically

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- e) provides access to local as well as global resources that exposes learners to diverse ideas
- f) organizes activities that encourages social and cultural awareness and sensitivity
- g) Collaborates with teachers, administrators and parents to achieve mission of the school.

To facilitate above mentioned goals, innovation in library services provided to the whole school community is a challenge for 21<sup>st</sup> century TEACHER LIBRARIAN. They combine the recent pedagogies with expertise in information science: analysis, collection, classification, manipulation, storage, retrieval, dissemination and protection of data.

Teacher Librarian use professional selection criteria to procure resources that keep the library collection current and relevant for everyone. They are also professional curators who select the most useful resources for teaching and learning. This saves times for students and teachers. They carefully select both physical and digital resources to personalize the collection for the school community. Constant process of evaluation and critique of resources helps the librarian to keep the collection more useful.

While stereotypical libraries might be quiet places where students check in and check out books, but in today's age they're becoming collaborative spaces where students learn how to solve information problems. Librarians also emphasize the importance of keeping some physical books on hand because many students prefer them. But these books should be up to date, relevant and well-used to stay in school library collections. By weeding out print collections and moving many of them to the cloud, libraries will free up room for learning spaces and provide access to digital resources.

Another important goal of the school library as defined is **encouraging pupils to read** and teaching them about literature. In order to fulfil its task of inspiring pupils to read, the school library needs to offer a collection that is attractive and inspiring. Besides just providing the collection, it is the duty of the librarian to provide guidance and help to the students and staff to fulfil their needs. Students can be motivated to write reflections, to give PowerPoint presentations for books they like to read, some engaging newspaper activities, storytelling, visits, book fairs, reading competitions, author talks, and more.

Finding information is not a problem in today's world. The problem is finding USEFUL and TRUSTWORTHY information quickly. The teacher librarian leads the school-wide effort to organize and utilize information to make it valuable and accessible to staff and students. To keep in mind the time constraint, a librarian can be quick and agile by communicating through mails or whatsapp messaging to fulfill the informational needs of the users.

Metadata is information about the information you possess. Teacher librarians know that personalized, effective metadata saves time and energy. When the library catalogue has quality metadata, teachers and students find what they need with one or two clicks. When the metadata is poor, those

same teachers and students leave the library feeling frustrated and disappointed because they cannot find what they need (even when it is actually there!) Librarians promote student's learning through technology, literacy, and collaboration with teachers.

The school librarian is encouraged to play a critical role in helping teachers implement the curriculum. Student achievement increases when library media specialists spend more time on working collaboratively with teachers; Library media specialists are school leaders who meet with principals regularly; provide professional development to teachers; and serve on curriculum and standards committees. Leadership activities by the librarian in providing professional development for teachers, serving on key committees, and meeting regularly with the Principal is encouraged and contributes to learning. Teacher Librarian can also take brief sessions of academic ethics and explain the importance of acknowledging authors work. Hence introducing the referencing styles from a very young age is important. It's also important for librarians to plan lessons with teachers. By planning lessons together, teachers and librarians can combine content knowledge with 21st century soft skills including critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity.

Librarians can also offer special services for helping students with homework, research projects with internet help, workshops or tutoring program. The secondary and higher secondary school students need to take their assignments that require them to learn library skills .Teaching these skills is an important service provided by the librarian.

To conclude, 21<sup>st</sup> century with progressive globalization has created the new model of society called Information society in which the most important thing is access to the information for students and teachers as well. School libraries play a vital role to help the whole school community to find themselves in this new world. **Schools with a strong school library program and a certified school librarian will definitely ensure their students have the best chance to succeed.**

- School library programs foster critical thinking, providing students with the skills they need to analyze, form, and communicate ideas in compelling ways.
- School libraries are places of opportunity. They are learning hubs and homework help centers where students use technology and the latest information resources, preparing them to succeed in our global, competitive economy and the ever-evolving workplace.
- Strong school library programs instill confidence in reading in multiple formats, which is fundamental to learning, personal growth and enjoyment.
- School libraries foster a safe and nurturing climate during the day. They are often the one place in the school that is open to all students, and where a school librarian cares and can support students across grade levels and subject matter.

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❖ Books do not make life easier or more simple, but harder and more interesting.

- Harry Golden

❖ You are not judged by the height you have risen, but from the depth you have climbed.

- Frederick Douglass

❖ Nature is man's religious book, with lessons for every day.

- Theodore Parker

❖ Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.

- Maya Angelou