

**Submission Number: 384**  
**Date Received: 22/06/2010**

Gw

I am not teacher trained and have been "managing" a P-12 school library in the absence of the TL who has now been gone for two years. I believe that I do a good job keeping the library running on an even keel, purchasing, accessioning, passing on relevant and helpful information, etc to teachers, but I am aware of the ever increasing gap in the teaching and IT field and cannot wait for the TL to return! Personally I believe that it is unfair of schools to expect library technicians to run a library, often without sufficient training and certainly without sufficient salary. Often there is the compounding problem of technicians not being included in "teaching staff" communications and lack of PD opportunities.

Most people have little idea of what is involved in a school library - I often wish it was just a matter of accessioning books all day!!! School libraries of today should be vibrant, happening places especially in the technology field. Unfortunately, if they do not have adequate trained personnel, they will remain locked in the past and will then most certainly be closed as they will have no relevance to students of today. There are now so many excellent opportunities for teachers and students using technology in education but the problem is always time. I see the library as a hub in the wheel of the school, streamlining, researching, and providing answers to questions that teaching staff just do not have the time to resource. This is simply not possible unless you have a team of trained people - I do not believe one person, even a TL, can achieve this alone.

Now all we have to do is convince the hierarchy that there is more than enough work in the library to justify the returning TL and me - just think what we could achieve as a team!

Clare Minchin