



Submission re the Inquiry into school libraries and teacher librarians.

Major investment in school libraries as learning spaces is ongoing. School libraries as learning spaces where hardcopy repositories and digital interfaces exist side by side will undoubtedly prevail in over wholly digital interface spaces. Image problems result in educational administrators seeing the school library as a structure decontextualised from the need for trained and qualified specialists in information literacy and narrative structure. No one level of government or specific institution can be the umbrella under which school librarians can be supported. To leave the current situation as status is to leave a random educational state where in any one school the teacher librarian may be operating at the level of baby sitting shop keeper while in the next school the teacher librarian is integral to the well being of the whole enterprise of the educational institution. Only ask if the teacher librarian is an add-on as an inventory manager of a physical resource or core to facilitating the mission of the school as a whole. Only ask if we are bound for a paradigm where it is every educator for themselves or if collaboration in the education of the citizen offers the highest synergy.

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