

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a retired teacher that currently writes for kids of all ages, I have been appalled at what little time and money is given to maintaining school libraries in Victoria. One high school has even eradicated its library completely in favor of a computer centre, the principal arguing that fiction can be obtained 'if anyone is interested' from his council library. If we are to maintain and improve literacy levels, schools need exciting libraries where children can expand their imaginations... something they will need to do as they try to cope with future problems. Most schools I visit *may* have a library technician – if they're lucky – or have one or a half day of teaching hours devoted to library maintenance. I would request that the committee looks into this very seriously and advocates spending more money in this important area.

Sincerely

GOLDIE ALEXANDER