



What do I contribute as a teacher librarian?

As well as my BEd, I have tertiary qualifications in Mathematics, Earth Science and Computer Science, and undergraduate studies and personal interests in many more domains.

I have taught at secondary and tertiary from university undergraduates to VCE as well as the unemployed and adults with minimal English.

I have a passion for reading and a passion for research.

I love to analyze systems and solve problems. I love new challenges.

I love to work with others and assist them in their learning.

I can design clothing, identify geological landforms, debate the merits of alternative energies and I know how a petrol engine works.

I know the variety of information needs that people have and how to identify those needs and how to tailor research accordingly.

Above all I know how to find the best information efficiently and effectively even when it's not on the internet.

I am committed to my own lifelong learning and as a TL I can keep up to date with all my interests without having to apologize for my enthusiasm - it's my job.

As a teacher librarian I utilize my teacher qualifications in designing lessons and programs, providing research material for staff and students, selecting digital, print and other materials for vocational, academic and recreational reading, and motivating all comers to explore, contribute, question and discuss both fiction and non-fiction. As a teacher I aim to educate, motivate, encourage, enthuse and inspire.

I enjoy matching readers with books and researchers with pathways.

As a Computer Science graduate, with over 20 years experience on the internet and in the IT classroom, I embrace Web 2.0 technologies and information literacy, but still with an understanding that technology is but a tool.

I teach that information comes in many forms and formats - books, newspapers, videos, music, flags, uniforms, lights, alarms, clocks and gauges, tastes, smells, even natural cues such as clouds, insects and barking dogs.

I initiate and manage web pages, I explore software and tools, and, above all, I share my findings with staff, students and other TLs.

As a committed member of the teaching staff I research and disseminate information, providing new resources to staff with ideas how to use them, providing information to meet specific requests or conducting careful interviews to help me understand exactly what is required.

I have just returned from a year 8 class where we investigated Google, how it works, why it returns the results it does, why it's both a help and a hindrance and how to make it work better for us.

Yesterday I created a mind map to support a debating team, compiled a list of resources on the life and times of Macbeth, spent some time discussing a long awaited new release with students, and showed a new staff member how to share his resources with his students using my favorite web 2.0 tool.

Wednesday I updated the "What's News" board created from cuttings taken from papers which I read daily, updated the library web site, emailed booksellers with requests, collated reviews for literature classes, directed the head of the ICT department to the latest Horizon reports, helped a group of year 10 boys select fiction during their free time and collected a range of titles from both fiction and non-fiction for a reading program next week on Adventure Stories.

Above all I love to introduce the concept of the Mind as a Tardis - confined on the outside but huge on the inside and able to travel anywhere in space and time - especially with the help of a book.

I hope this will be of some assistance
Judith Wakeman