

I have been a teacher librarian in a Perth primary school since 1996. Over the past three years my time to manage the school library has been cut drastically. There is much less time to assist teachers and students. There is less time to carefully select resources and direct the work of the library aide. I am providing more and more non-contact time for the teachers.

Information literacy now includes digital, visual and technological literacy. As the teacher librarian I need to provide access to books and information technology for not only staff and students but parents as well. I am finding that parents are coming in more, before and after school seeking advice on books and other resources for not only for their children, but for themselves as well. There is a great need to have someone who is trained to select, purchase, organise and guide access to books and information. This is so important as there is such a large amount of information available.

Teacher librarians are specialists in encouraging reading, matching students to books. If we want our students to be life long learners, they need to be information literate. The trained teacher librarian has a huge role in assisting to create life long learners.

Teacher librarians integrate development of information literacy. They work with teachers to support the learning of students. They assist students with inquiry based learning, build background knowledge, develop motivation for topics and help create focus questions. Teacher librarians help students to engage with information sources of various types (not just searching Google). They help students sort and organise their ideas and help students gain confidence in their own learning.

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