

Agencies of change

Leading learning today is no small task. The scope of this challenge was highlighted in the Standing Committee on Education and Employment's report, *School Libraries And Teacher Librarians In 21st Century Australia*. Teacher Librarianship Course Director Judy O'Connell takes a look.

The leadership challenge placed before teacher librarians in rich multi-modal environments is both exciting and challenging, encompassing as it does all aspects of literacy, information literacy, technology, and professional development in collaborative partnerships with students and teachers. This inquiry has provided us with a substantial review that indicates the vital need to continue the conversation about what a teacher librarian is, does, and can do into the future.

For practitioners working in and involved with

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teacher librarianship, this report has been of significant importance in highlighting the evolving context and changing needs encompassed in providing quality library and information services in our schools.

The report highlighted the vital role that information professionals in the field of teacher librarianship play in the preparation of our children and youth in 21st century learning contexts. Teacher librarians provide leadership through delivering quality information services within their schools, with an increasingly strong focus on digital resources and environments. School libraries are vital agencies for change.

Students in the Master of Education (TL) program at Charles Sturt University soon discover the breadth of these leadership opportunities, particularly new forms of online information curation, digital citizenship, social media, Web 3.0, tools such as QR codes and augmented reality, and the power of personal learning networks. As one student noted, "I believe one of my big learning moments has been the understanding of how I wish to portray myself as a professional in the information world. With people following me on Twitter I have an obligation to maintain my professional integrity in order to be seen as someone who is willing to share and learn from her network".

New technologies and social media platforms are driving an unprecedented reorganisation of the learning environment in and beyond schools. Recognising this, the Australian School Library Association (ASLA) has committed to preparing a *Futures Paper*, which will focus on 21st century learning in Australian schools. Working collaboratively with representatives from government and non-government departments of education, national principals' associations, education unions, and universities offering training in teacher librarianship, the futures paper will provide directions of change, and recommendations for national and state governments. Dr Hilary Hughes (QUT) and Judy O'Connell (CSU) are members of the core *Futures Focus* working party. This paper is scheduled for presentation in the last quarter of 2012.

Judy O'Connell
Course Director (Teacher Librarianship)
Charles Sturt University
juoconnell@csu.edu.au



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