

# Teacher librarians: *Learning in a changing world* to secure their role

Jointly commissioned by ALIA and ASLA, the *Learning in a changing world* series of books has been the focus for the 2012 professional development seminars offered by ALIA Schools. The titles of the books, published by ACER, are:

1. *Designing the learning environment*
2. *Virtual worlds*
3. *Connect, communicate, collaborate*
4. *Curriculum integration*
5. *Resourcing for curriculum innovation.*

The *Learning in a changing world* series focuses on how the process of learning continually evolves. Accordingly, the series introduces teacher librarians and other educators to the core areas of 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching.

## Seminar 1: Learning in a changing world: Money matters

In March, Dr Susan La Marca, author of *Designing the learning environment*, shared her expertise about the concepts of productive learning areas. She also spoke about how teacher librarians could support colleagues and students through the provision of resources that promote innovative approaches to work tasks. The other book explored in this seminar was *Resourcing for curriculum innovation*. Sandra Ryan, the co-author with June Wall, ran a workshop on budgeting for school libraries.

## Seminar 2: Learning in a changing world: Curriculum integration

On Saturday June 2, 75 teacher librarians heard an inspiring talk by Dr. Ross Todd. As the Director of the *Centre for International Scholarship in School Libraries* (CISSL) and author of *Curriculum integration*, Todd began his presentation with recent educational findings which pertained to factors that influence student learning and achievement: the quality of teacher instruction, the presence of a supportive learning environment (which a school library can provide to a school community), and the extent to which students are engaged in discovery, inquiry, thinking, metacognition, and knowledge building. Todd recommended *Visible Learning* by John Hattie for further information.

Todd mentioned a few personal examples of being compelled to engage in discovery and inquiry processes. While visiting Machu Picchu

and Easter Island, Todd hired scholars as guides to better understand the complex civilisations that had existed in these places. These 'magical experiences' of wanting to uncover the mysteries of Machu Picchu and Easter Island are the kind of learning opportunities that teacher librarians can unfold in students.

Teacher librarians can create 'magical experiences' for their students by playing a pivotal and highly involved role in guiding their students in research inquiries. There are many opportunities for teacher librarians to do this, given their major role in all of the general capabilities of the Australian Curriculum. To assist teacher librarians in engaging students into the richness of the Information/digital world, Todd distributed a CISSL generated *Guided Inquiry Planning Scheme* and *Curriculum Integration Matrix*. Both of these tools contain comprehensive information that will facilitate teacher librarians thoroughly guiding their students through the Information to Knowledge journey.

## Seminar 3: Reading in a changing world

The third seminar, held in July, included a presentation by author David Metzenthén about various issues related to reading, including how to encourage reluctant readers to engage with books. In addition, workshops were held on the *National Year of Reading* and *Book Week*.

## Seminar 4

The series of 2012 seminars will conclude in October with Judy O'Connell presenting information about the two last books in the *Learning in a changing world* series that she has co-authored – *Virtual worlds* and *Connect, communicate, collaborate*. Information about these seminars is available through the ALIA Schools' website.

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