

Teacher Librarians Stepping into the Third Place

School libraries and teacher librarians can lead learning in today's interactive knowledge environments, but to do so successfully requires a leap of faith to move into that third place that represents the intersection between work, play, and learning anytime – just like the students of the 21st century.

Various technologies, devices, 24/7 connectivity, and social media platforms are driving an unprecedented re-organisation of the learning environment in and beyond schools.

This is the key – teacher librarians need to be visionary by taking the opportunity to make use of emerging devices, tools, media, and virtual environments as they offer opportunities for creating new types of learning communities for students and teachers in their schools.

The new Australian Teacher Librarian Network (OZTL_NET) just might be a good way to help in this endeavour.

From Listserv to Social Media

Teacher Librarians represent an important sector in library and information education. Charles Sturt University (CSU) has been supporting the Australian Teacher Librarian Network (OZTL_NET) listserv as a professional service to the school library sector since 1992. Since then it has grown to a community of more than 3000 teacher librarians, information professionals, and those interested in school libraries.

Time for social networking to hit the scene!

But the obvious changes in online environments meant that it was time to evolve the potential of this very stable discussion list in a number of social media ways. By casting a wide net into new areas of collaboration, OZTL_NET wanted to ensure that a cross section of information professionals in schools could be supported in the third place as well as the workplace. Social media is a perfect way to allow synergy in discussion and sharing of resources. Social media also provides a strong platform for showcasing the conversation, activities, and achievements in the day-to-day activities of a school library.

We have established a fantastic new web portal, found at oztl.net.com, where all the links to the social media sites as well as access to the email discussion list are provided.






Social media can provide new avenues for thought leadership and innovation, providing a proactive and positive contribution to the strategic futures of school libraries.

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