

Spring
2014

Contents



School Library Association
in Scotland

Thoughts from the chair.

What are you called? A Librarian, a Learning Resource Co-ordinator or a Library Resource Centre Co-ordinator? Maybe something completely different? We were 'rebranded' when we were re-graded. Whilst I continue to appreciate the extra salary I do have to ask myself why we need to be LRC anything. I *like* being a librarian. I suppose the idea was to get away from the old stereotype of a librarian with a bun and twinset going sssh. I mean – do you know any like that? Ok well, many like that?

I think people's concept develops with their personal experience and expectations of a librarian. I started as a school librarian thirty years ago and the job I do now bears very little

resemblance to the one I did then. In those days we got excited about 'audio-visual' resources. Look how far we've come!

I hope that the young people I work with perceive me as the librarian, but also as a good sport, mentor and enthusiastic information provider. I would expect them to base their perception of librarians on what I do and am, rather than a media-driven caricature. This is one reason why we have to be the best we can be - today's pupils will be tomorrow's adults and parents. Society relies on us to be positive role models, providing each generation with the type of librarian (whatever title they may have) who fosters a lifelong confidence in folk to simply go into libraries and ask their question.

Regards

Carol

For more information from the SLA

See us at:

www.sla.org.uk

Got a few spare moments?

Take a look at www.ted.com for “talks to stir your curiosity”

SHOUT ABOUT
Schools Library
Services

Tweeting about school libraries?

Show your support for school libraries by using the hash tag

#SHOUTABOUT

InfoLiteradvert?

Students are always telling me they have no time. Whether this is a matter of less time or less inclination to do “boring” things like reading books, or indeed, learning about how to use information, I have no space to explore here.

So, striving for a less-is-more format I have devised a set of info skills and tips sessions based on the phrase BE ALERT! The phrase and the titles for the sessions I have ‘borrowed’ from Helen Emery’s excellent work in King Edward VI School, Lichfield.

The pilot group I drew from S1students. The aim is to roll out this approach to S2 as we move toward the summer and then develop towards a more comprehensive Information Literacy course for S3 & S4 .

Each session is around 5 minutes at the beginning of a lesson. In that time, I use a mixture of content and humour

to switch the class on to the role that information will play in their lives and plant an info-literate mindset.

The course comprises 12 x 5min sessions with a review and multiple choice “test” at the end. As a supplement to the sessions, I have housed a series of links for them to explore on Edmodo, the educational social media platform where they can also exchange ideas on their experiences.

The hope is that the “infotainment” of the 5 minute sessions sparks them to review the sessions in their own time, go deeper via the links I have flagged and come to a wider appreciation of information, its meaning and its value to them as they move through the school.

Ian Bain, Librarian

Berwickshire High School Library,

Did you know?

The UK had 4,265 public libraries at the end of 2014, compared with 4,612 two years previously. The number of closures is likely to grow.

Source - The Guardian 10/12/12

<http://www.theguardian.com/books/2012/dec/10/uk-lost-200-libraries-2012>

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As Kateri is STILL on maternity leave please send all enquiries to Carol just now.

Librarian in Transition!

For the past couple of years I've offered our cluster primary schools sessions on information literacy as part of the transition process. Our Transition Teacher makes initial contact with the primaries early in the year, the class teachers then get in touch with me to discuss their requirements. Each session is tailored

towards the topic the primary children are already covering. This year I have learned a lot about World War II, Michael Morpurgo and the Battle of Bannockburn! The skills covered have remained the same: usually planning research, skimming and scanning for information and note making. Time is built-in to allow the children a good 40-60 minutes of research time, during which I can have plenty of informal chats answering questions about life at secondary school.

Our rural catchment area has made it difficult for some classes to visit. However, if a school can't come to me, I pack up some resources and visit them. I'm fortunate in

having a library assistant though, and appreciate that it may not be so easy for others to get out of school.

There have been several advantages to our involvement in the transition process. Firstly, understanding what our pupils are achieving at primary school has helped me to pitch my library induction lessons at the correct level. The primary teachers have also appreciated having a specialist to help their pupils with research. After each session, I've shared my slides and other teaching materials with them, and I know that they have then continued to use these with the class. Finally, it gives a great first impression of the library to the pupils. There is a definite wow factor when they realise just how big this library is in comparison to their primary school one!

**Shona Page. Librarian
Forfar Academy**



Don't forget the
SLA website
www.sla.org.uk

Log in to the
members area
using your
personal ID that
appears on the
address label of
your School
Librarian
periodical.

In the last newsletter we told you about the Cilips advocacy group for school librarians and the section of their website established for this purpose. The task group has continued this year and are now looking to populate the web page with examples of good practice.

Please see the letter from Sean at Cilips and consider that **everybody** does something special and Sean wants to know about it And so do we — you could be in 'virtual print' in this newsletter too!

From Sean

We are wondering if you can help CILIP in Scotland in regards to school library advocacy? We want to create content for online/print that advocates for school librarians and gathers all the amazing and vital things you all do.

What we want is short quotes about school librarians from head teachers, teachers, parents and young people that highlight the importance of a school librarian to them. If you were able to send us a quote or two that would be incredibly helpful, ideally the quote would be attributed but we can take anonymous ones if needed.

If you are unsure then you could keep a notepad handy and ask people for a quick quote about why they love the school library or about how you have helped them.

We would also like some images of school libraries in action across Scotland, anything at all that you can give us permission to use.

If you can help us out please e mail admin@cilips.org.uk. We would very much appreciate your help on this.

Thanks

Sean McNamara

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JOKE



Why did the children keep falling in the Library?

They were in the non-fiction section.

BOOM BOOM

SLA and SLA(S) CPD Training Days

The planned SLA training on transition to be held in Scotland in March had to be cancelled due to low delegate numbers. Other library groups have also had to cancel events. There are three questions on which we would like your feedback :-*

**Please cut and paste this section, answer the questions and send it back to Carol.*

If you have a strength in a specific example of school librarianship: blogs, critical literacy, transition, added value units or anything else let us know. We will create a dossier of talent which will allow us to put librarians into contact with the guru on the subject — remember you are never alone!

Remember

The most important asset of any library goes home at night – the library staff.

1. Would you prefer to attend courses on a Saturday or through the week?
2. Will your school pay for you to attend courses? If so how many a year do you attend?
3. On what topics do you feel you need or would like training?

STOP PRESS

Joint SLA(S), SLG and YLG Unconference.

Edinburgh Central Library
Saturday 9th August

Fun and informative.

Details to follow but mark your diary for a day trip to Edinburgh!

