Teacher Librarians: What Can Teacher Librarians Do For You?

University of Northern Iowa

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TEACHER LIBRARIANS

WHAT CAN TEACHER LIBRARIANS DO FOR YOU?

LEAD IN TECHNOLOGY AND LITERACY

TEACH DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

ADVOCATE FOR LIFE LONG READERS

Q

WHAT IS THE MOST CHALLENGING SKILL IN A 1:1 SETTING?

A

WHEN YOU FIND INFORMATION, REALLY KNOWING IT’S TRUE.

— IOWA HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR WITH 4 YEARS IN A 1:1 SCHOOL

TEACHER LIBRARIANS LINK TECHNOLOGY AND LITERACY BY TEACHING STUDENTS TO FIND, EVALUATE AND USE DIGITAL INFORMATION.

ONLY 2% OF STUDENTS WERE RATED AS EXCELLENT BY TEACHERS IN THEIR ABILITY TO RECOGNIZE QUALITY INFORMATION, EVALUATE BIAS, VERIFY SOURCES AND USE MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES (Miller & Bartlett, 2012).

TEACHERS ARE 3 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO RATE THEIR LITERACY INSTRUCTION AS EXCELLENT WHEN THEY COLLABORATE WITH TEACHER LIBRARIANS (Lance, et al., 2009).

Iowa Code 256.11(9) requires that “each school district shall have a qualified teacher librarian” and “standards for an articulated sequential” library program. Teacher librarians (formerly known as media specialists) have endorsements #174 (K-12), #108 (elementary), or #109 (secondary).

Leader, teacher, and reading advocates are roles of the licensed teacher librarian. As noted in No Child Left Behind [2004, Sections 1119(g)(3)(A)], paraprofessionals provide essential support only under the direct supervision of a highly qualified teacher librarian who teaches students and evaluates student achievement.

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When teacher librarians **LEAD** by linking technology and literacy:

- Students learn to apply critical literacy skills to new technologies while constructing new insights, pursuing their passions and creating innovative solutions.
- Teachers gain a **curriculum and professional development leader** who helps select and integrate quality digital resources and ensures the success of technology integration.

When teacher librarians **TEACH** digital citizenship:

- Students learn how to efficiently search online and manage their digital footprint.
- Teachers gain a **co-planner** and **co-teacher** who links content to technology, inquiry and Iowa standards.

When teacher librarians **ADVOCATE** for lifelong readers:

- Students learn the joy of finding the right book at the right time.
- Teachers gain **literacy leaders** who practice responsive collection development to reflect diverse needs, guide students’ choices, and promote and organize literacy events (AASL, 2009).

For more information about teacher librarians and UNI’s online School Library Studies program, visit www.uni.edu/coe/ci/sls and contact karla.krueger@uni.edu.

**TAKE THE NEXT STEP**

Have a conversation with your teacher librarian about:

- Collaborating with teachers
- Leading professional development
- Taking on a TLC role

**RECRUIT A TEACHER LIBRARIAN**

If you don’t find any qualified applicants for your teacher librarian position, try one of the following options.

**Develop your program:** You will attract more applicants if your schools have full-time teacher librarians, paraprofessional support, and clear administrator vision of how teacher librarians can enhance learning.

**Grow your own:** Recruit a teacher in your district to become a teacher librarian. The state may grant an emergency endorsement to teachers who are enrolled in teacher librarian coursework such as UNI’s online School Library Studies program.

To download a copy of this document, visit uni.edu/coe/departments/tl

**REFERENCES**

