

A successful school library program involves the teacher-librarian, principal, teachers and students working co-operatively towards a common goal.

The library information centre promotes resource-based learning and provides information and resources that support the total school program.

To ensure that the students and teachers are active and effective users of the resource centre, the teacher-librarian provides:

- access to an abundance of appropriate resources
- effective strategies for information utilization
- formal and informal learning activities

The teacher-librarian's responsibility to provide the leadership necessary to transform ideas into action necessitates:

- a holistic, cross-curricular perspective
- specialized knowledge of learning resources and media
- understanding of teaching and learning styles
- effective organization, planning and collaboration skill

To accomplish these goals the teacher-librarian's responsibilities encompass three areas:

1. EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

The responsibilities of the teacher-librarian include:

- advocating programs, resource-based learning policies and procedures
- being knowledgeable of current learning and teaching strategies and becoming aware of resources for professional development
- supporting a collegial atmosphere
- developing the potential of departmental staff and/or student and parent volunteers
- seeking opportunities for personal growth in school librarianship, including knowledge of learning materials, technology and curriculum
- working at local and regional levels in program and curriculum development

2. PROGRAM AND INSTRUCTION

In the area of program and instruction, the teacher-librarian is responsible for:

- implementing the concept of resource-based learning for all students
- co-operatively analyzing student and curricular needs and implementing programs
- providing literature enrichment
- assisting in the development of an integrated skills continuum (developed co-operatively at the school level across the curriculum)
- knowing and using current technological developments in information retrieval
- effectively supervising and instructing students
- providing materials and resource-based programs in both French and English

3. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The responsibilities of the teacher-librarian include:

- co-operatively developing objectives for implementation of programs, policies and procedures
- providing effective organization and supervision of facilities and resources
- supervising the selection and acquisition of appropriate resources
- maintaining proper records and systems
- supervising staff (clerical, technical, volunteer)
- networking with schools, Media Services, public libraries and information agencies

The success of a school library program is dependent on the teacher-librarian being able to balance all of the above, given adequate staff, budget and facilities in accordance with the total school program. ■

