



Super Conference Session Reviews

One Stop Shopping: A Dynamic School Library

MEI-LAN MARKO, Teacher-librarian
PATRICIA IRVING, Principal, Rideau High, Ottawa.

As secondary schools undergo major changes in the area of curriculum, information literacy is even more critical to the success of our students.

The goal of this session was to share with you, from the perspective of an administrator/facilitator and a teacher-librarian, what a vibrant facility and library program could look like. The school profile (Rideau is a large multi-cultural secondary school in Ottawa) and school improvement plan have identified literacy as one of our major initiatives. The library plays a key role in raising skill levels in the area of reading and writing, information skills, and computer literacy.

Our visual presentation provided a view of our library facility itself and then showed our program in all of its facets. We demonstrated some of the strategies we use to address varying levels of literacy. Through the delivery of a skills continuum, student conferencing, strategies for ESL teachers and learners, literacy groups, collaborative planning with teachers in all subject areas, and meaningful assessment and evaluation, we have developed a strong program that is yielding measurable results in school achievement.

Our goal was also to illustrate the benefits of the teacher-librarian's involvement in key curriculum committees as well as in general school life. We provided concrete examples of outreach activities such as staff training, linkages with feeder schools, regular newsletter communications which we feel have helped to enhance our inclusive and busy library program. In recognizing the importance of implementing and facilitating a strong library program, our principal ensures increased use of the school library, resulting in improvement in student achievement. ■

Boy, Have I Got A Good Book For You

ALLISON HAUPT

Allison Haupt entertained and informed more than 60 librarians and teacher-librarians at this session.

Starting with research *Boys and Girls Learn Differently* by Gurian, Allison underlined the critical need to keep boys reading. She then gave an inspiring, hour-long book talk: *Guy Time: Novels for Young Men, Grades 4-9*.

Allison reminded us that, although we need to recognize learning differences, many of her titles will appeal to girls as well. She also stressed that we must not "dumb down" literature for reluctant readers. Rather, we must find novels so compelling that boys (and girls) will have to finish them. One criterion of a compelling book is that it must have emotional content. In this context, Allison recommended *The EQ Edge* by Steven J. Stein and Howard E. Book. She also mentioned a 1991 *Horn Book* article by Katherine Paterson, "Living in a Peaceful World."

I received an incredible number of evaluation forms, and I have never seen so many #1s circled! ■ — Susannah D.

