Challenges to Collaboration	Challenge Busters!
Time barrier	Creative scheduling • Block timetabling presents opportunities for joint planning that can include the teacher-librarian. • A flexible, open library timetable promotes collaborative teaching that deepens student learning. • Joint assessment of student learning saves time. • Openness to impromptu meetings in the hall or lunchroom provides opportunities to gather information and seek opportunities to assist with teaching.
Limited vision of library program	Reaching beyond the norm • Consider partnering for subjects like drama, art and music. • Assist with planning field trips related to learning topics. • Arrange visits from community members, politicians, and businesses to bring relevance to student learning. • Offer to trouble-shoot or help "make-over" assignments that lack pizzazz! • Use creative methods to display student work; convert the library into an art gallery or museum. • Assist students in using technology to showcase their learning.
Pressure to cover the curriculum and/or be ready for standardized tests	Sharing the load • Co-construct assessment strategies with teachers and students. • Assist with collection of formative assessment data. • Reflect together on and assess student successes and challenges. • Plan for multiple collaborations as part of evidence-based practice. • Model effective teaching practices that incorporate cross-curricular themes. • Offer to coach and model best practices for new teachers.
Differing teacher planning and teaching styles (Zmada, 2009)	Flexibility • Be open to different "ways" of partnering. • Observe each other teach and offer constructive critical feedback. • Capitalize on each other's strengths to provide a richer, more-rounded program for students.
Mounting pressures posed by increased preparation time (Klinger, 2009) (The greater the amount of prep coverage delivered by teacher-librarians, the more restraints there are on instructional collaboration with teachers.)	Advocacy • Strive to engender a culture of collaboration within the school. • Promote the library as the hub of the school where teaching and learning are front and centre. • Develop a learner-centered mission statement that aligns with the school success plan to help establish the role of the library within the context of the whole school. • Keep abreast of research that examines the negative correlation between teacher-librarian prep time coverage and student success—make this available to administrators and teaching staff. • Communicate with administrators about the learning-centered activities that happen in the library—make this official by means of memo or newsletter. • Create a library website to advertise events and activities happening @Your Library. • Be aware of advocacy associations like OLA, OSLA, TALCO, CASL, etc.; visit **www.accessola.com** for more information.