

Photo: Derrick Grose



**Ruth Hall
presents
OSLA
Hot Topics
at Super
Conference
2010.**

The learning commons presents the opportunity to connect learners to physical and virtual resources, and to embrace ICT (information communication technology) and social media tools to engage and connect, enhancing learning opportunities for teachers and students alike. It represents a tall order for us as school library professionals because it demands embracing new technologies and new ways of learning, but our students demand no less of us. To remain relevant in education we must move beyond defining ourselves by traditional library spaces and materials.

As part of this call to a new vision for school libraries, OSLA has joined with other library associations across the country to sponsor a research symposium examining the future of school libraries. We know that “in too many schools in Canada, library programs remain marginal to K-12 education” (“Call”, *Treasure Mountain Canada*). The symposium, called *Treasure Mountain Canada*, is modelled on the work of David Loertscher’s school library retreats, held biannually in the U.S. since 1982. This first ever Canadian event has been created as a catalyst to the development of much needed scholarly studies and grassroots research in order to connect school libraries to the larger education landscape and to identify the practices which will ensure the best school library programs for all students. The retreat will be held in Edmonton just prior to the annual CLA conference in June, 2010.

While the research builds, we can all be working on our individual practice. Once again this summer, for those of you who could not attend Super Conference or who are looking for learning opportunities outside of the school year, OTF will sponsor a 3-day library camp. This year’s theme – *School Library as Learning Commons: integrating new technologies with traditional roles*. Watch for more information on the OTF website, at your school, and from OSLA. Celebrate the opportunities for ongoing learning that make our work in school libraries exciting, vibrant, challenging, ever-changing and never dull. ■

Citations

“A Call for Papers.” (January 9, 2010) *Treasure Mountain Canada*. <http://tmcana.ca.pbworks.com/>

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