

"School libraries are vital entities for learning as research shows that student outcomes improve significantly if the school library presents an outstanding, relevant and sophisticated collection of resources and materials, if the SL is implemented in the school curriculum, if it is led by a credible school librarian and if the teachers and the school librarian work together to enhance learning."
Lourense Das, International Association of School Libraries, Europe Director, 17 Oct 2008
speech for International School Libraries Month.

Extensive use of the school library can increase literacy achievement by as many as 27 points. J. Masters and M. Forster. *Mapping Literacy Achievement: Results of the 1996 national School English Literacy Survey*. ACER, Melbourne, 1997.

When young people have easy access to exciting reading materials, they read more!
More reading equals higher academic achievement!
Lance and Loertscher. *Powering Achievement*. 3rd ed. HiWillow, Salt Lake City, 2000

LOCAL STATE MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION:



Does your school have a qualified teacher librarian?

To help your child, your teacher
librarian:

- Is qualified in teaching **and** librarianship
- Fosters positive reading experiences by finding them the right book at the right time
- Develops their learning skills to meet research and problem solving challenges
- Educates them in efficient, safe use of the Internet and its tools

For more information on how you can support your school library program, visit the Australian School Library website at www.asla.org.au or **The Hub: Campaign for Quality School Libraries in Australia** hubinfo.wordpress.com

- Guides them to think critically about information in a real-life context
- Selects quality resources to support all learning areas and learning styles
- Works in collaboration with classroom teachers to deliver teaching programs that develop information fluency and literacy
- Creates stimulating learning spaces (real and virtual)
- Provides library systems, collections and services to meet school community needs

“My guess is (it will be) about 300 years until computers are as good as, say, your local reference library in search.” Craig Silverstein, director of technology, Google.com

To help your child, you can:

- Find out who staffs your school library
- Find out if the library is open to students throughout the school day
- Find out what the annual library budget is; the replacement cost of a book is average \$25.
- Ask your child if
 - the materials in the school library are current and a good match for assignments
 - if the school library has the books your child likes to read
- Let your school council, parent group and principal know that a well funded school library staffed by a qualified teacher librarian makes a difference to your student’s learning and achievement

The US research foundation paper which brings together the results of 20 empirical state and provincial studies and position papers, *School Libraries Work!*, updated in 2008, affirms that school libraries, staffed by qualified teacher librarians, make a measurable difference on student achievement. See www2.scholastic.com/content/collateral_resources/pdf/s/slw3_2008.pdf