

Teacher-Librarian Advocacy in British Columbia

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FACT: The role of the teacher-librarian has changed dramatically over the past fifteen years...

Two questions worth asking...

1. Have our professional practices kept pace with the change?
2. How do we continue to keep the teacher-librarian role relevant in our schools?

The teacher-librarian of the 21st century is no longer just a curator of books or a champion of reading literacy...

Build Your Presence in Your School...

- become an educational/curricular leader in your school
- ask to attend (and present at) all department & department head meetings; get on staff meeting agenda and present every month
- become indispensable to students and staff, and be prepared to do a bit of 'dirty work' from time to time
- become the technology 'go-to' person in your school
- align with colleagues that value library services-- collaborate together (young teachers are most ready)

Build Your Presence in Your District...

- conduct regular TL meetings (Elluminate is perfect)--build support from the inside out
- do a presentation to your board trustees: how TLs support learning and achievement for students (BCedplan)
- develop a strong working relationship with local media
- do a presentation to your local PVP association
- local teacher-education program--work to develop a relationship & offer TLs in there to present various workshops to teachers-in-training

in Your District (continued)

- volunteer for district committees (technology, education, planning, etc.)
- continue to pressure your local chapter to explore avenues (especially issues with contracting out); and keep them in the loop
- offer to volunteer on district committees (technology, education, professional development)

Get Connected & Get in the Loop

- Become a member of [BCTLA](#)
- Join [BCTLA Ning](#)
- Join [Teacher-Librarians Ning](#)
- Join [Twitter](#) follow TL-related hashtags (#bctla #tlchat #librarians #libchat #ala #iasl)
- Join [Voices for School Libraries Network](#)
- Others

BCTLA Advocacy Avenues

- Continue to gain support of BCTF executive to work on getting language back into contract regarding TL FTE
- Continue to develop BCTLA Ning and expand to include members from other PSAs
- Explore opportunity to create stronger relationship with BCCSL (Coalition for School Libraries)--parent advocates
- Explore avenues to promote TL role with instructors of administrative officer graduate programs at master's level

BCTLA (Continued)

- Undertake efficacy of advocacy research with Arizona State University researcher [Ann Ewbank](#)
- Continue to develop working and advocacy relationship with Washington Library Media Association (WMLA) (Washington State teacher-librarian association)
- Join IASL-IFLA committee on international study to build a school library resource kit for teacher-librarians

Thank you!

Questions, Answers,
Comments, Discussions, and...

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