



Media release

Online and Flexible Learning The School Library

For many years, school libraries have been at the forefront of exploring ways in which education can embrace technology to enhance learning. Library management systems have, over decades, developed to integrate and highlight physical and online resources that support and enrich learning, making resources accessible wherever learning takes place. The development of school library database collections of ebooks, online encyclopedias, audio books, and ejournals, have opened remote access to quality resources, often of a scholarly nature. These platforms have also supported the dissemination of digital recreational reading and listening options, anywhere, anytime, for school communities.

School library professionals have continued to develop their flexibility as curators of resources by integrating the library management system with other online spaces, bringing together in one place the relevant resources for an area of study or an assessment task. These efforts support and enhance online learning and highlight the role of trained school library professionals in the evaluation and dissemination of quality sources of information.

The multi-faceted nature of school libraries ensures they are vital hubs for learning and for developing a culture of reading. Engagement in wide reading underpins literacy development and helps create empathetic, knowledgeable, life-long learners. The work of school libraries to foster a whole-school reading culture is valuable, this work exists in school library spaces and online, offering flexible options for readers of all kinds.

The School Library Association of Victoria, currently celebrating its 60th year, chose as its theme for this year *School Libraries: Powering Learning*. Despite the current health crisis, and the impact of these changed circumstances on education systems, school libraries continue to provide targeted resources and guidance to their school communities. In a challenging environment, students, teachers, and communities need and deserve the help, support, and professional expertise, of school library professionals. Quality, active, and integrated school libraries are a driving force in 'powering' online learning. This is acknowledged and celebrated in the following infographic entitled 'What a School Library Can Do for You'.

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WHAT A SCHOOL

LIBRARY

CAN DO FOR YOU

The school library can enable students to achieve **better learning outcomes**

The school library is a **welcoming, flexible environment**

- Provide equitable access to resources to help communities cater for:
- ▶ individual learning styles
 - ▶ varied abilities
 - ▶ cultural differences

School libraries help improve students' literacy by offering reading opportunities

School libraries support interdisciplinary learning

- ▶ inquiry
- ▶ creativity
- ▶ reasoning
- ▶ reflection
- ▶ evaluation
- ▶ metacognition

Reading experiences increase **empathy** and **emotional intelligence**

School library spaces can be:

- ▶ active
- ▶ cultural
- ▶ creative
- ▶ quiet
- ▶ collaborative

Reading experiences enrich our knowledge of the wider world

There is a large body of evidence-based research that shows **effective school libraries have a positive impact** upon learning and enrich the lives of their school community

Provide access to quality reading experiences that foster reading for pleasure

Teacher-librarians can teach students the information literacy skills framework

RESEARCH

LEARNING

READING

Match the right reading experience to the right child at the right time

RESOURCES

Provide a world of resources - local and global, physical and digital

Library staff are the best resource in the library. They can:

- ▶ help plan a unit of work
- ▶ find a resource
- ▶ integrate ICT into teaching
- ▶ curate internet sources
- ▶ teach and promote the ethical use of Information