

Philosophy of School Librarianship

A school librarian provides many advantages to the school and community. School librarians have many different roles that include being teachers, instructional partners, information specialists, and leaders. There are three values that I feel are essential for a school librarian to present to their school and community that includes: providing education and lifelong learning skills, promoting and incorporating diversity, and accessibility. I believe when these values are accomplished; school librarians will have accomplished their goals as a librarian.

The first value that will be discussed is education and lifelong learning skills. One role a school librarian fulfills is a teacher. An example of a school librarian fulfilling their role as a teacher is developing and addressing the school's mission and vision statement. A school librarian must acknowledge a school's mission and vision statements so that they can meet the goals of the school needed to increase student achievement. In addition, school librarians are great instructional partners because they help support other teachers by addressing content areas where students need assistance. The assistance from school librarians can promote more learning and higher student achievement. Furthermore, school librarians can help promote lifelong learning skills by using technology as learning aids to support student learning when making connections to new knowledge and information. In essence, school librarians also represent being leaders because they are able to examine the various ways technology can enhance learners and educators when addressing curriculum-based standards and skills.

School librarians not only represent different roles, but they have a responsibility to address the National School Library Standards. The National School Library Standards must be addressed when school librarians prepare a lesson for learners and educators. The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) Standards are made up of six shared foundations: inquire, include, collaborate, curate, explore, and engage (AASL, 2018). These shared commitments are essential because they address learner competencies. Learners are challenged cognitively when learning new information and obtaining new knowledge. Furthermore, it is fundamental that school librarians address these foundations so that they may make an impact on learning in the library for all learners. A student's learning is significant in the school library because it helps foster diversity.

Diversity is valuable in librarianship. School librarians focus on diversity in the library by addressing the different learning styles of learners. One-way diversity is shown by school librarians is providing quality instruction that meets the academic needs of learners. Another way diversity is shown in librarianship is when ethnicity is represented in books, information, and resources. A great representation of diversity in materials and resources helps learners develop an interest in reading by promoting a variety of diverse topics. Furthermore, diversity would not be measurable without accessibility.

A school librarian can promote accessibility by providing an empowering educational experience to learners. School librarians can sustain an effective educational experience by addressing literacy skills, research skills, technology, and implementing instructional strategies when teaching lifelong skills to students. Moreover, school librarians are most impactful when all learners have access to quality education and educational materials such as books, materials, and technology in the library.

In conclusion, school librarians have fulfilled their responsibilities as a librarian when education and lifelong learning, diversity, and accessibility are enforced in their day-to-day operations. In addition, when these values are reinforced this helps address other values in librarianship such as technology, service, knowledge, culture, and commitment. Once these values are exemplified daily, a school librarian is wearing many hats by fulfilling their role as leaders to learners, educators, and the field of librarianship.

References

American Association of School Librarians. (2018). *National school library standards for learners, school librarians, and school libraries*. Chicago. ALA Editions.