The Principal’s Role in Developing and Supporting an Information Literate School Community: An Evaluation of Your Perceptions and Beliefs

Questions for the Principal

A. Perceptions

Identify how much attention you give to each item at present using the scale: A Lot – Some – Little – None – Cannot Comment

Then identify how much attention you would like to give each item in the future (again using the scale): A Lot – Some – Little – None – Cannot Comment

Select the value that best describes your level of attention to each of the items below for both the present and future:

1. I advocate and facilitate the development of an information literate school community.
   Present: a lot some little none cannot comment
   Future: a lot some little none cannot comment

2. I ensure that the attainment of information literacy is part of the school plan.

3. I encourage and facilitate the professional development of staff.

4. I understand and advocate the role of the teacher librarian (as per ministry/system policies) in the school's instructional program.

5. I demonstrate support for collaboration among the teacher librarian and teaching staff.

6. I ensure that the school library resource centre objectives reflect school goals.

7. I ensure that the teacher librarian has an appropriate allocation of support staff.

8. I allocate adequate, flexible time for the teacher librarian to administer the library resource centre.

9. I encourage the teaching staff to involve themselves in the development of library resource centre policies and programs.

10. I encourage the teaching staff to invest time in cooperatively planning and teaching with the teacher librarian.

11. I encourage and facilitate the professional development of teaching staff to enhance their understanding and use of information technology.

12. I inform new staff about the importance of collaborating with the teacher librarian.

13. I support the development of a resource collection that is current and relevant to the curriculum needs of the school.

14. I encourage staff debate about information policy.

15. I ensure that significant funding is allocated to the library resource centre budget.

16. I actively seek outside school funding possibilities that can be used to supplement the library resource centre budget.

17. I engage in regular and timely communication with the teacher librarian.

18. I visit the library resource centre to observe the work of the teacher librarian.

19. I encourage the teacher librarian to debate and justify current practice.

20. I ask questions of the teacher librarian about teaching and learning.
21. I rely on the teacher librarian to keep me abreast of developments that affect his/her role.
22. I seek advice from the teacher librarian with respect to issues of whole school information management.
23. I encourage the teacher librarian to take risks.
24. I encourage teachers to employ a wide range of information resources in their teaching programs.
25. I encourage the teacher librarian to take a leadership role in the development and maintenance of a school wide information skills continuum.
26. I work with the teacher librarian to develop his/her personal professional development plan.
27. I advocate that the teacher librarian be a member of key school committees to tap into his/her expertise and school-wide perspective.
28. I encourage teachers to incorporate the learning and use of a range of information skills into their teaching programs and to assess process skills as well as content.
29. I provide time release and funding to the teacher librarian to undertake ongoing professional development.
30. When the teacher librarian is not represented on a key committee I ensure that the needs of the library resource centre are addressed.
31. I seek feedback from staff about their impressions of the quality of library resource centre services.

B. Beliefs

Please indicate the strength of your belief for each of these items using the scale:
Strongly Agree – Agree – Disagree – Strongly Disagree – Cannot Comment

Select the value that best describes your strength of belief for each of the items below:

32. I believe that the teacher librarian should be a key player in the school's information literacy programs.
I: strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree cannot comment
33. I believe that a teacher librarian ought to have a qualification in education and librarianship.
34. I believe teacher librarians ought to be appointed according to a merit selection process.
35. Should an unqualified teacher librarian be appointed to my school, I would expect that s/he undertake a specialist qualification in teacher librarianship.
36. I expect the teacher librarian to spend all of his/her day in the library resource centre.
37. I believe that staff development plans should address the development of teachers' information literacy.
38. I believe that the teacher librarian should be timetabled to cover classroom teachers' relief from face-to-face time.
39. I identify the teacher librarian as an information and communication technology (ICT) leader in the school.
40. I believe that the teacher librarian should provide a flexible timetable that best meets the needs of individual students, groups, and whole classes.
41. I believe that Internet access should be available through the library resource centre.
42. I believe that students should have individual access to the library resource centre during class time.
43. I believe that the principal should supervise the teacher librarian.
44. I believe that the teacher librarian should provide appropriate inservicing to the teaching staff.
45. I believe it is important that principals act as role models and mentors to staff who are reticent about the appropriate instructional use of information technology.
46. I believe that cooperative planning and teaching should occur in the classroom as well as in the library resource centre.

47. When the teacher librarian is absent, I believe that it is necessary to fill his/her position with a suitably qualified replacement.

48. I believe that teacher librarians should be supported to achieve Advanced Skills Teacher (AST) status and appropriate executive positions.

49. My acceptance of the teacher librarian's professional judgement relates directly to his/her credibility.

50. I believe that I am well placed to judge the teacher librarian’s professional competence.

C. Open-ended Questions

The following questions allow you to provide additional information for reflection and discussion.

1. From my perspective the strengths of the library resource centre are...

2. From my perspective the challenges that face the library resource centre are...

3. The following things that the teacher librarian does are critical to the quality of teaching and learning...

4. If the library resource centre were closed for more than two weeks the form and quality of teaching and learning would be affected in the following ways...

5. If the teacher librarian were absent from school for more than two weeks the form and quality of teaching and learning would be affected in the following ways...

6. When the teacher librarian is absent the following arrangements ensure access to the library resource centre...

7. I see information literacy as...

8. I see the following as the major barriers to the integration of information skills across the curriculum...

9. I promote the role of the library resource centre through school committees in the following ways...

10. In conclusion I would like to make the following points about my role in developing and supporting an information literate school community...

The Principal’s Role in Developing and Supporting an Information Literate School Community: 
An Evaluation of Your Perceptions and Beliefs

Questions for the Teacher Librarian

A. Perceptions

Please identify how much attention you think the Principal gives to each item at present using the scale:
A Lot – Some – Little – None – Cannot Comment

Then identify how much attention you would like the Principal to give each item in the future
(again using the scale):
A Lot – Some – Little – None – Cannot Comment

Select the value that best describes what you think is the level of attention for each of the items below for both the present and future:

1. The Principal advocates and facilitates the development of an information literate school community.

   Present: a lot some little none cannot comment

   Future: a lot some little none cannot comment

2. The Principal ensures that the attainment of information literacy is part of the school plan.

3. The Principal encourages and facilitates the professional development of staff.

4. The Principal understands and advocates the role of the teacher librarian (as per ministry/system policies) in the school's instructional program.

5. The Principal demonstrates support for collaboration among the teacher librarian and teaching staff.

6. The Principal ensures that the school library resource centre objectives reflect school goals.

7. The Principal ensures that the teacher librarian has an appropriate allocation of support staff.

8. The Principal allocates adequate, flexible time for the teacher librarian to administer the library resource centre.

9. The Principal encourages the teaching staff to involve themselves in the development of library resource centre policies and programs.

10. The Principal encourages the teaching staff to invest time in cooperatively planning and teaching with the teacher librarian.

11. The Principal encourages and facilitates the professional development of teaching staff to enhance their understanding and use of information technology.

12. The Principal informs new teaching staff about the importance of collaborating with the teacher librarian.

13. The Principal supports the development of a resource collection that is current and relevant to the curriculum needs of the school.

14. The Principal encourages teaching staff debate about information policy.

15. The Principal ensures that significant funding is allocated to the library resource centre budget.

16. The Principal actively seeks outside school funding possibilities that can be used to supplement the library resource centre budget.

17. The Principal engages in regular and timely communication with the teacher librarian.

18. The Principal visits the library resource centre to observe the work of the teacher librarian.
19. The Principal encourages the teacher librarian to debate and justify current practice.
20. The Principal asks questions of the teacher librarian about teaching and learning.
21. The Principal relies on the teacher librarian to keep him/her abreast of developments that affect the teacher librarian's role.
22. The Principal seeks advice from the teacher librarian with respect to issues of whole school information management.
23. The Principal encourages the teacher librarian to take risks.
24. The Principal encourages teaching staff to employ a wide range of information resources in their teaching programs.
25. The Principal encourages the teacher librarian to take a leadership role in the development and maintenance of a school wide information skills continuum.
26. The Principal works with the teacher librarian to develop the teacher librarian's personal professional development plan.
27. The Principal advocates that the teacher librarian be a member of key school committees to tap into his/her expertise and school-wide perspective.
28. The Principal encourages teaching staff to incorporate the learning and use of a range of information skills into their teaching programs and to assess process skills as well as content.
29. The Principal provides time release and funding to the teacher librarian to undertake ongoing professional development.
30. When the teacher librarian is not represented on a key committee, the Principal ensures that the needs of the library resource centre are addressed.
31. The Principal seeks feedback from staff about their impressions of the quality of library resource centre services.

B. Beliefs

Please indicate the strength of your belief for each of these items using the scale:
Strongly Agree – Agree – Disagree – Strongly Disagree – Cannot Comment

Select the value that best describes your strength of belief for each of the items below:

32. I believe that the teacher librarian should be a key player in the school's information literacy programs.
   I: strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree cannot comment
33. I believe that a teacher librarian ought to have a qualification in education and librarianship.
34. I believe teacher librarians ought to be appointed according to a merit selection process.
35. Should an unqualified teacher librarian be appointed to a school, I would expect that s/he undertake a specialist qualification in teacher librarianship.
36. As the teacher librarian I expect to spend all of my day in the library resource centre.
37. I believe that staff development plans should address the development of teachers’ information literacy.
38. I believe that a teacher librarian should be timetabled to cover classroom teachers’ preparation time.
39. I believe the teacher librarian should be identified as an information and communications technology (ICT) leader in the school.
40. I believe that teacher librarians should provide a flexible timetable that best meets the needs of individual students, groups, and whole classes.
41. I believe that Internet access should be available through the library resource centre.
42. I believe that students should have individual access to the library resource centre during class time.
43. I believe that the Principal should supervise the teacher librarian.
44. I believe that teacher librarians should provide appropriate inservicing to the teaching staff.
45. I believe it is important that Principals act as role models and mentors to staff who are reticent about the appropriate instructional use of information technology.
46. I believe that cooperative planning and teaching should occur in the classroom as well as in the library resource centre.
47. When the teacher librarian is absent, I believe that it is necessary to fill his/her position with a suitably qualified replacement.
48. I believe that teacher librarians should be supported to achieve Advanced Skills Teacher (AST) status and appropriate administrative positions.
49. I believe that the Principal is well placed to judge a teacher librarian's professional competence.
50. I believe that it is the teacher librarian's responsibility to educate the Principal about the role of the teacher librarian.
51. I believe that the teacher librarian should inform the Principal about issues affecting the potential of library resource centres.
52. I believe that the teacher librarian is good preparation for the position of Principal.
53. Teacher librarians seek mentorship from teaching staff in addition to that provided by the Principal.

C. Open-ended Questions

The following questions allow you to provide additional information for reflection and discussion.

1. From my perspective the strengths of the library resource centre are...
2. From my perspective the challenges that face the library resource centre are...
3. The following things that the teacher librarian does are critical to the quality of teaching and learning...
4. If the library resource centre were closed for more than two weeks the form and quality of teaching and learning would be affected in the following ways...
5. If the teacher librarian were absent from school for more than two weeks the form and quality of teaching and learning would be affected in the following ways...
6. When the teacher librarian is absent the following arrangements ensure access to the library resource centre...
7. I see information literacy as...
8. I see the following as the major barriers to the integration of information skills across the curriculum...
9. I promote the role of the library resource centre through school committees in the following ways...
10. I maintain my credibility as a teacher librarian in the following ways...
11. The principal could provide the following additional supports to me as teacher librarian...
12. In conclusion I would like to make the following points about my role in developing and supporting an information literate school community...