

Principals' Perceptions of The Instructional Role of the School Librarian

KASL Conference 2013

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Principal Support of Library Program

- **Budget**
- **Staffing**
- **Scheduling**
- **Advocacy**

Research Studies

- The Instructional Role of the Library Media Specialist as Perceived by Elementary School Principals, available from *School Library Research*, (2008), 11,
<http://www.ala.org/aasl/aaslpubsandjournals/slmrb/slmrcontents/volume11/church>
- Secondary School Principals' Perceptions of the School Librarian's Instructional Role, available from *School Library Research*, (2010), 13,
http://www.ala.org/aasl/sites/ala.org.aasl/files/content/aaslpubsandjournals/slr/vol13/SLR_SecondarySchool_V13.pdf

Samples

- Elementary (Spring 2007)
 - 1158 elementary schools; 927 emails; $n=110$; 13% response rate
- Secondary (Winter 2009)
 - Permission in 60 of 134 school divisions; 315 middle and high school principals; $n=108$; 34 % response rate
- ...issue of non-response bias...

Teacher Role

Question Focus	Elementary	Secondary
1. Use print materials	91%	81%
2. Use electronic databases	87%	97%
3. Use free Web	82%	87%
4. Locate information	95%	96%
5. Evaluate information	86%	90%
6. Take notes and organize information	75%	47%
7. Respect intellectual property	94%	94%

Teacher Role

Question Focus	Elementary	Secondary
8. Practice ethical behavior	92%	96%
9. Have access to test data	80%	44%
10. Use test data	83%	43%
11. Provide staff development—Web and databases	86%	91%
12. Provide staff development—intellectual property and copyright	86%	92%

Instructional Partner Role

Question Focus	Elementary	Secondary
13. Collaborate to teach information literacy	92%	96%
14. Collaborate with individual teachers to plan	85%	89%
15. Collaborate with grades/teams/departments to plan	92%	90%
16. Collaborate to teach	89%	92%
17. Collaborate to evaluate student work	74%	65%
18. Play an active role in school improvement	94%	94%

Overall Contribution

Question Focus	Elementary	Secondary
19. Library media specialist should be an		
a. Advocate?	98%	94%
b. Instructional leader?	68%	61%
c. Instructional partner?	93%	90%
d. Master teacher?	53%	43%
e. Member of Leadership Team/ Principal's Advisory Council	62%	75%
f. Other?	6%	4%

Overall Contribution

Question Focus	Elementary	Secondary
20. Primary initiator of collaboration at individual teacher level?		
a. Administrator	12%	8%
b. Library media specialist	67%	61%
c. Teacher	20%	31%
21. Primary initiator of collaboration at school level?		
a. Administrator	38%	42%
b. Library media specialist	57%	55%
c. Teacher	3%	3%

Principal Support

Question Focus	Elementary	Secondary
22. Characterization of support?		
Strongly support or support	-	99%
23. What type of support?		
a. Library media specialist in leadership role	-	75%
b. Expectation to teachers for collaboration	-	74%
c. Library media specialist on key committees	-	84%
d. Provide clerical staffing	-	66%
e. Provide adequate funding	-	73%

Sources of Principals' Perceptions

- Professional reading and conference attendance
- Principal preparation coursework
(Buchanan, 1982; Hartzell, 2002; Pearson, 1989; Veltze, 1992; Wilson & Blake, 1993; Wilson & MacNeil, 1988;)

Sources of Principals' Perceptions

- Librarians with whom principal worked as teacher (Hartzell, 2002; Naylor & Jenkins, 1988)
- Librarians with whom principal worked/works as administrator (Alexander et al., 2003; Campbell, 1991)

Sources of Principals' Perceptions

- Virginia elementary school principals
 - Presentations at conferences 0.0%
 - Principal preparation programs 1.8%
 - Professional journal readings 2.7%
 - Interactions as teacher 26.4%
 - Interactions as principal 65.5%
- Virginia secondary school principals
 - Principal preparation programs 0.9%
 - Presentations at conferences 0.9%
 - Professional journal readings 6.5%
 - Interactions as teacher 31.5%
 - Interactions as principal 60.2%

(Church, 2008, 2010)

Open-ended Question...

- Think back to a situation or incident which you have had with a library media specialist which helped to form your view of the role of the library media specialist in the school. This incident could be a positive one, or it could be a negative one. Please describe the incident.

Theoretical Framework

- Critical incident theory
 - Flannagan (1954)
 - Critical incidents first classified as positive or negative, then further classified as informational (content) or relational (attitudes) (Radford 1996)



**Advocacy
begins
with
YOU!**

Advocacy

- On-going process of building partnerships so that others will act for and with you, turning passive support into educated action for the library media program
- Begins with a vision and a plan for the library program that is then matched to the agenda and priorities of stakeholders

AASL Advocacy Special Committee

Approach for Analysis

- Positive or Negative?
- Attitudinal/Relational
- Informational/Content

(Radford, 2006)

Attitudinal/Relational

- Atmosphere
 - Warm welcoming environment
 - Inviting learning space
 - Positive tone

(Church, 2008, 2010)

Attitudinal/Relational

- Traits/Dispositions
 - Approachable
 - Customer-service oriented
 - Enthusiastic
 - Energetic
 - Friendly
 - Innovative

(Church, 2008, 2010)

Attitudinal/Relational

● Actions

- Has positive interactions with students and staff
- Invests in school culture
- Is a team player
- Is collaborative/willing to be instructional partner
- Is involved in whole school/sees big picture (activities and instruction)
- Is proactive

Attitudinal/Relational

- Actions (continued)
 - Provides access to library
 - Promotes library services
 - Shows leadership skills
 - Shows positive attitude toward school and library
 - Takes initiative
 - Takes strong stand on intellectual freedom

(Church, 2008, 2010)

Informational/Content


- Collaboration with classroom teacher to teach 21st century skills
- Knowledge of and connection to classroom
- Knowledge of and use of student test data
- Knowledge of state curriculum standards

(Church, 2008, 2010)

Informational/Content

- Provision of meaningful and engaging professional development for staff
- Support for reading and literacy
- Teaching of research skills
- Teaching of technology skills

(Church, 2008, 2010)



Assessment of Your Current Status in Attitudinal/ Relational and Informational/Content Areas



Action Plan

- **Attitudinal/Relational**
- **Informational/Content**

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Questions?

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