

2012-05-08

# School Library Services Initiative

## Update: Transforming to a Learning Commons

Sykes, Judith

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Sykes, J. "School Library Services Initiative Update: Transforming to a Learning Commons".  
Presented at the 6th Canadian Learning Commons Conference, May 7-9. 2012, University of  
Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

<http://hdl.handle.net/1880/49096>

*Downloaded from PRISM Repository, University of Calgary*

# Alberta Education School Library Services Initiative

Canadian Learning Commons Conference  
University of Calgary May 2012

# SCHOOL LIBRARY SERVICES INITIATIVE

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- External advisory committee includes Alberta Teachers' Association, all Alberta library associations
- Inter-branch committee includes Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Advanced Education and Technology



# RESEARCH

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- Extensive research (21 states, Ontario) supports a correlation between student achievement and quality school libraries. (Krashen; Lance)
- *Achieving Information Literacy, Standards for School Library Programs in Canada* (2003); *American Association of School Librarians. Standards for the 21st-Century Learner* (2007)

## Other Ministries:

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- *Connections: Policy and Guidelines for School Libraries in Saskatchewan (2008)*
- *Ontario School Library Association.*  
*Together for Learning: School Libraries and the Emergence of the Learning Commons.*  
*(2010) Ontario Library Association*

# Learning Commons Perspective

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- Supports collaboration (staff, students, other libraries) through a contextual plan that is part of the whole school plan focused on student learning outcomes



# Learning Commons Environment

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- Physical and virtual spaces support critical thinking, student access to current print and digital information through school library teams teams (real and virtual librarians)
- School Library Services Initiative Background - FAQs, Survey results, Research Paper

# Learning Commons Climate

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- “Learning laboratory”: critical thinking, inquiry, action research, interdisciplinary
- Active learning: project and problem-based, experiential, knowledge building centers
- The Written Word - **reading** in multiple formats to access, examine, evaluate, restructure, create, communicate, reflect  
[Learning Commons website](#)

# Alignments

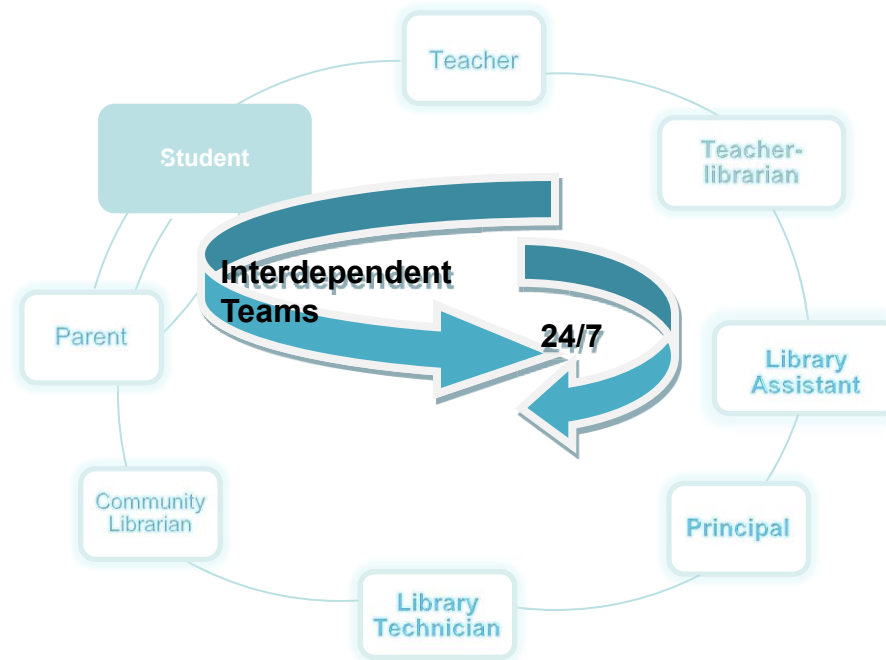
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- *Our Children Our Future: Getting it Right*
- *Framework for Student Learning: Competencies for Engaged Thinkers and Ethical Citizens with an Entrepreneurial Spirit*
- GOA Integrated Library Policy (under development)

# SUPPORTS

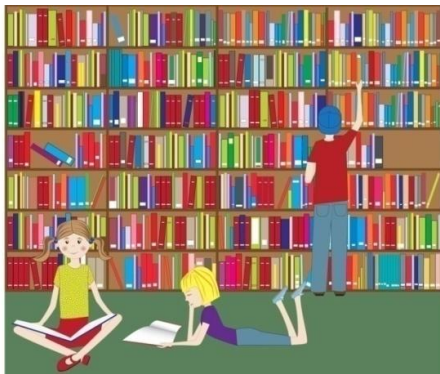
## Implementation Supports Sub-Committee

- Team roles, Responsibilities, Examples



# Seamless Access Strategies for Library Services Sub-Committee

- Planning templates, checklists
- Collaboration with other libraries



# Licensing Digital Content Sub-Committee

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## Core databases

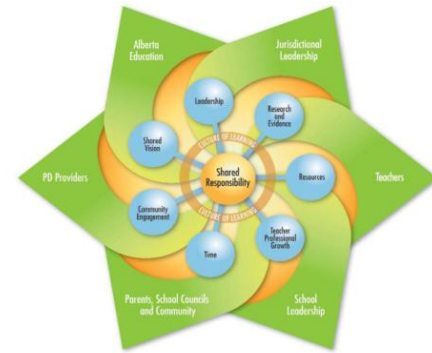
- World Book
- General Reference Centre
- National Geographic
- Academic Search
- Canadian Periodical Index
- Canadian Newstand



On-line Reference Center (ORC) as part  
of [LearnAlberta.ca](http://LearnAlberta.ca)

# In-service Sub-Committee

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- Library and education conferences
- Curriculum Co-ordinator Meetings/Corner
  - *School Library Services Plan Template:  
Transitioning to a Learning Commons - Guiding Questions*