Research Brief: Instructional Partners in Digital Library Spaces

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Instructional Partners in Digital Library Learning Spaces*
*Selected as a 2014 Top Twenty Library Instruction Article by the American Library Association.

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Abstract
The article indicates that digital library learning spaces offer numerous options for school librarians to partner and collaborate with students and teachers, promoting student learning across the curriculum. It mentions that creating these spaces, which include virtual libraries, flipped libraries and fully-online library courses, can be time-consuming and challenging. It also enumerates the potential of these spaces for fostering lifelong reading habits and developing digital literacy.

Practical Application
Online learning is rapidly becoming a more prominent feature of K-12 public education. This movement toward online learning provides school librarians with new ways to infuse technology and 21st century literacies into the K-12 curriculum. The majority of school librarians have experience in creating media center websites with information portals, webliographies, pathfinders and webquests. However, this study found that very few school librarians had any formal training or experience as designers of online instruction. In this article the authors provide an instructional design model for school librarians to follow in developing fully-online courses for K-12 students and teachers.

Citation

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