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The International School Library Professionals Association

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#### DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Enterprise Design Services, LLC

www.enterlinedesign.com

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Subscriptions, Teacher Librarian

4501 Forbes Blvd., Suite 200

Lanham, MD 20706

Phone: 1-800-273-2223

Fax: 717-794-3852

Subscription inquiries e-mail: journals@rowman.com

Or subscribe online at: www.teacherlibrarian.com

Teacher Librarian is owned by

The Scarecrow Press, Inc., a Member of the

Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group.

U.S. POSTMASTER: Teacher Librarian (ISSN 1481-1782)

USPS #9-407) (Publications Mail Registration Number

40028609) is published bimonthly except July/August for

\$54.00 per year by Scarecrow Press, Inc., 4501 Forbes Blvd.,

Suite 200, Lanham, MD 20706. Periodicals postage paid at

Lanham, MD, and at additional mailing offices.

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS: Send address corrections (covers

only) to Subscriptions, Teacher Librarian, 4501 Forbes Blvd.

Suite 200, Lanham, MD 20706.

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## notebook

by david loertscher and  
elizabeth "betty" marcoux



# a time to ponder, transition, grow

The theme, "In Transition," for this issue seems relevant in a time of economic troubles that not only affect the automobile industry in North America but touches every school in some form. Many teacher-librarians face the prospect of being eliminated or replaced by paraprofessionals. Other professionals are losing support staff and so it is a time for re-thinking. We thought we would give you some things to ponder and consider as you may also be thinking about, rethinking or restructuring your library media program for the fall. Consider the following:

- For the United States, the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) has just published its new guidelines that extend their Learning Standards published in 2007. *Empowering Learners: Guidelines for School Library Media Programs* was just published by the American Library Association (978-0-8389-8519-9) and is reviewed in this issue (page 58). This document replaces the decade-old *Information Power*. Major webinars from AASL have already happened, and events are planned across the nation in the coming year as announced in this issue by Susan Ballard, the chair of the Implementation Committee (p. 14).

- The Ontario Public School Boards' Association just released its document: *What If? Technology in the 21st Century Classroom*, available at [http://www.opsba.org/index.php?q=news/what\\_if\\_technology\\_in\\_the\\_21st\\_century\\_classroom](http://www.opsba.org/index.php?q=news/what_if_technology_in_the_21st_century_classroom) that proposes a major rethinking of technology in Canada.

- David Loertscher and Carol Koehlin presented a one-hour webinar in May that advocates the transformation of the school library into a learning commons, which was attended by over 700 persons in the United States and Canada, and is still available at <http://schoollearningcommons.pbworks.com>.

- There is great news from the State of Washington and from San Francisco where library media centers are making major headway (see the articles in this issue).

In light of all these events, we are challenging our readers to make the summer one of reflection and planning as they prepare for the next school year and continue the drive into the heart of teaching and learning. For our lead article, we asked our own Erlene Killeen, a *Teacher Librarian* Advisory Board member and long-time successful teacher-librarian, to reflect on the past, present, and future from her perspective at the building level. One cannot help but notice how Erlene holds on to the best of the past as she keeps transitioning, even as technology and the school environment changes.

Then, we were struck by a column on the *Education Weekly* web site by Greg Farr, a principal of a school in Haltom City, TX, pleading with the entire educational community to rethink the use of technology and accept the inevitable move to the devices and information systems our kids and teens are already using. In response to Greg's article (reprinted in this issue), we put out a call over the networks and received a wonderful response from a teacher technologist and teacher-librarian team in California. Jerry Cunningham and Lisa Gonzalez relate their experiences working with students and teachers to integrate Web 2.0 tools in the classroom. It is fascinating to see what can happen when these two persons in the school turn their attention and talent toward teaching and learning. Forming a trio of feature articles about

technology use in school is the Fodeman and Monroe article, which recognizes that these technologies open unwanted doors unless we understand how to use them.

We follow all of these issues with an interesting research study about technology and a plethora of interesting books that challenge thinking to read over the summer.

It is very plain that to remain relevant, we must be in a leadership position. Whatever it takes, get to the table for the conversation about student learning in your school! As various government programs in the United States and Canada are planned, be there to speak up for technology, the library media center, and high quality teaching and learning. Utilize the power of story to make transparent the benefits that happen for real kids and overworked teachers because money is allocated and spent wisely by the teacher-librarian and the teacher technologist.

Communicate with us at *Teacher Librarian* and tell us what you are thinking about, the changes you are making, and the challenges you are overcoming. And, tell us how we can serve you better.

And finally, do not forget Treasure Mountain: For 20 years, school library practitioners and researchers have met at the Treasure Mountain Research Retreat in the days before the American Association of School Librarians conference. This year *Treasure Mountain: Making Connections* will convene November 4–5, 2009, in Charlotte, NC. You can be a part of this fabulous experience; we are asking participants to interview major education writers outside our field about how teacher-librarians can move into the center of teaching and learning. We will put the results together at Treasure Mountain. How about joining us? Get information by going to <http://www.davidvl.org> and finding the tab for Treasure Mountain.



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