The 5th Annual Spring Conference
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RADICAL
School Libraries
The Librarian, The Closet, & The Empty Room

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Radical Librarians

- We need a radical shift in librarianship to ensure the success of our communities and the continuation of our profession
Definition of RADICAL

1: of, relating to, or proceeding from a root: as
   a (1): of or growing from the root of a plant (radical tubers)
   (2): growing from the base of a stem, from a rootlike stem, or from a stem that does not rise above the ground (radical leaves)
   b: of, relating to, or constituting a linguistic root
   c: of or relating to a mathematical root
   d: designed to remove the root of a disease or all diseased and potentially diseased tissue (radical surgery) (radical mastectomy)

2: of or relating to the origin: fundamental

3 a: very different from the usual or traditional: extreme
   b: favoring extreme changes in existing views, habits, conditions, or institutions
   c: associated with political views, practices, and policies of extreme change
   d: advocating extreme measures to retain or restore a political state of affairs (the radical right)

4 slang: excellent, cool
   — radical-ness noun

See radical defined for English-language learners »
See radical defined for kids »
Definition of RADICAL

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2. of or relating to the origin: FUNDAMENTAL

3. a. very different from the usual or traditional: EXTREME
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   c. associated with political views, practices, and policies of extreme change
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The Closet and The Empty Room

- “I have long contended that a room full of books is simply a closet but that an empty room with a librarian in it is a library”

- Why Folks Find This Problematic
  - Stuff Matters
  - Institutions Matter
  - Discounts Libraries
Problem of Definition
Problem of Definition

• Unsatisfying to Define Librarians by a Library
Problem of Definition

• Unsatisfying to Define Librarians by a Library

librarian | lɪˈbreɪərɪən |
noun
a person, typically with a degree in library science, who administers or assists in a library.
Problem of Definition

• Unsatisfying to Define Librarians by a Library

• Plenty of Librarians Work Outside of Libraries
Problem of Definition

• Unsatisfying to Define Librarians by a Library
• Plenty of Librarians Work Outside of Libraries
• Does That Include: Clerks, Aides, Security, Janitors?
Problem of Definition

library
noun (pl. libraries)
a building or room containing collections of books, periodicals, and sometimes films and recorded music for people to read, borrow, or refer to: a school library | [ as modifier ] : a library book.
• a collection of books and periodicals held in a library: the Institute houses an outstanding library of 35,000 volumes on the fine arts.
• a collection of films, recorded music, genetic material, etc., organized systematically and kept for research or borrowing: a record library.
• a series of books, recordings, etc., issued by the same company and similar in appearance.
• a room in a private house where books are kept.
• (also software library) Computing a collection of programs and software packages made generally available, often loaded and stored on disk for immediate use.

ORIGIN late Middle English: via Old French from Latin libraria ‘bookshop,’ feminine (used as a noun) of librarius ‘relating to books,’ from liber, libr- ‘book.’
Problem of Definition
library | ˈlɪbrərē, -brərē |
noun  (pl. libraries)
a building or room containing collections of books, periodicals, and sometimes films and recorded music for people to read, borrow, or refer to: a school library | [ as modifier ] : a library book.
• a collection of books and periodicals held in a library: the Institute houses an outstanding library of 35,000 volumes on the fine arts.
• a collection of films, recorded music, genetic material, etc., organized systematically and kept for research or borrowing: a record library.
• a series of books, recordings, etc., issued by the same company and similar in appearance.
• a room in a private house where books are kept.
• (also software library) Computing a collection of programs and software packages made generally available, often loaded and stored on disk for immediate use.

ORIGIN  late Middle English: via Old French from Latin libraria ‘bookshop,’ feminine (used as a noun) of librarius ‘relating to books,’ from liber, libr- ‘book.’
library | ˈli,-brˌərē noun  (pl. libraries)  a building or room containing volumes and other items for people to read and study  
- a collection of books, magazines, and other materials  
- a collection of films, sound recordings, and other materials  
- a series of books, magazines, and other materials  
- a room in a private house  
- (also software library) a collection of programs or modules that are made available, often located in a central file  

ORIGIN late Middle English (originally as librarie, meaning a room or section of a house for the storage of books): via Late Latin *librarium* (diminutive of *liber*, *book*), from Latin *liber*, *book*.
Problem of Definition
Problem of Definition

library | 'lɪ, ˈbrɛɪə, ˌbrɛərɛ |
noun (pl. libraries)
a building or room containing collections of books, periodicals, and sometimes films and recorded music for people to read, borrow, or refer to: a school library | [ as modifier ]: a library book.
• a collection of books and periodicals held in a library: the Institute houses an outstanding library of 35,000 volumes on the fine arts.
• a collection of films, recorded music, genetic material, etc., organized systematically and kept for research or borrowing: a record library.
• a series of books, recordings, etc., issued by the same company and similar in appearance.
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Other Problem: Libraries Don't Make a Difference
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National

Strong school libraries build strong students (2013)
This resource compiles key points and quotations from numerous other sources that address the link between student achievement and school libraries.

http://www.ala.org/aasl/sites/ala.org.aasl/files/content/aaslissues/advocacy/AASL_infographic.pdf

Libraries tell our story (2012)
This multi-paragraph blog post addresses how struggling school libraries—with barren shelves and/or no librarians—provide tangible evidence of the budget crises within public schools. The blog post argues that students are shortchanged when they do not have access to fully-operational school libraries and the expertise provided by school librarians.


School librarian staffing levels and student achievement as represented in 2006-2009 Kansas Annual Yearly Progress data (2012)
This article discusses a three-year study performed on Kansas public schools to determine the effect of library media specialist staffing levels on student proficiency. The study found that schools with higher and more stable staffing levels generally had higher proficiency rates.

http://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ994364

Full-time school librarians linked to higher student reading scores (2012)
This document summarizes findings by the Library Research Service on the impact of school librarians on Colorado students’ CSAP (Colorado Student Assessment Program) scores from 2005 to 2011. In schools with at least one full-time equivalent endorsed librarian, students averaged “significantly higher” CSAP reading scores.


Want better reading scores? Hire a full-time librarian (2012)
This article briefly addresses findings by the Library Research Service that 45 percent of students in grades three through ten increased their CSAP test scores over the course of a year, compared with just 29 percent of students who did not have a school librarian at their school. The resource also asserts that library aides and volunteers cannot substitute for school librarians, since they likely do not possess the time or the requisite skills for the role.

http://www.care2.com/causes/want-better-reading-scores-hire-a-full-time-librarian.html#4zQtpCIPyv6Y
Define the Profession First
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The mission of librarians is to improve society through facilitating knowledge creation in their communities.
Define the Profession First

Access
Knowledge
Environment
Motivation

Mission
Facilitation
Define the Profession First

- Mission
- Facilitation
Define the Profession First

Learning
Openness
Intellectual Freedom and Safety
Intellectually Honest not Unbiased

Mission
Facilitation
Values
Now We Can Define a Library
Now We Can Define a Library

- A Mandated Mediate Space (Virtual And/Or Physical) Owned By The Community And Steward by Librarians
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- A Mandated Mediate Space (Virtual And/Or Physical) Owned By The Community And Stewarded By Librarians

- Building, Books, Databases Are Tools

- Like A Scalpel To A Surgeon Those Tools May Change But The Profession Remains.
The Closet and The Empty Room

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Serving a Community
Examples of the Empty Room
Examples of the Empty Room
Examples of the Empty Room
Consequences of the Radical Shift

• You are the Facilitator and the Value…
• But Not the Entire Library
• You and the Community Share Ownership of the Library
• Faculty and STUDENTS Co-Own and Co-Control the Library
Examples: iTeam

i Am, iStaff—A Glimpse into the Student Work Force Transforming a School Library

“With a more consistent work force, we are able to create iStaff teams that balance experience, talent areas, personal styles, and grade levels.”

ARTICLE BY SUE KOWALSKI based on conversations with and contributions from iStaff members: Garrett Temple, Griffin Ferrarri, Mitch Russell-Jeffers, Damien Mitchell, Trevor Nolan, Tyler Kilmer, Mary Louis Pontius, Garren Kuney, Dan Carlson, Sara Kavanagh, Jake Rosch, Abby Oliver, Johnny Walentowski

Examples: FFL Makers
Examples: FFL Makers
Examples: CyberParents
Librarians are Radical Positive Change Agents

• Not Our Rooms, Not Our Books, Not Our Licenses

• If You Want To Produce The Exceptional Be Exceptional!
Change Doesn’t Stop with Our Students

• We Are NOT Consumers
• We Are NOT Clerks
• We Are NOT At the Mercy of Publishers or Test Preparers
• We ARE NOT VICTIMS!
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