New Narratives for Librarians

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Fighting Outdated Narratives

• Library Users Consume
• Libraries Define Librarians
• Neutrality Equals Trust
• Security Versus Freedom
Library Users Consume
Library Users Consume

- Users
- Consumer
- Customer
- Patron
- Member
- Ally
Switch Narrative

• Instead of users seeking a passive refuge or set of materials…

• Members engaging with the library to learn and improve themselves.
Libraries Define Librarians
Libraries Define Librarians

**librarian** | lɪˈbre(ə)rēən |
noun
a person, typically with a degree in library science, who administers or assists in a library.
Libraries Define Librarians

**librarian** | /lɪˈbre(ə)rēən/ |
noun
a person, typically with a degree in library science, who administers or assists in a library.

**library** | /ˈlɪ.brərē.əl,-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.*
Hit the books with this year’s CNO reading list


Every ship, squadron and submarine library will receive a collection of "essential reading" materials by mid-November. Here, a sailor browses the library aboard the aircraft carrier Dwight D. Eisenhower. (Navy)
New Definitions

The Mission Of Librarians Is To Improve Society Through Facilitating Knowledge Creation Within Their Communities
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A Mandated And Facilitated Space Supported By The Community, Stewarded By Librarians, And Dedicated To Knowledge Creation.
Switch Narrative

• Instead of libraries improving lives…
• Librarians build platforms [libraries] to facilitate improving society.
Neutrality Equals Trust
Neutrality Equals Trust

Values of Librarianship

• Service
• Learning
• Intellectual Freedom & Safety
• Intellectual Honesty
Libraries Don't Make a Difference: Librarians Chose To

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/aasl.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#lzzt1pCrjYuT
Switch Narrative

• Instead of librarians are objective/neutral…

• Librarians are trusted partners in knowledge creation/learning/society
Adding Up Narratives

Customers + Libraries + Neutrality = Passive People Accessing Passive Services

VS

Members + Librarians + Intellect = Learners Improving with Partners
A New Narrative?
A New Narrative?
A New Narrative?
Security Comes Not Through Limiting Freedom, But In Stronger Inclusive Communities Where Neighbor Knows And Respects Neighbor
OURS...to fight for

Freedom of Speech
Freedom of Worship
Freedom from Want
Freedom from Fear

1778
1943

AMERICANS
will always fight for liberty
New Narratives for Librarians

Screencast and Slides: www.DavidLankes.org

Arguments and Conversation: @rdlankes