

Future learning, reading, teaching: schools, libraries & teacher librarians

Darcy Moore, Deputy Principal at Dapto High School, shares his thoughts about the contemporary challenge for teacher librarians in the digital communication technologies environment. In keeping with the topic of digital communication technologies, the article is adapted from blog posts @ darcymoore.net.

Darcy Moore's Blog

learning technology leadership...



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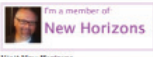
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Teacher librarians: context (Part I)

Posted by [Darcy Moore](#) on Sunday, May 29, 2011

I am presenting to teacher librarian colleagues about 'digital communication tools' this week. I'd rather say we are 'collaborating' than I am 'presenting' and have used [survey monkey](#) to collect data from the delegates prior to the conference about [their needs](#) and [yammer](#) to seek [advice](#) about the perceptions of what 'skills' and 'knowledge' are needed in our contemporary libraries to engage students. This 'data' makes for very interesting reading and reveals some strong opinions.

The topic I was set - 'digital communication tools' - seems straight forward but the more I think about how to structure the hour the more it seems essential to establish a philosophy and acknowledge (my) paradigm. As always, context is everything and *I am not a teacher-librarian*.

Context

The photo below is me, on the first day of kindergarten, squinting into the sun with my library bag in hand. My first tooth fell out, lining up for a library lesson, as I chewed on that string. I can still taste the drawcord. The other photo is the view from my office at school. I am located near the fiction shelves and often chat to students about what they are reading, suggest a book or website and browse the shelves myself. I found [A Game of Thrones](#) last week. Couldn't believe my luck that Di, our teacher librarian, had this series, currently adapted for [television by HBO](#) and having rave reviews in the US.

From my first day at school until today, libraries have been central to my life. I fondly remember all the school and municipal libraries in the several towns I lived. (Teacher) Librarians, more often than not, were kind and accommodating. Mostly they were happy to have a young male avidly reading and borrowing so regularly.

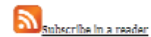


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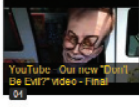
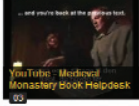
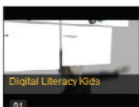
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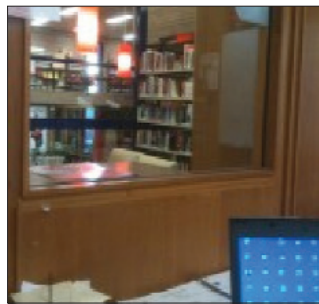
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My daughters love reading, particularly enjoying 'story-time' at our local library. Both Miss 5 and Miss 7 count a trip to any library as a highlight of even the most exciting or adventurous week. They read books, e-books and websites with little discrimination. A good story told is a good story told.



[cc licensed \(BY NC SD \) flickr photo](#) shared by [Darcy Moore](#)

However, having a library bag in kindergarten, kids and a partner who love reading or an office upstairs in the school library does not make me particularly qualified to pontificate - it can allow me to make some provocations, suggestions and provide an opportunity for the professional teacher-librarians to discuss ideas.

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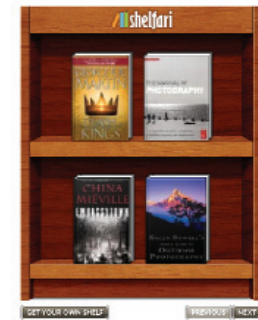
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CURRENTLY READING...



The future & the past

This blog has often featured my thoughts on the central importance of [reading](#), my [favourite books](#), the [future of books](#), [disruptive technologies](#), [e-books and e-readers](#). Like you, I am thinking about the future of learning, reading, teaching, schools, libraries and teacher librarians. It is a favourite topic.

What digital communication technologies do teacher-librarians need or more importantly, do their students

need? This is the heart of the contemporary challenge. How do teacher librarians nurture the best of the past with an eye on a future that has already arrived?

A teacher-librarian supports and implements the vision of their school communities through advocating and building effective library and information services and programs that contribute to the development of lifelong learners.

ALIA <www.alia.org.au/education/qualifications/teacher-librarian.html>

What exactly is that vision in 2011?

The recent findings of the parliamentary [Inquiry into school libraries and teacher librarians in Australian schools](#) (2011) arrive at the heart of the current challenge:

While the teacher librarian's role appears to be rapidly changing in an ever evolving digital, online and e-learning environment, it is not always clear exactly what role they should and could play in schools to

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