

## HOW DOES YOUR LIBRARY FARE?

### QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

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|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Does the school have a library with access for all students before, during and after school? | <input type="checkbox"/> Does the collection support all abilities, cultures and individual needs?        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Does it have a qualified teacher librarian AND qualified library staff?                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Are classroom teachers team teaching with teacher librarians?                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do students engage in activities to promote reading for pleasure?                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Can students use the library for private study and reading?                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do the students have the opportunity to visit the library regularly to borrow books?         | <input type="checkbox"/> Does it have a wide range of print materials and access to electronic resources? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Is the library used by students to develop research skills?                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> What can the current students tell you about the library?                        |

### Next steps

#### If you are a parent:

Ask questions about the school libraries you visit.

#### Find out more about what makes a good school library:

Visit: [studentsneedschoollibraries.org.au](http://studentsneedschoollibraries.org.au)

#### References

CILIP: School Libraries Group n.d., *Professional librarian*, CILIP, pdf, viewed 1 February 2020, <<https://archive.cilip.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Professional%20Librarian%20-%20Hi-res.pdf>>.

'Do students today read for pleasure?' 2011, *PISA in focus*, 8 September, viewed 18 January 2020, <<http://www.oecd.org/pisa/pisaproducts/pisainfocus/48624701.pdf>>.

Lance, K & Kachel, D 2018, 'Why school librarians matter: what years of research tell us', *Phi Delta Kappan*, vol. 99, no. 7, pp. 15-20.

## To do well at school



Students need a school library with qualified library staff who provide...

Support and encouragement for their reading from someone who:

- is an expert in contemporary fiction for young people
- knows how to find the right book for each individual



*Students who are highly engaged in a wide range of reading activities are more likely than other students to be effective learners and to perform well at school.*  
(Do students today read for pleasure?, 2011, p.1).

A welcoming and safe place to:

- read, browse, study or learn before, during and after school hours
- relax, read, study, play games and meet friends

Advice and instruction from a teacher librarian on using information in today's world to:

- find relevant and reliable print and online information to meet their research needs
- know how to evaluate sources and search the Internet safely
- understand the ethical use of information and how to cite their sources



*Students tend to thrive academically where library programs provide ready access to free and subscription-based online resources alongside more traditional collections of books, periodicals, and audio visual resource.*  
(Lance & Kachel, 2018, p.18)

Resources that are:

- current, relevant to the curriculum and their interests
- appropriate to their age and ability
- easily accessible

The best school libraries do **ALL** of these things