



More Than Books: The Teacher Librarian Difference



Teacher librarians (TLs) as defined by ALIA and ASLA:

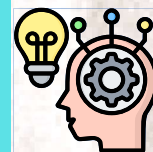
A teacher librarian is defined as one who **holds recognised teaching qualifications and qualifications in librarianship**, an ALIA accredited graduate or post graduate library and information qualification that include specialisations related to the school library context.

Teacher librarians : Information specialists, curriculum leaders, reading advocates

Why does every school need a well-resourced, engaging and relevant school library with a qualified teacher librarian and library staff?

To help students develop vital skills to critically engage with digital technologies and information

- TLs are perfectly positioned to teach students the skills to access, use, create and critically analyse information
- TLs curate a hybrid collection of information, including digital resources, databases, physical resources as well as pathfinders to support learning
- TLs teach lessons relating to AI and algorithmic literacy. When students understand how AI is trained, the limits of AI and strategies such as lateral reading they engage critically with information which is vital for detecting misinformation and disinformation
- TLs teach students how to evaluate websites to determine if they are credible
- TLs empower students to be informed, ethical, critically engaged, digitally literate citizens



To help address declining literacy rates

- Research shows that a decline in recreational reading is not due to apathy, rather barriers relating to access, habits and support to source relevant books.
- TLs curate diverse, engaging, relevant collections in different formats. Access to engaging books is vital for maintaining reading habits
- TLs promote a reading culture through initiatives such as book clubs, author visits and reading challenges. Many of these actions help establish reading routines.
- TLs employ evidence-based practices to address the barriers to recreational reading in their school communities
- TLs empower choice as they help students find books they *want* to read

LITERACY RATES



To support teachers and help reduce their workload

- TLs curate physical and digital resources to best support the curriculum, diverse learning needs of the students and learning experiences.
- A TL is a curriculum planning partner and supports teachers by planning units of work and/or assessment across the entire curriculum.
- TLs teach or team teach in the library or classroom



Teacher librarians are not optional, they are essential. They are uniquely equipped to meet the challenges of navigating an ever evolving and complex information and media landscape, declining literacy rates and reducing teacher workloads.