



**Idaho  
Commission  
for Libraries**

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## Idaho School Library Impact Study – 2009

Ann Joslin, State Librarian  
ann.joslin@libraries.idaho.gov, 208 334-2150



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RSL Research Group:  
Keith Curry Lance  
Marcia J. Rodney  
Bill Schwarz  
www.rslresearch.com

### What we learned from librarians

Where librarians teach students—as well as their teacher colleagues—students are more likely to succeed academically.

## How Idaho Librarians, Teachers, and Administrators Collaborate for Success

The Idaho School Library Impact Study – 2009 was contracted for by the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) and endorsed by the Idaho State Department of Education.

The purpose of the study was to examine the relationships that administrators and teachers have with their librarians, how school libraries and librarians are valued and perceived, and how those factors affect libraries and their impact on student academic achievement.

### Everyone Collaborates to Teach

The study found that where librarians teach students—as well as their teacher colleagues—students are more likely to succeed academically. Recommendations for encouraging collaboration between librarians, teachers, and administrators include the following:

#### Administrators

- Make it known that they expect collaboration

The bottom line is that students are more likely to succeed when librarians play active and collaborative roles with other teachers and with administrators.

The majority of the recommendations from the study, which are highlighted below, can be implemented without additional funding.

In 2010 ICfL hired its first school library consultant, who is working on a school library development plan based on the findings from this study.

- Meet regularly with their librarians
- Address the librarian’s role with new teachers during hiring interviews

#### Staff

- Teachers: turn to librarians as fellow instructors
- Librarians: be receptive to collaboration, especially to teach or co-teach

### What we learned from teachers

Where teachers experience librarians as instructional colleagues and technology integrators, students are more likely to excel academically.

### What we learned from administrators

Where administrators value strong library programs and can see them doing their part for student success, students are more likely to thrive academically.

### ICT Literacy Teaching

The percent of students with advanced ISAT scores averaged higher for both reading and language arts at all three grade levels when administrators assessed the quality of Information and Communication Technology\* (ICT) literacy teaching as excellent.



Mission: To assist libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele.

## Everyone Contributes to Improving Access to Instructional Resources

Where teachers experience librarians as instructional colleagues and technology integrators, students are more likely to excel academically. Recommendations include the following:

### Administrators

- Make it school policy to schedule flexible library access
- Appoint librarians to key committees that will help them understand and provide for instructional resource needs

### Staff

- Teachers: turn to librarians as instructional support, curricular/instructional resources managers, website managers, and technology troubleshooters
- Librarians: ensure that teachers have the instructional resources they need

## Administrators Value Library Programs and Services

Where administrators value strong library programs and can see them doing their part for student success, students are more likely to thrive academically. Recommendations include the following:

### Administrators

- Foster the creation of schedules, facilities, and relationships that enable librarians to be providers of in-service professional development to teachers

### Staff

- Teachers: turn to librarians as in-service professional development providers
- Librarians: be proactive in inviting teachers to in-service professional development opportunities to improve their Information and Communication Technology skills

## Bottom Line Recommendation

According to the study, most of these recommendations are demonstrably easier to fulfill when the library is staffed by a library media specialist (LMS). If hiring an LMS for every school is at all feasible fiscally, steps should be taken to do so.

The full report, Executive Summary, and Research Brief are available online at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/study>.

\*[http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/content\\_standards/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/content_standards/)