

The Role of Teacher Librarians and Librarians for shaping School Librarianship in Indonesia

By:

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for Library Association Leaders

Living in an abundant era where all information and technology spread widely makes education more important for shaping students ability and awareness toward those issues. Our role as teacher librarians or librarians to support the learning becomes crucial and important. Updating information all of the time should be done regularly by having networking with people with the same profession. We should realize that **as teacher librarians or librarians we have five essential roles.** They are as a leader at school, as a program administrator, as an information navigator, as a technology facilitator, and as a partner for students and teachers. Teacher Librarians/Librarians **as the leader of school** should have an educational background, trainings and all the requirements needed to become a leader in performing their duties. Moreover they need to meet regularly with the principals, teachers, and colleagues whether that is regional, national or international. Networking in and out the school is really important in order to up-date the information and also develops the skills which might be needed in their working area. **As the program administrator** they should become an effective manager to manage library program which need to be supported by eligible staff, collection and enough funding. On the other hand they should provide flexible time for students and teachers whenever they need assistance in teaching and learning process. **As the information navigator** teacher librarians/librarians should have the ability to select print, non-print and electronic resources which support school curriculum and educational standard. In addition they should teach the school community to be information literate people, such as looking at the need of information and how to place the information, using and evaluating the information for thinking critically and solving problems. **As the technology facilitator** they should facilitate and evaluate what database and websites are relevant and save to be used. Furthermore they are bridging the gap between teachers and students to access information whether it is online or related curriculum and learning. Last but not least **they are becoming the partner for teachers, students and other librarians** where they should collaborate with teacher in planning and teaching process, guide and support teachers and students in using better information resources and technology, and build networking with other librarians and teacher librarians in regional, national or international forum. Looking at those five essential elements it becomes a strong reason why teacher librarians and librarians in Indonesia should have a strong networking. By having forum or professional organization we will meet a lot of people with the same interest to share ideas and gain new perspectives to establish the library as the real Learning Resource Center not only for students but also for teachers, staff and parents.