

School Libraries in the 21st Century

Saskatchewan School Library Association

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At their core, school libraries are about developing deep, rich understanding and fostering the exchange of information through communication, collaboration and conversation. Carlene Walter and Tamzen Kulyk co-facilitated a hands-on workshop for the STF summer short course entitled *School Libraries in the 21st Century*. The course was for teacher-librarians with at least one year of experience working in school libraries. The workshop examined ways in which the school library can enhance learning and deliver state-of-the-art service using current freely available technologies. Social media, such as micro-blogging, collaboration tools, social annotation, video production and hosting, image hosting, and presentation sharing was explored. A Posterous (<https://posterous.com/>) was created as a way to share links and tools with the participants.

The workshop and content on the Posterous was centered around and reflected “the 4 Cs”: communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. These Cs are integrated into the ISTE’s NETS (<http://www.iste.org/standards.aspx>), The Partnership for 21st Century Skills (<http://www.p21.org/>), ALA’s Standards for the 21st century Learner (<http://bit.ly/2mHzC>), Blooms Digital Taxonomy (<http://bit.ly/12h5Ie>) and are found throughout Saskatchewan’s renewed curricula (<http://bit.ly/cwpxkY>). The Partnership for 21st Century Skills is a national organization that advocates for the 21st century readiness for every student. The Partnership for 21st century skills explains that “in an increasingly complex, demanding and competitive 21st century, students need to learn more than the 3R’s they are tested on in school. It’s time to help them go “above & beyond”, by embracing the 4Cs – **communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity.**”

To learn more about the story of the 4 Cs, watch the *Above and Beyond* video created by The Partnership For 21st Century Skills (<http://www.p21.org/tools-and-resources/above-aamp-beyond-4cs-film>).

Teacher-librarians are encouraged to visit and explore the School Libraries in the 21st Century Posterous space created by Walter and Kulyk to learn more about creating opportunities for students to go “above and beyond” (<http://ssla.posterous.com/>).

