

# The 21st Century Teacher-Librarian

Saskatchewan School Library Association

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Carlene Walter and Donna DesRoches  
The Disruptive Innovators

<http://disruptiveinnovators.wikispaces.com/>



SASKATCHEWAN SCHOOL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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In this maelstrom of change, teacher-librarians must be prepared to embrace an evolving role of the school librarian in order to help prepare students to be successful in this increasingly flat world.

The role of the teacher-librarian are not changing, but shifting to encompass new technologies. Today's teacher-librarians must initiate collaboration in instruction, learning strategies, and practice in using the essential learning skills needed in the 21st century. To continue to exert a positive and significant effect on academic achievement, teacher-librarians must understand the benefits of integrating all forms of information technologies into their school. (Loerchester, 1998). Teacher-librarians no longer just serve students and educators who physically enter the library, but now are reaching out to global audience using a variety of formats and methods of delivery and emerging technologies.

Characterized by creating, collaborating, connecting, and conversations, Donna DesRoches and Carlene Walter designed *Meet The Stars: Books & Web 2.0* to help teacher-librarians gain understanding of the potential of the social Web to enrich knowledge sharing and capability development through professional development and to enable learners to construct sense and new knowledge using a repertoire of Web 2.0 tools. In honour of their contributions to the profession, the Canadian Association for School Libraries presented Donna DesRoches and Carlene Walter the 2008 Angela Thacker Memorial Award.

The collaborative team of DesRoches and Walter, also known as the *Disruptive Innovators*, will be again offering learning opportunities to teacher-librarians in the fall of 2008. The professional development opportunity (<http://disruptiveinnovators.wikispaces.com/>) will again encompass the skills teacher-librarians need to grow their skills and be able to lead in all the facets of the library program, particularly information literacy instruction. As learning is a social activity, participants of the Disruptive Innovators will build a community immersed in communication, creation, collaboration, and opportunities to share.

Interested in redefining, reshaping, and re-advocating the teacher-librarian's role to more efficiently guide learners in the effective, safe and responsible use of new technologies? Consider the following list as learning opportunities that will emerge in the Disruptive Innovator's autumn professional development offering:

- Engage in meaningful dialogue with like-minded professionals in a variety of virtual environments.
- Network with educational leaders through blogs, podcasts, wikis, Ning. and streaming video
- Control the flow of received information. Subscribe to RSS feeds and group them through an aggregator.
- Become aware of Webcasts! Webinars, or presentations and workshops delivered over the Internet, allow teacher-librarians to attend conferences that were previously fiscally or geographically beyond reach —at no charge!

- Communicate your ideas and the thoughts of fellow professionals using blogs, wikis, and micro-blogging platforms such as Twitter.
- Create your own information spaces using push information technologies - blog widgets and iGoogle gadgets, and browsers like PageFlakes.
- Consider new interactive and engaging communication tools for digital storytelling.
- Redefine the term “collection” to include: ebooks, audiobooks, open source software, streaming media, and digital video cameras.
- Expand searching repertoire beyond Google to include RSS feeds, tag clouds, and bookmarklets.
- Socially negotiate content and collaborate using tools such as GoogleDocs, Flickr, and Voicethread.
- Use telecommunication tools like Skype and podcasting to converse with experts, scholars, and authors.
- Promote reading using Web 2.0 tools, such downloadable audio books or Playaways.
- Respond to literature through the creation of digital booktalks or book trailers.
- Model digital citizenship and the responsible use of social tools by using copyright-friendly portals, Creative Commons licensing, and online reference citations.
- Demonstrate information literacy skills - how to “locate, select, evaluate, and use information appropriately and effectively” (*Standards for the 21st Century Learner*: [http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aaslproftools/learningstandards/AASL\\_Learning\\_Standards\\_2007.pdf](http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aaslproftools/learningstandards/AASL_Learning_Standards_2007.pdf))
- Utilize emerging technologies within a framework of inquiry learning
- Allow time to play!

Teacher-librarians must embrace an expanded definition of their role and the library’s physical space in order to meet the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century learner. No longer a place just to house books, the library is evolving to welcome media production, telecommunication events, social networking in order to develop new understandings.

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