



PTS Consulting supports launch of new book

The Innovative School Librarian

EMEA, September 2009

The education environment in the UK is being transformed by: technological change; the Building Schools for the Future programme; and, the growth of digital literacy amongst young people.

PTS Consulting is delighted to be supporting the authors in the launch of a new book published by Facet Publishing, about school librarianship in the 21st Century. On the 14th September 2009, PTS Consulting supported the launch of: “The Innovative School Librarian” in London’s Fleet Street. The event helped to promote the importance of the library in transformational school design as well as encourage dialogue between the book’s authors and key individuals that work within this sector, including some of today’s thought leaders within this field.

The School Library of the Future

The authors’ vision for school libraries is a dynamic one where the ‘information place’ operates as a knowledge transforming space in which:

- Young people work in partnership with librarians and teachers, acquiring the skills, strategies and knowledge needed to be successful.
- Reading, writing, and creativity flourish, enriching the school culture and beyond.

International studies show that properly funded and staffed school libraries contribute significantly to teaching and learning outcomes; the Ofsted Report 2006¹, agreed with those findings. These research studies show that school libraries have a positive impact on student achievement – whether such achievement is measured in terms of reading scores, literacy or learning more generally. A school library that is adequately staffed, resourced and funded can lead to higher student achievement regardless of the socio-economic or educational levels of the community.

In some UK schools and where this is recognised by the school’s leadership team, a qualified librarian is employed, adequately funded, and most importantly of all, this department is included in their planning so as to achieve maximum improvement and effectiveness. They do this without support from central government or, in many areas, from Local Authorities as school libraries are not yet a statutory requirement in this country. Indeed, no matter where a librarian sits on the continuum of development, they can work towards improvement and, where this

1 Good school libraries: making a difference to learning. HMI, 2006

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Education/Leadership/Governance/Good-school-libraries-making-a-difference-to-learning>



happens, a positive impact on teaching and learning can be achieved. Approximately 42% of secondary schools, according to the most recent survey², have Chartered Librarians managing their school library. This inequity in a modern society is an untenable one. How much more might our young people achieve if they all had access to the best libraries and librarians? Libraries catalyse social mobility by stimulating cultural and educational development within any community that is fortunate enough to possess one.

There is currently an e-petition in support of statutory status at <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/literacy/> and an early day motion (EDM: 1939) to establish education libraries for all, however, a written answer in the Commons earlier this year shows that the Government's picture of provision is an incomplete one. The authors of this book support such public campaigns for school library provision and believe that evidence of best practice should be used to inspire school improvement.

Comment from PTS Consulting:

Nigel Chisnall, Educational ICT Consultant from PTS Consulting said: *"Growing Information literacy in both the student and teaching communities is a central objective of the ICT change programmes that support the national investments in school rebuilding and curriculum redesign. The authors contend that professional roles for Future Librarian includes driving Information Literacy throughout the curriculum of the Future School and leading design of the Library as a central and unique Learning Space in its own right. We see Librarians using the text as a basis for structured professional reflection and development. One result will see Librarians equipped to engage in the ICT consultation regarding the information infrastructure needs of their schools."*

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About PTS Consulting: PTS Consulting Group PLC (PTS) is one of the world's leading IT consultancies with a reputation for innovation and thought leadership. PTS is also renowned for its project management expertise. As the global leader in IT relocation projects, working with some of the world's largest companies, PTS has earned a world-wide reputation for independence, professionalism and quality of service. Headquartered in the UK and founded in 1983, PTS has worked in over 70 different countries, 250 cities and employs more than 330 staff in the Americas, EMEA and Asia-Pacific. www.ptsconsulting.com

² Library books in schools: spending and provision in primary and secondary schools in England. Booktrust, 2007
<http://booktrustadmin.kentlyons.com/downloads/publicfinance.pdf>