

# BUSTING OUT OF THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

**A**s schools have moved towards students bringing their own devices, it has created an exciting opportunity for teacher librarians to move out of the physical library space and connect with students in the wider school environment. **JENNY KEMP** reports.

In 2012 St Andrew's Cathedral School in Sydney introduced a 1:1 program, which ensured that all students from Years 7 to 12 had either an iPad or a laptop of their own. Until then, students and teachers depended on the desktop computers of the school library to access information and resources online. But the introduction of individual devices has meant that teachers no longer need to bring students to the library when they want them to go online.

This move could have limited the opportunities for our teacher librarians to collaborate with students and teachers. But rather than being a drawback for our teacher librarians, the 1:1 program has provided a new opportunity for teacher librarians to become flexible and portable. No longer is the teaching of digital information literacy skills



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Jenny Kemp of St Andrew's Cathedral School, Sydney

dependent on subject teachers bringing their classes to the library space to use the computers. Each student now has instant access to technology, so our teacher librarians can go into the classroom and teach information literacy skills – such as research strategies, referencing skills and accessing credible sources. Students are overwhelmed by the amount of information available and the complex process of finding appropriate sources. The need for qualified information professionals to explicitly teach information literacy skills remains as important as ever.

Many teachers still enjoy taking their class to the library for a different learning space, but in some classes moving into a new space can be disruptive. Students are often more settled and receptive in a familiar classroom environment. Our teacher librarians can work with classes in any context, and it provides teacher librarians with the opportunity to show other teachers (and the school leadership) that they are also capable teachers.

Another positive of the 1:1 program is the ease of access that students now have to our digital library resources. Students and teachers can now utilise quality, preselected library resources without being limited to entering the physical library space. Our digital collection of ebooks, databases and online videos can be accessed through our library website ([library.sacs.nsw.edu.au](http://library.sacs.nsw.edu.au)), our cloud-based catalogue and through the school learning management system. Students can download ebooks onto their devices, access the catalogue and download articles from our databases whether they are at school or at home.

With the increase in the use of personal devices, the future shape of our library services is shifting from its traditional orientation around the physical library space and collection. The physical library space is still important for the school community as a safe, shared and collaborative learning space, but our service has broadened out. We are aiming for our library services to be more embedded in our students' day-to-day learning by making teacher librarians available for students at their point of need in their learning in the classroom and through the library's digital resources. 🌟

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