

# School Librarians Transform Learning

*School librarians ensure their students have the best chance to succeed.*

“The internet makes doing research easier—easier to do well and easier to do poorly.”<sup>i</sup>

Increasing amounts of information demand students acquire the skills to select, evaluate, and use information appropriately and effectively.<sup>ii</sup>

*“Your school librarian can help you co-plan and co-teach lessons that focus on the evaluation of sources and information, providing your students with the discernible eye they’ll need to survive in college and the workplace.”*

— Kimberly Shearer,  
2012 Kentucky Teacher of the Year<sup>ix</sup>

**STUDENTS**

Equate research with Googling

Use search engines instead of more traditional sources

Lack the ability to judge the quality of online information<sup>iii</sup>

**Today’s Digital Technologies Teachers Report:**

- 83% information available online is overwhelming for most students<sup>v</sup>
- 60% digital technologies make it harder for students to find and use credible sources of information<sup>vi</sup>
- 71% digital technologies discourage students from finding and using a wide range of sources<sup>vii</sup>

**TEACHERS**

Self-described “tech savvy” teachers are more likely (65%) to use media and technology in the classroom “a lot” than teachers who are “comfortable” (33%) or “uncomfortable” (12%) with it.<sup>xiv</sup>

School librarians are enabling and empowering teachers’ skills with digital content:

**NOTES**

- <sup>i</sup> Purcell, Kristen, et al., 2012. *How Teens Do Research in the Digital World*. Pew Internet and American Life Project. [www.pewinternet.org/files/old-media/Files/Reports/2012/PIP\\_TeacherSurveyReportWithMethodology10112.pdf](http://www.pewinternet.org/files/old-media/Files/Reports/2012/PIP_TeacherSurveyReportWithMethodology10112.pdf).
- <sup>ii</sup> AASL, 2009. *Standards for the 21st-Century Learner*.
- <sup>iii</sup> Purcell, Kristen, et al., 2013. *How Teachers Are Using Technology at Home and in Their Classrooms*. Pew Internet and American Life Project. [www.pewinternet.org/files/old-media/Files/Reports/2013/PIP\\_TeachersandTechnologywithmethodology\\_PDF.pdf](http://www.pewinternet.org/files/old-media/Files/Reports/2013/PIP_TeachersandTechnologywithmethodology_PDF.pdf).
- <sup>iv</sup> comScore, Inc., 2014. “comScore Releases June 2014 U.S. Search Engine Rankings.” [www.comscore.com/Insights/Market-Rankings/comScore-Releases-June-2014-US-Search-Engine-Rankings](http://www.comscore.com/Insights/Market-Rankings/comScore-Releases-June-2014-US-Search-Engine-Rankings).
- <sup>v</sup> Purcell, Kristen, et al., 2013. *How Teachers Are Using Technology at Home and in Their Classrooms*.
- <sup>vi</sup> Purcell, Kristen, et al., 2013. *How Teachers Are Using Technology at Home and in Their Classrooms*.
- <sup>vii</sup> Purcell, Kristen, et al., 2013. *How Teachers Are Using Technology at Home and in Their Classrooms*.
- <sup>viii</sup> Purcell, Kristen, et al., 2012. *How Teens Do Research in the Digital World*.
- <sup>ix</sup> Shearer, Kimberly, 2012. “Why You Need Your School Librarian,” *Kentucky Teacher*. [www.kentuckyteacher.org/kentucky-teacher-of-the-year/2012/07/why-you-need-your-school-librarian/](http://www.kentuckyteacher.org/kentucky-teacher-of-the-year/2012/07/why-you-need-your-school-librarian/).
- <sup>x</sup> PBS LearningMedia, 2013. *Teacher Technology Usage Survey*.
- <sup>xi</sup> The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, 2012. *Technology and Effective Teaching in the US*.
- <sup>xii</sup> Purcell, Kristen, et al., 2013. *How Teachers Are Using Technology at Home and in Their Classrooms*.
- <sup>xiii</sup> AASL, 2009. *Standards for the 21st-Century Learner*.
- <sup>xiv</sup> Common Sense Media, 2012. *Children, Teens, and Entertainment Media*. [www.commonsensemedia.org/file/view-from-the-classroom-final-reportpdf-0/download](http://www.commonsensemedia.org/file/view-from-the-classroom-final-reportpdf-0/download).
- <sup>xv</sup> Project Tomorrow, 2011. *The New 3 E’s of Education: Enabled, Engaged, Empowered*. [www.tomorrow.org/speakup/pdfs/SU10\\_3EofEducation\\_Educators.pdf](http://www.tomorrow.org/speakup/pdfs/SU10_3EofEducation_Educators.pdf).

**SCHOOL LIBRARIANS**

85% answer questions about technology tools

66% participate with teachers in professional learning communities

33% train teachers how to locate and evaluate digital content.<sup>xv</sup>

Sources students are “very likely” to use in a research assignment:

Their peers 42%

16%

A librarian

18%

Print or electronic textbooks

94% Google

75% Wikipedia

52% YouTube/social media

17% Online databases

25% News sites of major news organizations<sup>viii</sup>

Number of Google searches per month: **12.050 BILLION**<sup>iv</sup>

73% of teachers believe educational technology has the potential to “respond to a variety of learning styles”<sup>x</sup>

49% of teachers report that students’ access to technology at home is one of the “biggest barriers to incorporating technology into their teaching” because the students are “often not digitally literate enough”<sup>xi</sup>

56% of teachers of the lowest-income students say that a lack of resources among students to access digital technologies is a “major challenge” to incorporating more digital tools into their teaching<sup>xii</sup>

*School libraries provide equitable physical and intellectual access to the resources and tools required for learning in a warm, stimulating, and safe environment.*<sup>xiii</sup>



**TRANSFORMING LEARNING**  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS

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