WHAT'S TRENDING

#SchoolLibraries

Connectedness
Robotics
BYOD
iPads
3D Printers
eBooks
Electronic resourcing
Online databases
Cloud computing
Collaboration
Digital resources
Digital acce...
Library Space
Technology
Social med...
Makerspaces

Introduction

The Softlink Australian and New Zealand School Library Survey examines key trends and issues impacting school libraries.

The 2015 School Library Survey represents the survey's sixth year for Australian schools and the first for New Zealand schools.

As part of the survey, respondents were asked to answer some open ended questions that reflected on changes they would like to see in their library or role, and emerging trends that could impact school libraries in the near future.

A number of trending topics appeared and are presented in this document.

The 2015 Softlink Australian and New Zealand School Library Survey Report is scheduled for release in April 2016.

What's Trending #SchoolLibraries

#Technology

Unsurprisingly, the top trending topic was technology. Responses related to the use of technology in school libraries and how technology has changed library services. In addition, school library staff commented that they would like additional training, ongoing access to new technologies, and the ability to integrate more technology into their service delivery.

Other related topics included future planning, the development of new technology guidelines across schools, and staffing to assist with the implementation of new technologies.

'We are looking forward to having a new library built featuring state-of-the-art facilities, learning spaces and technologies.'

#technology #libraryupgrade

'Technology improvements are improving our delivery of programs. We will be connected to the NBN shortly which should vastly improve our day-to-day business in a large state government school.'

#technologyimprovements #improveddelivery

'I believe there needs to be future planning to look at what technology should be available in the school library.'

#technology #futureplanning

'The increased availibility of online resources, technology and access will impact on our library and all libraries in the future.'

#technology #access

'I would like some guidelines for advancing the use of technology within the library setting to advance all KLAs.'

#technology #keylearningareas

'Use of technology is changing and is impacting learning in a positive way.'

#technology #learning

'An exciting emerging trend is the continued integration of technology in teaching and learning.'

#technology #integration

'Technology is advancing at a tremendous pace and I am hoping to keep up to date.'

#technologyadvances #stayinguptodate

'Technology is always changing and I feel it is important to be seen as keeping up with it for schools.'

#changingtechnology #keepingup

'I'd love to offer more innovative technology in the library (and online) to promote literacy.'

#technology #innovation #promoting literacy

'I would introduce better technology to allow the OPAC and subscriptions to be viewed from home.'

#newtechnology #cloudbasedlms

'It's exciting to be guiding a new generation into the next technological advances.'

#technologicaladvances

'I think cloud technology which allows "off-campus" storage of catalogue data, video streaming, document sharing etc. an exciting trend'

#cloudtechnology

'Technology is the key and children are leaning more towards using this.'

#technology

'I would like to have more teacher librarians and technology specialists to work with us.'

#technology #staffing

#Collaboration

Collaboration was also a top trending topic. Respondents indicated that they would like more time to collaborate with teachers and help support student learning and engagement. Finding ways to improve curriculum outcomes through information literacy, inquiry research and unit planning collaboration featured in many of the comments.

'I would like to have more opportunities to work collaboratively with teachers to provide excellent learning experiences for students.'

#collaboration #supportlearning

'I would like to arrange more opportunities to collaborate and work with teachers supporting their learning as well as their students.'

#collaboration #supportlearning

'I would like time to work with teachers in planning for each term. I feel it is one of the most important areas to understand how to better support individual teachers, teaching teams, curriculum development and the whole school.'

#collaboration #planning #supportlearning

'I would like to implement information literacy/academic skills teaching and collaborate with teachers in the delivery. I would like to be involved in curriculum development and teaching and learning strategies.'

#collaboration #informationliteracy #supportlearning

'I would like to work more collaboratively with teachers to teach information skills, by embedding the skills in the unit designs.'

#collaboration #informationliteracy

'If funding was available I would collaboratively teach the inquiry research unit with the teacher to embed information literacy and assist the teacher to teach the children.'

#collaboration #informationliteracy #supportlearning

'I would love to have more time to engage with all the classes and to plan/teach with classroom teachers to enable more focus on information literacy.'

#collaboration #informationliteracy

'I would like to see more collaboration between teachers and the librarian when planning units of work.'

#collaboration #supportlearning

#TheLibrarySpace

Respondents continue to be excited about the evolution of the library space and its use as a school community hub. School library staff are looking to create more flexible and engaging learning spaces for students, staff and class groups. Wi-Fi access and relaxed student zones are making libraries more of a social meeting place as well.

It is exciting to see the development of libraries as the 'heart' of the school with WIFI, BYOD and makerspaces included so the library is a learning centre and comfortable space.

#thelibraryspace #studenthub

'I would make the library more of a whole community space as well as learning centre, to reflect some of what is happening in public library spaces.'

#thelibraryspace #communityspace

'In our school students are great users of our space in free times. We have two libraries and even our junior library has 70-120 students in every morning before school.'

#thelibraryspace #libraryusers

'Things have changed so much the whole concept of libraries has changed. This library is become a relaxed and comfortable place to work and a meeting place for students.'

#thelibraryspace #studenthub

'I would change the library space to make it more flexible and dynamic. In order for the library to meet the needs of its users it needs to be updated to ensure that the space can be what it needs to be for staff and students.'

#thelibraryspace #update

'I would like to see a larger library with more flexible learning spaces, which would allow more classes to come with their teachers.'

#thelibraryspace #largerlibrary

'I want to rethink ways that the library space can be used by classes and their teachers (not just in their borrowing or release time). '

#thelibraryspace

I would like to redesign the whole library space to cater for flexible learning, incorporating new furniture, technology and innovative resource storage methods, to keep the collection and the space up to date and appealing to library users.

#thelibraryspace #redesign

'I think libraries are wonderful places and I know that our school library will continue to be a place of research and study using all aids to the students' success.'

#thelibraryspace

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#DigitalResources

Personal digital device usage in schools is on the rise (54% in 2015, up from 34% in 2014) and this is reflected in an increased uptake of digital resources.

In 2015, 35% of Softlink School Library Survey respondent schools indicated that they purchased eBooks and 57% indicated that they will "definitely" or "most probably" purchase eBooks within the next 12 months.

School library staff are excited about the range of digital resources available and being able to grow their digital collections. While conscious of the balance between print resources and a need to better understand the range of digital resources available, library staff are eager to expand the reach of their library beyond its physical walls.

'eBooks are an exciting trend for the future and I believe we need to plan how to better incorporate them into library use.'

#eBooks #futureplanning

'The emergence of eResources and databases has changed the method of information delivery. Information Literacy programs need to reflect this trend. Federated search functions are very helpful for students in their research and need to be taught as part of Information Literacy programs. The Oliver Federated search option is very good.'

#eResources #FederatedSearch

'I am looking forward to including more digital resources in the library catalogue including eBooks. '

#eBooks #digitalresources

'New trends appear to be eBooks and digital resources - but there needs to be a balance of print resources also.'

#eBooks #digitalresources

'For our library the use of eBooks for patrons to borrow means that the physical space of the library is changing.'

#eBooks #physicalspace

'Our school is starting to use the eBooks and Audiobooks that the Department has made available. This is exciting for us.'

#eBooks #audiobooks

'I would love to go to a professional development about how to update the library with digital technologies such as eBooks, periodicals etc. I have no idea what to do about this but see the need for it, especially amongst the senior students and staff.'

#eBooks #digitaltechnologies #training

'eBooks are already having an impact and I believe this will continue to increase in popularity.'

#eBooks

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#ExcitingTrends

School libraries are positioning themselves as the custodians of emerging technologies within schools. Libraries and library staff are responsible for curating and managing digital resources, hosting shared hardware like 3D printers, developing creative project spaces for robotics and other makerspace activities and providing Wi-Fi access and other technologies for student social interaction.

Respondents to the 2015 Softlink School Library Survey were very excited about how these technologies are managed and incorporated to support curriculum, literacy, and learning.

When asked "What exciting trends are emerging that could impact libraries in the near future?" the majority of respondents identified technology in their response. The word cloud below illustrates the terms, topics and trends represented in more detail.

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Online collaborative learning
The Library Space
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How can Softlink help your school library?

Making it simple to access quality digital resources

Oliver v5 offers deep digital integration with eResources for direct borrow and download within the public Search interface as well as advanced Federated Search, making it easier for users to find and download curriculum-enriching resources. Oliver v5 can also be used to catalogue online collated resources such as Pinterest boards.

Softlink is the authorised distributor for OverDrive, offering more than 500,000 eBooks, narrated eBooks, audio books, music and video across a range of K-12 subjects. Oliver v5 is fully integrated with OverDrive for easy borrowing and download of resources.

Enabling a 24/7, technology-rich library service

Oliver v5 is fully browser-based, which enables 24/7 access from inside or outside the school, broadening learning outcomes and simultaneously reducing internal IT costs and time associated with networking and installation.

Oliver v5 can be accessed from any Internet-enabled device including laptops, smart phones and tablets.

YouTube videos can be embedded directly onto the Oliver v5 Home page, students can share book reviews and access optional integrated tools such as ClickView.

Oliver v5 also integrates with social media sites using OAuth Single Sign-On functionality which means students and staff can switch seamlessly between the two and use their social media login details to access the library catalogue.

Softlink offers flexible installation options including cloud hosting or on premise installation.

Assisting with management of non-traditional physical assets

Oliver v5 supports school libraries in their promotion and management of non-traditional assets. Creative assets such as 3D printers, arduino kits and board games can be catalogued and reservations for physical spaces can be managed directly through Oliver v5. Animated carousels on the Oliver v5 home page can also be used to promote their availability to the school community.

Supporting collaboration and modern learning environments

Oliver v5 gives school libraries the tools they need to support modern pedagogical practices. Integration options allow school libraries to connect to virtual learning environments such as Scootle, Moodle, KnowledgeNET and SharePoint. Further collaboration with teaching staff is facilitated by Oliver v5's reading lists for curriculum planning.

Simplifying reporting processes

Analytical Reporting allows librarians to display reports with ease, helping you to promote the true value of your library to managment and stakeholders. Clear visual reports on data such as loans, borrowers or resources can be generated from within Oliver v5 and presented in a range of formats including bar, line and pie graphs.