

SCHOOL LIBRARIES SHARE



AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Since 2014, Softlink has run an annual school library survey that looks at important statistical information, such as staffing and budgets, as well as school library practices, services, resourcing, and trends.

Participants also have the opportunity to share things they would love to change about their library or role, as well as provide open-ended comments that they would like to share.

From year-to-year similar themes emerge, more budget, more time, more or more modern space, better staffing, more recognition of their role, more opportunities to collaborate, better technology, more focus on reading for pleasure, more focus on digital literacy, and less RFF.

"I love my job and enjoy going to work." NZ 2015

"Working in a school library is the best job in the world!" AU 2019

"I wouldn't change anything - love what I do!"
NZ 2020

"I love my role and I wouldn't change anything."
AU 2020

"I love my job. It is busy, and interesting, and varied. I have the opportunity to work with different people on a variety of projects." AU 2019

This feature document shares comments from the 2014 - 2020 surveys demonstrating the love and passion school library staff have, and what they love most about coming to work. It also shares comments that demonstrate the love the school has for the library.

I LOVE ENGAGING WITH, AND CONNECTING WITH, STUDENTS

"I love what I do - being part of encouraging reading for pleasure, curiosity, and a variety of interests in the students." AU 2019

"My successes with helping students find the right book(s) help me through the harder days and through this unsettling year." NZ 2020

"I love my job because of the students." AU 2020

"Our library is a welcoming place that students enjoy visiting. They particularly like to have someone to recommend books for them, to explain the stories before they borrow." AU 2018

"Library positions are an unbelievable position of privilege. We are lucky enough to form relationships with every student, every staff member and be a support to them all. We really are quite blessed!" AU 2020

"Let's keep libraries going, they are the best and our students here are always engaged in reading books from our library." AU 2019

"It is a great job. Hard work but, at the same time, wonderful to see students become readers and staff using databases and other resources available." AU 2017

"I love to see children grow in their love of stories and reading." AU 2015

"I love my job...it is varied, fun, and I love engaging the students in literacy and technology." AU 2014

"I like the personal interaction with our students. I like doing the many varied bits of the job, all of it. From information literacy to reader engagement; managing the space to acquisitions and processing; training and managing the student librarians, and consulting with teachers on their needs." NZ 2019

"The vast majority of students in this school love coming to the library for their lesson and the majority borrow books regularly. We are also open at lunch time every day and many students come in to borrow or just to read." AU 2020

"Our school library is a wonderful learning environment and a safe haven for all students who find it difficult to interact with others, you see them grow into independent adults. It is a great place to work and to see teachers and their students learning." AU 2017

"I feel my school library is well used, I provide a welcoming environment for students to study and interact during breaks. I also mentor students and help with assessment tasks and encourage reading for pleasure." AU 2014

"My students love the library!" AU 2016



I LOVE THAT OUR LIBRARY IS THE HUB OF THE SCHOOL

"We love that the library is popular and is well used as a study space." AU 2014

"The school supports the library very well and the student population are avid readers who are fully engaged in their weekly borrowing and reading. Teachers attend with classes and use the time for 1 on 1 reading with students. Teachers use the library with great respect. The library is a much-loved facility for the whole school." AU 2020

"I have a new library and it has been moved to the centre of the school. It is called *Nga Manawa* which means the heart of the school. Our library is an important place in our school and is used for many meetings and gatherings of staff from other schools." NZ 2020

"I think school libraries are a vital part of the school make up. It not only supports students learning but gives many a safe place to go, helps with social skilling as it is the only area in our school where all years levels from Prep- Year 6 can play together. Our library is not the typical quiet place, it's a fun interactive place. I feel as long as you keep it full of fun, bright things and show kids the joy of books, technology, etc, there will always be a need and a place for a school libraries." AU 2019

"I think school libraries are a fabulous resource and we are so lucky to be well supported at our school. The space is much loved by our community and COVID has in fact enhanced our library offering by helping us to rethink our digital space and presence." AU 2020

"Our library is considered a community space that welcomes all. It is a safe place where students can be themselves for many different reasons." AU 2018

"Our library is an extremely popular venue within our school both during lesson time and lunchtime." AU 2016

"Our library is a vibrant place that students love - and it can be full to the brim." AU 2014

"In my school the libraries are very well utilised by our students. Happy libraries work wonders with student morale - they give them a place they own and a comfortable secure space to work with one another or on their own." AU 2019

"Our school library is the social hub of our school." NZ 2016

"Both students and staff love our library. It is a comfortable, safe place to be where learning and lounging can take place." AU 2016

"The library is a popular and well used space, a haven from the noise of the playground. I would like it to be open for students even more hours..." NZ 2018

"Our school has over 1300 students and the library is the busiest place in the school and I am proud of all we achieve." AU 2018

"Our library is the HUB of our school learning community. We serve 100's of people a day." NZ 2018

I LOVE THAT THE LIBRARY OR MY ROLE IS VALUED

"I am very happy with the support for the library from the executive at this school – a big and welcome change from my previous school which did not have library interests at heart at all in recent times. Yes, I am rushed off my feet at times, and often busy, but I feel appreciated by the school leadership team, so this makes all the difference." AU 2019

"I'm lucky in that I have the support of the principal and the kids love their library. I feel appreciated by everyone at the school." NZ 2020

"I love my job and I am very fortunate in that I have a very supportive principal who lets me 'fly'." AU 2018

"My school is very passionate about the library and sees the importance of it." AU 2020

"Our students and I are very fortunate that our principal values the libraries position within the school. It is a pleasure coming to work." AU 2019

"I am in a very, very fortunate position. I recognise that the budgets and staffing we receive at extremely generous. I love my job and am grateful every day." AU 2019

"Having a supportive principal and staff makes the role so much easier. Being valued by the staff makes the job enjoyable." AU 2019

"I'm lucky to have a very supportive Senior Leadership Team and Board of Trustees who see the value in a high functioning library." NZ 2020

"Our library is often referred to as "the beating heart of the school". There is not a lot I need to change, except to keep abreast of all that is emerging and constantly evolving. We are so well supported by our Directors and the entire community." AU 2020

"I would change nothing! We have a beautiful library that is not taken for granted and I am fortunate to be able to say, I am very much appreciated." AU 2017

"I feel very lucky that I work in a school where the school library is valued by staff, administration, parents and students." AU 2020

"I am fortunate to be in a supportive school which values the library and the role of librarian." AU 2020

"The library here works well and is appreciated for its purpose. I am lucky in my principal." AU 2018

"Students love their school library, and most staff make good use of it." AU 2017

"Our school is very, very fortunate to have a principal who truly values the library space as a place of respite for students. It is well resourced and stocked. Ensuring that high value of the resource is part of the culture of the school can be a challenge to sustain with other departments equally in need of space." AU 2020

"I work in an amazing school with supportive and wonderful staff." AU 2017

I LOVE THAT THE LIBRARY OR MY ROLE IS VALUED (CONT)

"I am very pleased that the school is supported by two deputy principals (one as curriculum leader, the other as IT leader). Both leaders believe in the value of the library and the services it can bring to benefit the whole school community." AU 2019

"I'm lucky in that I have the support of the principal and the kids love their library. I feel appreciated by everyone at the school." NZ 2020

"Without the incredible supportive of the principal, executive, and staff at this school, the library would not be what it is. The library is a central hub of learning at this school. It is regularly booked out and is a very well utilised resource in many different ways. Our library has been recognised as outstanding in local media!" AU 2014

"We have some teachers here at school that really value the role of a librarian and are passionate about kids enjoying their reading. It is so enjoyable to work with them. Together you feel like you can really make changes to the way students view the library and reading for pleasure." NZ 2019

"I am fortunate to be in a literacy focussed school where books are valued teaching tools, and the importance of recreational reading is constantly promoted in class, as well as by me. The library is a valued resource." AU 2016

"The management at my current school are very supportive of the libraries and recognise our value in education and research. It makes such a difference." AU 2019

"The management at my current school are very supportive of the libraries and recognise our value in education and research. It makes such a difference." AU 2019

"I'm very lucky to work in a school where the value of the school library is recognized and is therefore well supported on all levels." NZ 2020

"I love our school library which has been very well supported both from the school and its community." AU 2020

"We have a great library that is extremely well resourced. We have had supportive principals and P&C committee who always allocate appropriate funds." AU 2019

"We are fortunate to have a well financed library which is able to keep up with new trends (+ book series) in Junior School student reading. The respect the school shows in providing students with good reading resources, reflects in the students respect and passion for reading and sourcing information." AU 2015

"Our library is highly valued and well used by our whole school." NZ 2019

"I love this role very much and whilst I feel I work really long hours, I do feel I am getting a lot of support from teachers and leadership with the initiatives I am taking to improve the library services at my school." AU 2020

I LOVE MY LIBRARY SPACE

"We have a great space. I would love to refurnish with more modern furniture and more comfortable (eg Bean filled) chairs for fiction area." NZ 2019

"I feel we have a great library space which is also the well-being area. It is inclusive and is always full at lunchtimes." AU 2020

"We have made a huge investment in our library this year with new furniture, shelving, layout and resources. Feedback has been positive with so many parents, students, visitors commenting on the space." AU 2016

"We have a new school library that I was involved in designing. It is an ideal flexible learning space that is well used and respected within the school." AU 2019

"I love our little library. It is bright and colourful and full of interest, comfort and history. And by history I mean our school and towns history and culture. I want our students to feel that their library is important and it's a nice place to be in while they are using its resources and space. I am very happy with my role and the responsibility given to me by my principal and SAM." AU 2020

"Our students comment that they value and love our library space (recent school survey). Students are truly valuing their library space." AU 2019

"I am very happy in my role and with the physical space I work in." NZ 2019

"Our library is well utilised and our budget allows us to purchase great books that children love. They also have chrome books and touch screen desktop computers at their disposal for research purposes. Our school is fortunate to have this environment that children love to be in and for me personally a great place to work in." NZ 2016

"We now have a new library with new shelving with all the old books being donated to a less fortunate country. I am extremely happy with my school library!" AU 2014

"I love our library. It is warm, light, bright and inviting and we have great support from our Senior Leadership team - we are so lucky!" NZ 2020



I LOVE CONTRIBUTING TO LEARNING

"I strongly believe in the important role the school library has as an information hub within the school. As the teacher librarian I am fortunate to work with all teachers across all stages and can provide a point of continuity when introducing new technologies such as eBooks and online workspaces." AU 2015

"I have been teaching the "Design and Technologies" and "Digital Technologies" elements of the Australian Curriculum, and really enjoying it. There are common elements with the information technologies we are familiar with as teacher librarians." AU 2019

"I enjoy my role in the school. I see myself as a 'researcher-in-residence' for the school community." AU 2014

"Our school library is fortunate to have a supportive school leadership team which appreciates the work we do in developing information literacy and literature appreciation skills." AU 2020

"I enjoy my position and the opportunity to plan for and teach information skills to the whole school." AU 2015

"I love literacy and I offer all staff programs that may last three lessons to integrate into their programs. I have the best job in the school." AU 2016

"It is a pleasure to assist students completing VCE and VCAL towards success." AU 2018

"We are building a dynamic and supportive teaching and learning space for the whole school community." AU 2020

"This is an exciting and challenging time in school libraries as we move forward to not only providing access to resources but also guiding students in the inquiry process, research skills, and information literacy skills." NZ 2015

"I am very happy with my collaborative teaching role." AU 2015



I LOVE MY TEAM

"I'm blessed with a highly capable, experienced and enthusiastic team, which makes my job much easier."
AU 2018

"I am very happy to be working in a library and have a library manager who is passionate about libraries, and is a great mentor."
AU 2019

"We are blessed with a great library team and a very welcoming and vibrant library." AU 2020

"We have a wonderful new library and a great team!"
NZ 2020

"I think our library is pretty good; my manager is fantastic!" AU 2020

"I am fortunate to have the support of some excellent adult volunteers who process books and shelve them, it gives me more time for other library tasks." NZ 2020

"I would like to increase my wonderful library assistants hours." AU 2020

I LOVE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

"I love everything we do and know we make a huge difference to the majority of students." AU 2014

"Libraries have an important role for the well-being of society." NZ 2019

"The teacher librarian role is so varied. I love the scope it has to bring about school wide changes." AU 2020

"Our library is warm and welcoming and a hub for those wanting to escape the noise and rush of the playground at lunchtime. I am proud of the space and the way it is used." NZ 2018

"A thoroughly busy but exciting task is the library and a place where I get to work with all the staff, students, and many parents." AU 2015

"I love being a teacher librarian and having the opportunity to make such a difference in the lives of all students." AU 2015

"Being a T/L is both a delightful and frustrating labour of love. It is vital to note that the role is about people first and processes and rules second. We are a service industry and have a huge impact on the students we teach." AU 2017

FURTHER READING AND RESOURCES

We have a number of reports and whitepapers available on our website (softlinkint.com/edu/resources) including:

What's trending #SchoolLibraries 2019-2020

What were the trending topics in school libraries in 2019 and 2020? In this global feature, we share responses to the 2019 Softlink School Library Surveys and the 2020 Softlink COVID-19 Survey.

From the Principal's desk - reflections on the school library

In this feature post, we share comments made by school principal's in response to questions in the Annual Softlink School Library Survey.

School Libraries Share Ideas for Promoting the Library - 2019

Based on responses to the question "What practices are in place or what ideas do you have to promote the library, the services it provides, or the role and skills of the school library staff in your school?" in the 2018 School Library Surveys.

School Libraries Share Ideas for Collaboration - 2018

Based on responses to the question "How do you currently collaborate, or what ideas do you have for greater collaboration between the library and the rest of the school?" in the 2017 School Library Surveys.

School Libraries Share Innovative Ideas - 2017

Based on responses to the question "Do you have an innovative practice story about your library you would like to share?" in the 2016 Australian and New Zealand School Library Surveys.

For even more ideas and resources visit our blog softlinkint.com/blog

SOFTLINK SOLUTIONS

Softlink has been providing school library software for over 30 years, offering solutions to meet the ongoing needs of schools globally.

Users of Oliver v5 benefit from regular new feature updates, which are developed in direct response to feedback and insights gained from our active user community.

LearnPath users can create, publish, and share rich learning guides and content. They also have access to over 300 ready-made guides produced by teacher librarians.

CONTACT US

Would you like to find out more about how Softlink and Oliver v5 can support your school library? Visit our website softlinkint.com or contact us via email communications@softlinkint.com.