

Carving a niche for the school library program in your school

The best defense is a good offense.
Be the best school librarian you can
be without working yourself to death.
Target your efforts to support your
students and staff to build a library
community.



Your Presenters

Dana Carmichael is a retired middle school teacher and librarian from Whitefish, MT.

I am most proud of my work with MSL and SLD creating the MT School Library Digital Collection, and hosting thriving makerspace activities and computer clubs at WMS.

Colet Bartow is a former teacher-librarian (1994-2007), state education agency employee (2007-2022), and current MSL continuing education coordinator.

I am excited to be reconnected to libraries and librarians!

Who gets to tell your story?



Image by [Gerd Altmann](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Butcher Paper

As you think about a typical day, who are you spending the most time with?

What are they saying?
How can they help you?
What was the last compliment/criticism you heard?

Defined and Predictable Action

Who	Fall	Spring	Q/S	As Needed
School Board Members	Open House Review Board Policy	Yearly Showcase	Formal Report Out, Updating website	Schedule visits to the library
School administrators	Open House Review Budget	Yearly Showcase Inventory	Formal Report Out, Updating website	Schedule visits to the library
Teachers	Orientation Curriculum Review/needs	Yearly Showcase	Newsletter Advisory Group	Opportunities to gather and see what resources are available
Students	Orientation	Yearly Showcase	Advisory Group Bulletin Board	Rotating activities, Student art displays, Digital programs (March Madness)
Parents	Open House	Yearly Showcase	Newsletter Advisory Group	Schedule visits to the library

Allies and Advocacy

On-going process of building partnerships so that others will act for and with you, turning passive support into educated action for the library program. It begins with a vision and a plan for the library program that is then matched to the agenda and priorities of stakeholders. [AASL definitions](#)

Students

- Welcoming atmosphere.
- Newest materials you can afford.
- Resources to support classroom learning.
- Listen to ideas for change.
- Dynamic website.

Teachers

- Welcoming atmosphere
- Resources to support classroom learning.
- Dynamic website.
- Opportunities to marry required standards.
- Listen to ideas for change.

Administration

- Welcoming atmosphere.
- Evidence the library is supportive of curriculum and community.
- Annual Goals and accomplishments.
- Tangible programs.
- Positive community communication.

Parents

- Welcoming atmosphere
- Newest materials you can afford
- Opportunities to volunteer/ support programs
- Dynamic website.
- Positive community communication.

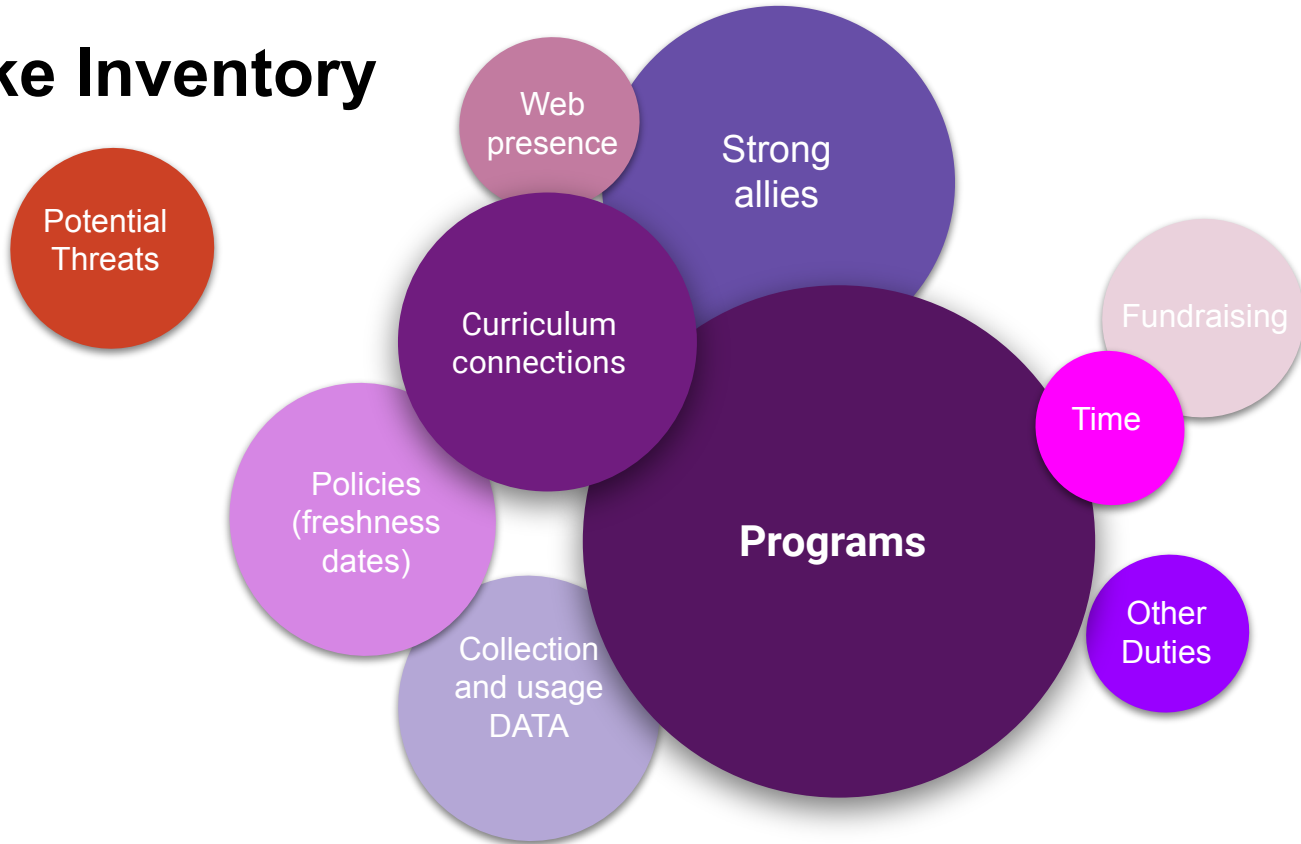
Trustees

- Welcoming atmosphere.
- Evidence the library is supportive of curriculum and community.
- Positive community communication.

Advocates and Allies

- Policy Advocacy – what is it?
 - Bridging the gap between practice and resources by telling a story that compels decision makers to take action
 - Ensuring equity of opportunity
- Why is it important to have a policy advocacy statement and plan?
 - Advocates and allies are called to unambiguous action
 - Advocates and allies know **what** to say and to **whom**
 - Advocates and allies know **why** they are saying it

Take Inventory



The Lay of the Land

Where are the students?

- When do students have time to visit the library? *~Can you carve out time to open the doors?*

What are colleagues complaining about?

- Listen for common complaints across several classrooms? *~Can you be the solution?*

What is your community great at?

- Where do students thrive outside of school? *~Can you invite this success into your library?*

What are the roadblocks?

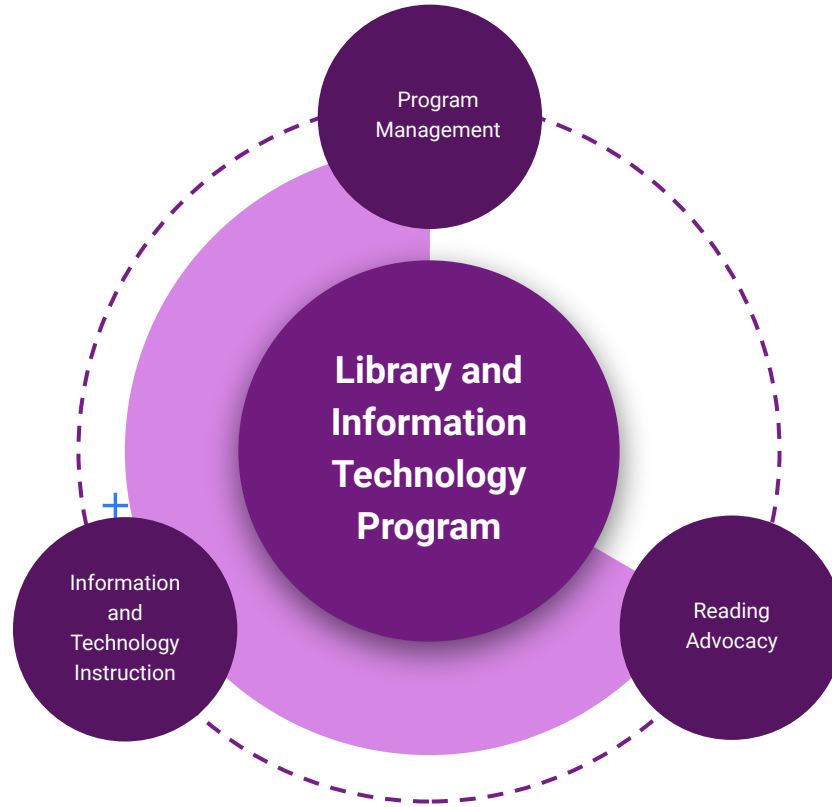
- What is preventing you from solving a school problem? *~Can you offer a solution with help from the administration?*

What do families need to be part of the team?

- Are there community factors/wants for students? *~Can you provide tools/time to meet these needs?*



LIT Program



Laws and Rules

Montana Code Annotated

20-7-203. Trustees' policies for school library. The trustees shall adopt those policies necessary for regulating the use and operation of school libraries. These policies may provide for the use of school libraries by the residents of the district, provided that such use does not interfere with the regular school use of the library.

Administrative Rules of Montana - Chapter 58 PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM STANDARDS

10.58.517 LIBRARY MEDIA K-12 (e) model and facilitate the effective use of current and emerging digital information tools to locate, analyze, evaluate, and efficiently and ethically use information to support research, learning, creating, and communicating in a digital society.

Resources

Explore more:

AASL Materials bank -
<https://standards.aasl.org/materials/>

Data Sources

OPI GEMS - <https://gems.opi.mt.gov/>

AASL Advocacy -
<https://www.ala.org/aasl/advocacy/definitions>