
STUDIES IN SCHOOL LIBRARY MANAGEMENT: I

Developing a policy for a school library

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Developing a policy for a school library SECOND EDITION

by

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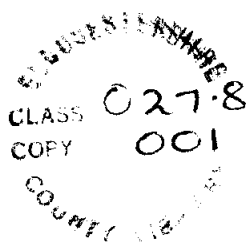
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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	v
HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT	1
POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES	
What is policy?	3
Why is policy necessary?	4
Are there rules for good policy making?	5
Can there be one policy for all school libraries?	6
PRACTICAL STEPS TO POLICY	
How do we start?	7
What do we need to know about schools?	8
Know your school: activity	10
What do we need to know about libraries?	12
Know your library: activity — What is your library for?	14
Know your library: activity — How are things going?	16
Know your library: activity — Who uses your library?	
Part I	17
Know your library: activity — Who uses your library?	
Part II	19
Know your library: activity — What kind of a library have we got?	21
What do we need to know about library users?	24
Know your users: activity	31
How can we find out what our library users want?	32
ANYTHING ELSE?	38
Should policy be written down?	39
WHAT CAN I READ?	40

INTRODUCTION

This is the second edition of *Developing a policy for a school library*, the idea for which came from a D.E.S. short course called *School libraries and the secondary curriculum* we organised and ran at the Centre for In-service Education, Trent Polytechnic. Six afternoon sessions were attended by thirty-five teachers, school librarians and teacher librarians, representing eighteen schools located in Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire. The course was advertised inviting applications "from those schools where the member of senior staff responsible for the curriculum and the school librarian are interested in developing the use of the school library *and are both in a position to attend the course*". The reason for there being thirty-five course members and not thirty-six is that in one school the two responsibilities of curriculum and library were held by the same teacher.

The aim was to examine the development of a policy for the school library and how this can be implemented and evaluated. The content of the course was the result of discussions between ourselves and senior librarians concerned with providing support services to schools in the four counties represented on the course, and we are appreciative of the comments made by these librarians, who are:

Mr. Terry Hancock, Senior Librarian, Lincolnshire;
Ms. Linda Hopkins, Assistant County Librarian, Nottinghamshire;
Mr. Martin Molloy, Principal Assistant County Librarian,
Derbyshire;
Miss Jennifer Shepherd, Assistant County Librarian,
Leicestershire.

The course was favourably received, and this led to the decision to provide more teachers and librarians with the opportunity to examine their school library provision together. As a result we decided to create a series of pamphlets which will guide librarians and teachers through the processes of creating a library policy, implementing this policy and evaluating the success of this implementation. A fourth pamphlet will provide a detailed discussion of the potential involvement of the librarian in the process of curriculum development. Whilst the series has yet to be completed, the demand for the first has been so great that it has been decided by

SLG that a new edition must take precedence over numbers three and four in the series. *Implementing a school library policy* was published in 1986.

Each pamphlet will comprise information explaining methods and suggesting steps to take which will integrate the library into the work of the school supporting both teachers and pupils. This information is accompanied by exercises to initiate action turning theory into practice within the context of an individual school — your school. The term 'librarian' is used to identify the person responsible for the library, be they qualified librarian, qualified teacher, or both.

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