

Kansas Students *A⁺ Achieve* *Because of Great School Libraries*

Powerful Partnerships: Your School Librarian and YOU!

School library media centers and licensed library media specialists make a difference in your students' performance¹.

There is often confusion surrounding the difference between school libraries and public libraries. This confusion leads, at times, to the assumption that both of these entities perform the same service and therefore can be easily combined or substituted, one for the other. Kansas has all types of libraries. Each type has a distinct mission, collection focus, user group, and array of services. Each type of library collects resources and provides services especially designed for their specific clientele and has library staff with specialized training for their type of library. These libraries cooperate with each other to offer the broad array of library services that Kansans enjoy.

- Public Libraries, serve the needs of the general public.
- School Libraries, serve the needs of the K-12 students and teachers.
- Academic Libraries, serve the needs of higher education.
- Special libraries serve the needs of businesses, governmental agencies, institutions and organizations.

Because there are, for the most part, school and public libraries serving every Kansas community, and because they cooperate to provide services, it is sometimes assumed that one or the other could close, with little impact to that community. This is not true. The table opposite illustrates the particular missions, primary services, and librarian roles of school and public libraries.

Visit your school library and talk to your teacher librarian - find out what goes on there and how the teacher librarian facilitates learning!

¹Student Learning Through Ohio School Libraries
(Ohio Educational Library Media Association, 2004)
<http://www.oelma.org/StudentLearning/SLFindings.asp>



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SCHOOL LIBRARIES AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES

DIFFERENT MISSIONS – DIFFERENT ROLES

SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

To prepare students to become effective and efficient users of resources, ideas, and information.

MISSION

K-12 students and those who teach them

CLIENTELE

■ Are appropriately leveled print and electronic resources

■ Support curricular and instructional needs

■ Complement course work

■ Support and enhance the teaching of reading

■ Appeal to children's interests

■ Teach information/research skills and use of digital resources and the internet

■ Organize and recommend resources that meet K-12 student needs

■ Teach concepts that support reading and learning in curricular areas

■ Promote reading children's and YA books

■ Provide collaborative curriculum and instruction support to K-12 teachers

■ Support the use of educational technology

■ Class instruction space, group workspace, and individual workspace

■ Furniture, shelving scaled for children's use

■ Technology for appropriate use

■ Primary hours – school day

■ Limited access to provide safe environment

School library media specialists teach information literacy skills and provide support in using print and electronic resources to students and teachers.

RESOURCES

PRIMARY SERVICES

FACILITIES

PRIMARY ROLE OF LIBRARIAN

PUBLIC LIBRARY

To meet the learning, recreational, and informational needs of our customers, providing an open environment for our community.

General Public all ages- preschoolers to senior citizens

■ Support broadest spectrum of community needs and interests

■ Offer in-depth information for business, government offices, etc.

■ Support homework/research assignments

■ Appeal to current popular interests

■ Lend a broad spectrum of materials

■ Provide access to digital resources and the internet

■ Provide Reference services

■ Independent selection of resources

■ Support student homework/research

■ Community networking and outreach

■ Year-round after school, evening and weekend programming

■ Public meeting rooms and independent reading/research workspace

■ Space and furniture for study and relaxation

■ Technology that provides a wide range access

■ Primary hours include evenings and weekends

■ Open public access

Trained library staff provide access to books, information and programming that support community needs and interests.

