



Leading From the Library

Second Edition

*Help Your School Community Thrive
in the Digital Age*

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BOOK STUDY QUESTIONS

Leading Beyond the Library: Discussion Questions

The discussion questions found at the end of each chapter are meant to provide districts and groups of librarians a structure for discussions that could be facilitated through an online or face to face books study. We recommend one of two strategies depending on your needs.

1. If you intend to utilize face-to-face meetings, break the book up into three sections of two chapters each (1 and 2, 3 and 4, 5 and 6) and schedule meetings out over the course of a two-month period to provide the appropriate reflection time between each meeting.
2. If you want to meet online, either synchronously or asynchronously, assign a chapter a week and create an online space for participants to connect with each other.

During the book study, ask participants to bring or post reflections, ideas, or artifacts that are connected to the chapter topic. You can use the discussion questions included at the end of each chapter or create your own. For easy access, each of the questions have been pulled into this single space.

Learn more and purchase the book at iste.org/libraryleaders2

Chapter 1: Leading Through Change

1. In the face of unprecedented challenges, a professional community plays a critical role for librarians. How have libraries in your community responded to crises or changes, and in what ways has their professional community support influenced their ability to adapt and innovate?
2. This chapter discusses the impact of technology on education and emphasizes the importance of focusing on what students do with their screen time rather than just limiting it. How do you think educators can strike a balance between leveraging technology for learning and ensuring students' digital wellness? What strategies can be employed to teach students about self-regulation and responsible use of technology?
3. We believe that empowering learners is a fundamental role of education. In what ways can librarians contribute to empowering students beyond traditional academic skills? How can libraries foster an environment that helps students become self-sufficient and equipped with the skills and mindset needed for success beyond their school years?

Chapter 2: Expanding the Definition of Literacy

1. How has the definition of literacy evolved in the digital age, and what implications does this have for educators, especially in the context of libraries?
2. There are clear challenges when it comes to dealing with an abundance of information in the digital age. What kinds of personal experiences or observations can you point to that impacts an individual's ability to discern credible sources. How can educators, particularly librarians, address this challenge?
3. There has been a shift in research skills because of digital tools especially considering tools like search engines. How can educators, including librarians, help students develop effective research skills for both formal and informal inquiries?
4. How will Artificial Intelligence change the way we teach students to interact with texts? What does reading and writing look like in a world where generative AI is easily accessible?

Chapter 3: Digital Age Mentors

1. Which of the identified topics of study (e.g., Role of the Librarian, Digital Strategies, Student Choice and Personalization) do you believe is most crucial for evaluating the effectiveness and relevance of a library program in the digital age? How might the chosen topic align with the specific needs and goals of your school or community?
2. How can librarians effectively engage with parents as digital age mentors, offering guidance on technology-related topics such as screen time, internet safety, and social media? Share potential strategies and consider the importance of building trust with parents in the rapidly changing digital landscape.
3. How do you interpret the idea that “it’s about the influence you have on your building and how many kids you can reach by reaching your teachers”? Can you share an example from your own experience, either as an educator or a student, where the influence of a librarian or teacher had a significant impact on the learning environment?

Chapter 4: Know Your Culture

1. How can librarians position themselves as cultural influencers, and how might this perspective impact your interactions with your community?
2. There are many strategies for identifying the underlying culture in a school. Reflect on which strategies might resonate for you and share your thoughts on how they might be applied in diverse school settings.
3. How can the practices of creativity, exploration, and discovery contribute to a more innovative learning environment? How might librarians further empower students as creators in your local context.

Chapter 5: Be A Champion

1. How have you fostered connections with your local public library or other community organizations? Have you explored global projects or collaborations? What benefits or challenges have you encountered in expanding your library’s reach beyond the school walls?

2. How can librarians strategically prioritize their time and curriculum decisions to maximize the impact on their school communities, ensuring alignment with overall educational goals?
3. Have you ever faced a situation where clarifying and communicating your role or the goals of your program became crucial? How did you go about defining and sharing your narrative? What challenges did you encounter, and what were the outcomes?

Chapter 6: Leading Through Equity

1. How can libraries ensure equity of experience for students, regardless of their background, by providing meaningful and inclusive digital learning opportunities that extend beyond traditional classroom settings?
2. In what ways can libraries and librarians actively contribute to addressing the equity gap in digital literacy and technology access, considering the evolving landscape of education and information consumption?
3. In what ways can libraries and educators collaborate to bridge the digital content gap and ensure equitable access to diverse, high-quality digital resources for all students?

