

Research and School Libraries: Knowing the Basic Sources by David V. Loertscher

Keeping up with the professional research is a challenge for today's teacher-librarian. This article covers the essential associations and organizations, research projects, surveys, reports, books, conferences, studies, periodicals, and online resources that you need to know to stay current and to take your stand as a leader in your school.

Research Summaries and Bibliographies

- International Association of School Librarianship (IASL). (2006). The IASL publishes proceedings of its annual conference and a journal containing research studies. Check out its web site at www.iasl-slo.org/isld.html and click the "Research" tab at the bottom of the page.
- Lance, K. C., & Loertscher, D. V. (2005). *Powering Achievement: School Library Media Programs Make a Difference* (3rd Ed.). Salt Lake City, UT: Hi Willow Research and Publishing. Available for purchase at www.lmcsource.com. Provides summaries and PowerPoint presentations plus discussion starters of all the Lance studies as well as other evidence linking school libraries to achievement.
- Lance, K. C. (2007). Bibliography of School Library Impact Studies. Available at www.lrs.org/impact.asp.
- Loertscher, D. V. (2007). LIBR233: School Library Media Centers. Bibliography of school library media research. Available at www.davidvl.org.
- Todd, R. J., & Gordon, C. (2007). Ross J. Todd and Carol Gordon's Center for International Scholarship in School Libraries (CISSL) web site from Rutgers University lists their research projects at <http://cissl.scils.rutgers.edu/research/projects.html>.

Tools for Linking School Libraries to Achievement

- Loertscher, D. V. (2007). Are Two Heads Better Than One? This is an action research project where teachers and teacher-librarians assess their impact on learners when they collaborate. Participate at www.seedwiki.com/wiki/lmc_action_research/lmc_action_research?wpid=709840&searchresult=709840.

- Loertscher, D. V., & Todd, R. J. (2003). *We Boost Achievement! Evidence-Based Practice for School Library Media Specialists*. Salt Lake City, UT: Hi Willow Research and Publishing. Provides the most comprehensive list of measures available. Available for purchase at www.lmcsource.com.
- Miller, N. A. S. (2003). *Impact! Documenting the LMC Program for Accountability*. Salt Lake City, UT: Hi Willow Research and Publishing. This Excel spreadsheet allows school librarians to track collaborative efforts on a daily basis and then print out amazing reports for presentations. Also, Nancy has a Time and Task Tracker that documents time spent on various school library program activities of both professionals and support personnel. Both are available from www.lmcsource.com.
- Todd, R. J., Kuhlthau, C. C., & Heinström, J. E. (2005). *The School Library Impact Measure (SLIM)*. New Brunswick, NJ: Center for International Scholarship in School Libraries, Rutgers University. This is a toolkit and handbook for tracking and assessing student learning outcomes of Guided Inquiry through the school library. Available at http://cissl.scils.rutgers.edu/guided_inquiry/slim.html.

Federal Efforts and Reports

- Holton, B., Bae, Y., Baldrige, S., Brown, M., & Heffron, D. (2004). *The Status of Public and Private School Library Media Centers in the United States: 1999–2000*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES 2004–313). Available at http://nces.ed.gov/programs/quarterly/vol_6/1_2/6_1.asp.
- Michie, J. S., & Holton, B. A. (2005). *Fifty Years of Supporting Children's Learning: History of Public School Libraries and Federal Legislation From 1953 to 2000*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics NCES 2005-311. Available at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2005/2005311.pdf>.
- Scott, L. (2004). *School Library Media Centers: Selected Results From the Education Longitudinal Study of 2002(ELS:2002)*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. Available at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2005302>.

Conferences

- The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) Research Committee usually sponsors a research program at the annual American Library Association (ALA) conference that reports the results of the Highsmith Research Award winner. The Judy Pitts Research Forum is held at the biennial AASL national

conference and features selected research papers. More information is available at www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aaslindex.htm.

- The International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) annual conference has research reports from varying countries. The 2006 conference was held in Lisbon, Portugal, having a conference theme of the Multiple Faces of Literacy: Reading, Knowing, Doing. Information about future conferences and reports from past conferences are available at www.iasl-slo.org/conferences.html.
- The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) holds an annual conference known as the National Educational Computing Conference (NECC) where research on technology in education always has a spot on the program. More information is available at www.iste.org/.
- Treasure Mountain Research Retreat is a group of school library scholars and practitioners who get together to share research and practice. Anyone interested in school library research may attend the retreats. The next Treasure Mountain Research Retreat is scheduled for October 2007. More information is available at www.seedwiki.com/wiki/treasure_mountain/treasure_mountain?wpid=710382&searchresult=710382.

Periodicals

- *School Library Media Research* (SLMR) is the online research journal of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) and regularly publishes formal studies done about school library programs. The table of contents from published issues as well full text of some articles are available at www.ala.org/aaslsmlrTemplate.cfm?Section=smlrb.
- School library publications regularly review various research studies in a more popular format. Examples include *Teacher Librarian* (www.teacherlibrarian.com), *School Library Journal* (www.schoollibraryjournal.com/), and *Knowledge Quest* (www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aaslpubsandjournals/kqweb/kqhome/kqhome.htm).
- *School Libraries Worldwide* is the official publication of the International Association of School Librarianship that reports research from around the world. Contents pages and article abstracts are available at www.iasl-slo.org/slww.html.

The Lance Studies

Here is a list of the Lance studies and their predecessors, the Gaver studies. All are linked at Library Research Services, a unit of the Colorado State Library and the Colorado Department of Education, at <http://lrs.org>.

- Alaska
2000 Lance, K. C., Hamilton-Pennell, C., Rodney, M. J., Peterson, L., & Sitter, C. (2000). *Information Empowered: The School Librarian as an Agent of Academic Achievement in Alaska Schools*. Executive summary and order information available at www.library.state.ak.us/dev/infoemp.html.
- Colorado I
1993 Lance, K. C., Wellborn, L., & Hamilton-Pennell, C. (1993). *Impact of School Library Media Centers on Academic Achievement: 1993 Colorado Study*. Castle Rock, CO: Hi Willow Research and Publishing. Also available from www.lmcsource.com.
- Colorado II
2000 Lance, K. C., Rodney, M. J., & Hamilton-Pennell, C. (2000). *How School Librarians Help Kids Achieve Standards: The Second Colorado Study*. Salt Lake City, UT: Hi Willow Research and Publishing. Also available from www.lmcsource.com.
- Gaver
1963 Gaver, M. V. (1963). *Effectiveness of Centralized Library Service in Elementary Schools* (2nd Ed.). New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press. It is out of print but can be found in many academic libraries or school district professional libraries.
- Illinois
2005 Lance, K. C., Rodney, M. J., & Hamilton-Pennell, C. *Powerful Libraries Make Powerful Learners: The Illinois Study*. Canton, IL: Illinois School Library Media Association available www.islma.org.
- Iowa
2002 Lance, K. C., Rodney, M. J., & Hamilton-Pennell, C. (2002). *Make the Connection: Quality School Library Media Programs Impact Academic Achievement in Iowa*. Bettendorf, IA: Iowa Area Education Agencies and Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency. Available at www.aea9.k12.ia.us/download/04/aea_statewide_study.pdf.
- Massachusetts
2000 Baughman, J. C. (2000). *School Libraries and MCAS Scores*. Preliminary Edition. Boston, MA: Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Available at <http://web.simmons.edu/~baughman/mcas-school-libraries/Baughman%20Paper.pdf>.
- Michigan
2003 Rodney, M. J., Lance, K. C., & Hamilton-Pennell, C. (1993). *The Impact of Michigan School Librarians on Academic Achievement: Kids Who Have Libraries Succeed*. Salt Lake City, UT: Hi Willow Research and Publishing. Available from www.lmcsource.com.
- New Mexico
2002 Lance, K. C., Rodney, M. J., & Hamilton-Pennell, C. (2002). *How School Libraries Improve Outcomes for Children: The New Mexico Study*. Santa Fe: NM: New Mexico State Library. Available from www.lmcsource.com.
- Oregon
2001 Lance, K. C., Rodney, M. J., & Hamilton-Pennell, C. (2001). *Good Schools Have School Librarians: Oregon School Librarians Collaborate to Improve*

Academic Achievement. Salem, OR: Oregon Educational Media Association. Available online at www.oema.net/Oregon_Study/OR_Study.htm and in print from www.lmcsource.com.

- Pennsylvania
2000 Lance, K. C., Rodney, M. J., & Hamilton-Pennell, C. (2000). *Measuring up to Standards: The Impact of School Library Programs & Information Literacy in Pennsylvania Schools*. Greensburg, PA: Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries. Available online at www.lrs.org/impact.asp and at www.statelibrary.state.pa.us/libraries/lib/libraries/measuringup.pdf.
- Texas
2001 Smith, E. (2001). *Texas School Libraries: Standards, Resources, Services, and Students' Performance*. Austin, TX: EGS Research and Consulting. Available at www.tsl.state.tx.us/ld/pubs/schlibsurvey/index.html.

Other Research Studies on School Libraries and Achievement

- Australia
2003 Lonsdale, M. (2003). *Impact of School Libraries on Achievement: A Review of the Research: Report for the Australian School Library Association*. Melbourne, Australia: Australian Council for Educational Research. Available at www.asla.org.au/research/.
- Delaware
2005 &
2006 Todd, R. (2005). *Report of the Delaware School Library Survey 2004—On behalf of the Governor's Task Force on School Libraries, Part 1: Facts, Findings, and Recommendations*. New Brunswick, NJ: Center for International Scholarship in School Libraries.
- Todd, R. (2006). *Report of the Delaware School Library Survey 2004—On behalf of the Governor's Task Force on School Libraries, Part 2: Survey Instrument and Data of the Delaware School Library Survey 2004*. New Brunswick, NJ: Center for International Scholarship in School Libraries.
- Both are available at www.cissl.scils.rutgers.edu/research/delaware.html.
- Florida
2003 Baumbach, D. J. (2003). *Making the Grade: The Status of School Library Media Centers in the Sunshine State and How They Contribute to Student Achievement*. Salt Lake City, UT: Hi Willow Research and Publishing. Available for purchase from www.lmcsource.com.

- Indiana
Ongoing *Survey of Indiana School Library Media Programs*. Indianapolis, IN: Association for Indiana Media Educators and Indiana University—Indianapolis, School of Library and Information Science. This is an ongoing study. Follow it online at www.ilfonline.org/Units/Associations/aime/Data/index.htm.
- Minnesota
2003 Baxter, S. J., & Smalley, A. W. (2003). *Check It Out!: The Results of the School Library Media Program Census*. Saint Paul, MN: Metronet. Available at <http://metronet.lib.mn.us/survey/index.cfm>.
- Missouri
2003 Miller, J., Want, J., Whitacre, L., & Quantitative Resources. (2000). *Show Me Connection: How School Library Media Center Services Impact Student Achievement*. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Missouri State Library. Available at <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/curriculum/librarystudy/libraryresearch.pdf>.
- North
Carolina
2004 Burgin, R., & Bracy, P. B. (2004). *An Essential Connection: How Quality School Library Media Programs Improve Student Achievement in North Carolina*. Salt Lake City, UT: Hi Willow Research and Publishing. Available at www.rburgin.com/NCschools2003/NCSchoolStudy.pdf and an updated version from www.lmcsource.com.
- Ohio
2003 Todd, R. J. (2003). *Student Learning Through Ohio School Libraries: A Summary of the Ohio Research Study*. Columbus, OH: Ohio Educational Library Media Association. Available at www.oelma.org/StudentLearning/documents/OELMAResearchStudy8page.pdf.
- Scotland
2001 Williams, D., & Wavell, C. (2001). *The Impact of the School Library Resource Centre on Learning: Library and Information Commission Research Report 112*. Aberdeen, UK: The Robert Gordon University for the Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries. Available at www.rgu.ac.uk/files/SLRCreport.pdf.
- Smalley
2004 Smalley, T. N. (2004, May). College Success: High School Librarians Make a Difference. *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, (30)3, 193–198. Available at www.foslsantacruz.org/14243009.pdf.

Other Research Reviews of Interest

- ASCD
2004 What Research Says About Reading. (2004, March). *Educational Leadership*, 61(6). Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. This issue of the journal includes numerous articles reviewing the research. Available for purchase from <http://shop.ascd.org/productdisplay.cfm?productid=104028>.

- Brock Study 2005 Brock, C. C., & Morton, K. R. (2003) *Trade Books: How they Significantly Increase Students' Vocabulary, Comprehension, Fluency, and Positive Attitudes Toward Reading, Research Report 1739-004*. Charlotte, NC: Institute for Literacy Enhancement. Available at <http://72.14.209.104/search?q=cache:rHRYpRUavMsJ:personal.tcu.edu/~cblock/executive%2520summary%2520to%2520scholastic.doc+Institute+for+Literacy+Enhance+Research+Report+1739-004+A+Research+Investigation&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=2&gl=us&client=firefox-a>.
- CARET 2005 Center for Applied Research in Technology (CARET) is the research on technology databank sponsored by the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). Articles, reports, and other documents are available at <http://caret.iste.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=resources>.
- Carnegie Corporation 2006 Biancarosa, C., & Snow, C. E. (2006). *Reading Next—A Vision for Action and Research in Middle and High School Literacy: A Report to Carnegie Corporation of New York (2nd Ed.)*. Washington, DC: Alliance for Excellent Education. Available at www.all4ed.org/publications/ReadingNext/.
- Cawelti Buide 2004 Cawelti, G. (Ed.). (2004). *Handbook of Research on Improving Student Achievement* (3rd Ed.). Alexandria, VA: Educational Research Service. A very useful summation and analysis of the research in various parts of the curriculum and education in general. Available for purchase from www.ers.org/.
- Chelton and Cool 2004 & 2006 Chelton, M. K., & Cool, C. (2004). *Youth Information Seeking Behavior: Theories, Models, and Issues*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press.
- Chelton, M. K., & Cool, C. (2006). *Youth Information Seeking Behavior II: Context, Theories, Models, and Issues*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press.
- Both available for purchase from www.scarecrowpress.com.
- Krashen 2004 Krashen, S. (2004). *The Power of Reading, 2nd Edition: Insights from the Research*. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited. Available for purchase online at www.lu.com.
- Krashen Krashen, S. D. Stephen Krashen's web site offers articles and books, along with pithy and pointed critique of reading research through his replies to editors, newspapers, and journals throughout the world. There is no truer friend to libraries and their impact on reading. View his archives and subscribe to his mailing list at sdkrashen.com.
- Loertscher And Woolls 2002 Loertscher, D. V., & Woolls, B. (2002). *Information Literacy: A Review of the Research* (2nd Ed.). Salt Lake City, UT: Hi Willow Research and Publishing. Available for purchase from www.lmcsource.com.

- Marzano
2003+ Marzano, R. (2003). *What Works in Schools: Translating Research Into Action*. Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. The Robert Marzano What Works in Schools resources are indispensable as a key to research in educational theory and curriculum development. Available for purchase from www.ascd.org/.
- McQuillan
1998 McQuillan, J. (1998). *The Literacy Crisis*. Portsmouth NH: Heinemann. Available for purchase online at www.heinemann.com.
- Scholastic
Reading
Bibliography
2005 *Classroom Libraries Work: Research on the Use of Trade Books to Improve Reading Achievement*. (2005). New York: Scholastic. This pamphlet lists a number of research articles connected to reading. Available at <http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/classroombooks/pdfs/research/ResearchPaper.pdf>.
- Scholastic
Library
Bibliography
2006 Young, T. (2006). *Research Foundation Paper: School Libraries Work!, Updated 2006 Edition*. Danbury, CT: Scholastic Publishing. Available at www.scholastic.com/librarians/printables/downloads/slw_2006.pdf.
- What
Works
Clearinghouse
2002 What Works Clearinghouse. (2002.) U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences. The What Works Clearinghouse was established to provide educators, policymakers, researchers, and the public with a central and trusted source of scientific evidence of what works in education. Technical working papers are available at www.whatworks.ed.gov/howeare/overview.html.

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