

Foreword

Suzette Boyd is lively, creative, engaging and a leader in her field. So, no surprise then that 'The Connected Library' is lively, creative and engaging.

I'd go further though, and say that I've never read such a wonderful distillation of ideas, presented in such a compact and accessible form.

I mean no disrespect to librarians from previous eras when I say running a library in those days was like flying a Cessna compared to flying today's jumbo jets. I like the analogy, because today's librarians seem to me to be seated (and yes, I admit the analogy falters at that image!) at the controls of a vast and complex machine, on which many people depend.

Flying these jumbos embraces everything from running literary clubs to strategic planning; from creating home pages to conducting user surveys; from imagining the future to liaising with teachers; from listening to stakeholders to building collections; and so it goes on and on. All of this and more is described in 'The Connected Library'.

But above and beyond the ideas and strategies and suggestions is a great theme.

It is this: a librarian's success in effecting change in a school, in bringing about the enrichment of students' lives will depend on many factors, but one which is indispensable is her ability to achieve status and influence in the school, to assert herself, to become a person of significance in the day to day life of the institution.

It is this theme that transforms 'The Connected Library' from a 'how-to manual' to a work of much greater significance.

'The Connected Library' is a flight manual for librarians. It is astonishing in its wisdom, and provides an outstanding model of clear, concise, effective communication.

John Marsden

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