
SCHOOL LIBRARIAN'S GUIDE TO STAYING CONNECTED

School librarians often serve as the only person in their role within their building, or even their district. Without intentional connection, it is easy to feel isolated. Staying connected helps you:

- Share ideas, resources, and strategies.
- Build a support network for troubleshooting challenges.
- Keep up with trends and best practices.
- Boost morale and reduce burnout.
- Strengthen your advocacy voice.

Stay Connected Within Your School

Even if you are the only librarian, you can still weave yourself into the school's daily life.

- **Join a committee or leadership team:** Volunteer for literacy teams, technology committees, or school improvement groups.
- **Collaborate intentionally:** Schedule short check-ins with teachers to brainstorm lesson tie-ins or co-teach.
- **Attend non-library events:** Show your presence beyond the library walls at staff socials, pep rallies, after-school clubs.
- **Share your wins:** Send quick emails or staff newsletter blurbs highlighting library successes.

Connect Across Your District

- **Start a "Library Cohort":** If there are other librarians in your district, arrange a monthly virtual coffee chat or shared document for resource exchange.
- **Invite collaboration:** Offer to help new teachers, present at PD days, or host district-wide literacy challenges.
- **Share tools & templates:** Build goodwill by circulating lesson plans, displays, or program ideas through shared drives.

Tap Into State & Regional Networks

- Join your state library association (SDLA)
- Attend regional PD events
- Participate in state programs

Leverage Online Communities

The internet is a goldmine for library connection.

- **Join librarian Facebook groups or forums**
- **Follow library leaders on social media:** Get inspiration from displays, tech tools, and advocacy ideas.
- **Use professional networks like LinkedIn:** Connect with librarians nationwide and join library-related groups.

Create a Personal Connection Plan

Connection doesn't happen by accident. Make it intentional. Try setting:

- **Weekly goal:** Reach out to one colleague with an idea, question, or resource.
- **Monthly goal:** Attend one professional meeting, webinar, or virtual chat.
- **Quarterly goal:** Present something you've tried (big or small) to a peer group.

Quick Connection Boosters

- **Start a "What's Working" group chat** with local librarians.
- **Host an open library meet-up** for teachers after school.
- **Pair up with a mentor or mentee** - mutual support benefits both.
- **Celebrate together:** share book-themed days, successes, and funny moments.

Remember

You might be the only librarian in your school, but you are part of a much bigger professional family. Each connection you make, whether it is with a teacher down the hall, a librarian across the state, or an online colleague halfway around the world, adds to your support system, strengthens your practice, and reminds you that you are never truly alone in this work.