

What is the school librarian doing?

You'd be surprised to know what your school librarian is actually doing, when they look like they are just sitting at a computer or shelving books. Did you know school librarian positions across the nation usually require master's degrees or certifications in Library and Information Science? Yes! library is a science in the same way that Biology or Chemistry is a science!

by  **The Lagniappe**
Librarian

What people see:

The librarian is reading books.

The librarian is shelving books.

The librarian is sitting at the computer or looking at their phone.

The librarian is talking in front of a class of students.

The librarian isn't in the library.

The students are talking in the library and the librarian is not stopping them.

The librarian is throwing away 'perfectly good' books.

The librarian has canceled classes and the teachers don't have a planning period.

The library books are falling apart and the librarian is letting them pile up and not fixing them.

The librarian is 'chit-chatting' with the parents.

The librarian put the book back on the shelf after they were told it was inappropriate.

What the librarian does:

The librarian is skimming a book to evaluate its usefulness for a lesson or display.

The librarian is taking mental notes on what books are being looked at and checked out to evaluate the collection while also finding books for repair, among other things.

The librarian is communicating with stakeholders. They are collecting, organizing, and evaluating data and information, planning lessons, planning reading programs, planning fundraisers, creating digital resources for the school, and running social media and websites.

The librarian is teaching lessons on digital literacy, inquiry, informational resources, research skills, ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies, STEM, etc.

The librarian went to the bathroom, to lunch, to run an errand, to put communications in teacher's boxes, or to connect with teachers and students in their domain.

The librarian is allowing students to communicate, collaborate, think critically, and be creative for the sake of inquiry, knowledge, growth, and learning.

The librarian is deselecting materials that are in poor condition, have false information, are outdated, or are getting in students' ways because they are un-circulated. They are weeding in order to service students with the most effective materials.

The librarian is at a training or professional development to improve themselves professionally in order to best service their students.

The librarian has been overwhelmed by tasks unrelated to library, leaving them unable to complete the most basic and necessary tasks such as book repair.

The librarian is communicating with parents about how they can better service students and families.

The librarian is a champion for intellectual freedom, and removing materials from the collection without a formal challenge is blatant censorship.