

A Dozen reasons why Librarians require a Master's Degree to do their jobs effectively!

1. Librarians have to have an in-depth understanding of the state and national curriculum for ALL subjects and have that knowledge reflected in their collections which makes classroom teachers' lives easier when they take advantage of our materials, knowledge and skills and this indirectly increases student achievement.
2. We have to know how to build, maintain, and administrate a library collection that meets ALL of the needs of: students, faculty, staff and community, which includes supporting their individual interests as well as the state mandated curriculums.
3. We had to have been a classroom teacher first, for at least three years, before we can become a degreed and certified librarian, best practices pedagogy is probably a fourth of our degree requirement.
4. We have to be able to fully integrate information literacy and library research skills into classroom activities and teach administration and teachers how to do it as well.
5. We have to be knowledgeable of all technology, it's set up and usage in order to train administration, teachers and students as needed in its use.
6. We have to be research experts so that if we don't know the answer to a question, we know where and how to find the answer needed, we are masters of learning on demand!
7. We have to acquire materials that are vetted for safety in all available formats and effectively organize them all for ease of access and use in order to meet the regular and specialized needs of administration, teachers, students and community.
8. We have to have a comprehensive understanding of intellectual property rights, fair use policies and copyright use and be able to advise both administration and faculty of its proper use. We are local copyright experts that have knowledge of all citation styles.
9. We have to have the financial acuity and skill to manage and maintain a budget and know how to apply for outside funding opportunities like grants, and how to spend our district's money in the most effective manner. We have to be good stewards of our school districts money and resources, after all, the libraries' net resources are usually upwards of several hundred thousand dollars even in a small school library.
10. We have to be able to collaborate, plan and execute lessons that support and enrich the students' classroom experiences and which help to raise student understanding and their test scores across the board.
11. We have to have a comprehensive understanding of child development, needs and skills, including those of special needs students, and develop and maintain resources to support all of the individual learning styles to the best of our abilities.
12. And, we have to do all of these in a manner that welcomes, teaches and instills a lifetime love of learning for all patrons so that they can go on to become successful, productive, and globally informed citizens in our communities.