

RESOURCES

- Alliance Library System—www.alliancelibrarysystem.com
- Illinois School Library Media Association—www.islma.org
- ISLMANET-L—www.islma.org/listserv.htm
- Faculty Book Club—www.wacohi.net (browse the library page)
- Illinois Library Association—www.ila.org
- American Library Association—www.ala.org
- ALS School Librarians Blog—<http://alsschoollibrarians.blogspot.com>
- School Library Curriculum—<http://curriculum-resources.wikidot.com/>
- WebJunction Illinois—<http://il.webjunction.org/il-catalog>
- Ed2Go—www.ed2go.com/als
- Library Learning—www.librarylearning.info
- School Library Journal—www.schoollibraryjournal.com/
- VOYA: Voice of Youth Advocates—www.voya.com
- Powerful Libraries Make Powerful Learners: The Illinois Study—www.alliancelibrarysystem.com/illinoisstudy/
- The Monarch Award: Illinois K-3 Children's Choice Award—www.islma.org/monarch.htm
- Rebecca Caudill Young Readers Book Award (grades 4-8) —www.rcyrb.org
- Abraham Lincoln Illinois High School Book Award—www.islma.org/lincoln.htm
- Illinois School Library Media Association. [edited by Pamela K. Kramer] *Linking for Learning: The Illinois School Library Media Program Guidelines*. (Canton, IL: ISLMA, 2005)
- American Association of School Librarians. [edited by Linda Wallace] *Toolkit for School Library Media Programs*. (Chicago: American Library Association, 2003)
- American Association of School Librarians and Association for Educational Communications and Technology. *Information Power: Building Partnerships for Learning*. (Chicago: American Library Association, 1998)



Alliance Library System

Consulting and Continuing Education

(309) 694-9200

www.alliancelibrarysystem.com



TAKE ACTION

Self-Advocacy Tips for School Librarians

NETWORK

- Create a lunch group, coffee clutch, or book club with teachers, administrators, and other librarians.
- Share ideas, challenges, and successes with other librarians and faculty by email and blogs. Join listservs such as ISLMANET-L.
- Take advantage of social opportunities with teachers and parents.
- Join professional organizations, such as ISLMA, ILA, and ALA, and attend conferences and workshops.

LEARN

- Learn from your desk with WIMBA programming.
- Attend training online and anytime via WebJunction and Ed2Go.
- Participate in continuing education classes and Summer Camp for School Librarians sponsored by Alliance Library System.
- Read career-specific publications, such as *School Library Journal* and *VOYA: Voice of Youth Advocates*.

ADVOCATE

- Publish public relations materials to promote the library to the students, teachers, parents, administrators, and community.
- Keep statistics and provide reports to show the library's usage, programs, and benefits.
- Show what the library contributes to the educational program at your school.
- Create a library newsletter.
- Define your role and job description to include your planning and library maintenance tasks, as well as the tasks that require interaction with students, faculty, and administration.

ASSESS

- Ask yourself questions such as:

What are the programs in place?

Do they meet the needs of students and teachers?

What can be done better in my library?

What is no longer useful or efficient?

What can be eliminated?

What are your strengths? Your weaknesses?

- Identify both opportunities and obstacles in the library and school.

INNOVATE

- Explore how trends, such as manga, graphic novels, virtual reality, iPods, and video games, can impact your library positively.
- Seek new grants and sources of funding to expand materials, services, and facilities.
- Partner with other departments to showcase displays and student artwork in order to create a fresh appearance in the library.
- Develop or participate in new programs, such as the Monarch, Caudill, or Lincoln reading award programs.
- Involve students in material selection.

