

Oregon schools with the best reading scores tend to have stronger library media programs than schools with the lowest scores.

At most grade levels, when the confounding effects of poverty are taken into account, library media programs exert a measurable impact on test scores while other school variables, such as per pupil expenditures and teacher-pupil ratio, do not.

Other School Library Impact Studies

For more information about recent research on the impact of school library media programs on academic achievement, visit the Library Research Service web site, <http://www.lrs.org>. Links are provided to:

- **The Impact of School Library Media Centers on Academic Achievement** (the original 1993 Colorado study),
- **How School Librarians Help Kids Achieve Standards: *The Second Colorado Study*** (2000),
- **Information Empowered: *The School Librarian as an Agent of Academic Achievement in Alaska*** (2nd edition, 2000), and
- **Measuring Up to Standards: *The Role of Library Information Programs & Information Literacy in Pennsylvania Schools*** (2000)

Contact Information

Direct questions and comments about this research to:

Keith Curry Lance
Library Research Service
201 E. Colfax Ave., Suite 309
Denver, CO 80203-1799
Tel.: 303-866-6737
Fax: 303-866-6940
E-mail: keithlance@earthlink.net

GOOD

Schools Have School LIBRARIANS

Oregon School Librarians Collaborate to Improve Academic Achievement



Keith Curry LANCE
Marcia J. RODNEY
Christine HAMILTON-PENNELL

Published with funds granted by the Oregon State Library under the Library Services Technology Act State Administered Program, P. L. 104-208

Oregon Educational Media Association
2001

Teach the Teacher

As a mentor I have been working with three elementary schools in our district. I have made presentations about the OSLIS Website to the teachers in each of the schools. Wow! It was like giving candy to a baby! Teachers who are often the first to go home stayed way beyond my allotted time exploring all the options. They thanked us for such a wonderful site.

Then I was invited to two of the schools to participate in their group planning for their collaboration projects. Again I was delighted with everyone's excitement. All three schools will be completing their projects this year.

Char Wisely, Media Specialist
Abraham Lincoln Elementary
Medford

School library media programs in Oregon schools exert a positive and statistically significant impact on academic achievement.

- Successful LM programs have
- professional and support staff,
 - library media specialists who are involved in teaching and learning as well as information access and delivery,
 - diverse collections in multiple formats,
 - high levels of individual and group visits to the LMC,
 - information technology that extends throughout the school, and
 - expenditures that support these efforts.

The impact of LM programs on Oregon reading scores at elementary and secondary levels cannot be explained away by other school and community conditions.

Inspiration Point

When librarians are available full-time, students learn that the librarian is the person who can help them with all sorts of things as they work to meet their learning goals. Students are inspired by the types of presentations a teacher-librarian can provide and are often inspired to try new methods themselves. It's most rewarding when a student asks, "Can you show me how to do what you just did?"
Garnetta Wilker, Librarian, Lake Oswego Junior High School

"Wow- there are some great new books here. I can't wait to read them. Can I check one out now?"
Student, Lake Oswego Junior High School

"This is our library. It's the place where you can find everything you need."
Student giving a tour to new seventh grade students, Lake Oswego Junior High School