

Members of the School Libraries and Information Literacy Unit continue to consult regularly with teacher-librarians and principals and welcome the opportunity to provide that level of consultancy. It is not currently envisaged that the level of state-wide consultancy will be increased. We welcome feedback from principals, teacher librarians and school communities regarding major priorities to best target appropriate consultancy support in an ongoing way.

7. Do you support the pre-service teacher training of information literacy, the role of the teacher-librarian, and cooperative planning & teaching?

Teacher librarians are essential teaching partners in the planning and implementation of the teaching and learning program of the school.

The NSW Institute of Teachers has responsibility for setting the requirements for universities for initial teacher education programs. The NSW Department of Education and Training has indicated to the Institute's working party on initial teacher education programs that courses should include information about specialist teachers, including teacher librarians.

Currently there are no pre-service initial teacher education programs specialising in teacher librarianship. Qualified teachers taking up an appointment as a teacher librarian in a NSW public schools enrol in a postgraduate course in teacher librarianship, such as the course offered by Charles Sturt University, to qualify as a teacher librarian. In their course, teachers cover substantial content on information literacy, the role of the teacher librarian and co-operative planning and teaching.

The Department supports the training of teachers who take up a position in a school library through the Teacher Librarian Retraining Program, by payment of course fees and provision of study time and mentoring support.