

Collaborative Leadership in the Learning Commons

Part 1: What is a Learning Commons?



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The notions of the library as a community space and as a learning space are sympathetic, and design considerations for one can complement the other. So let's look at the library through the lens of new opportunities and imagine what it could be.

A. Brooks Kirkland (2013). *Transforming Library Spaces*
<http://clatoolbox.ca/casl/slicv31n3/313brookskirkland.html>

The Learning Commons liberations the exploration of ideas and concepts, encouraging inquiry, imagination, discovery and creativity through the connection of learners to information, to each other and to communities around the world.

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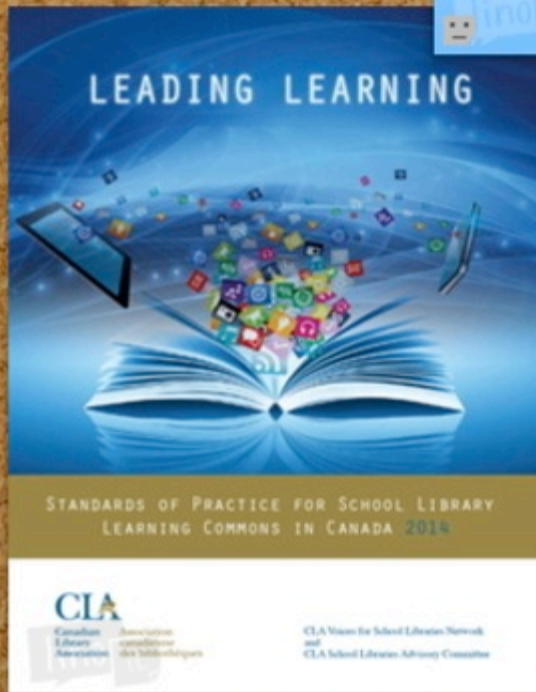
The New Learner

How are kids these days different than previous generations?

What do kids these days need from their schools?

What does their future look like?

What do
you
think?





The Conference Board
of Canada

Le Conference Board
du Canada

Employability Skills 2000+

Fundamental Skills

Communicate

Manage Information

Use Numbers

Think and Solve Problems

Personal Management Skills

Demonstrate Positive Attitudes
and Behaviours

Be Responsible

Be Adaptable

Learn Continuously

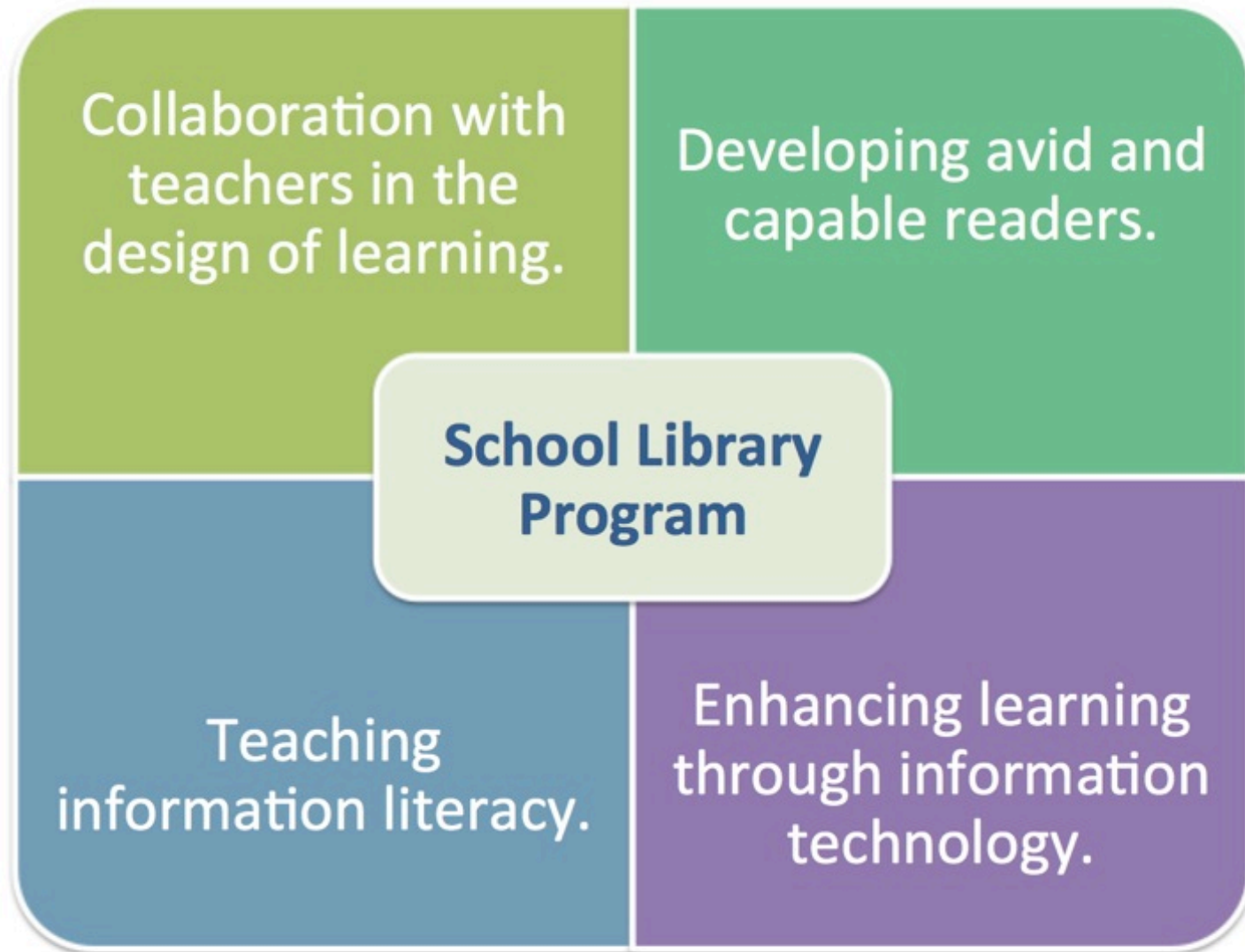
Work Safely

Teamwork Skills

Work With Others

Participate in
Projects and Tasks

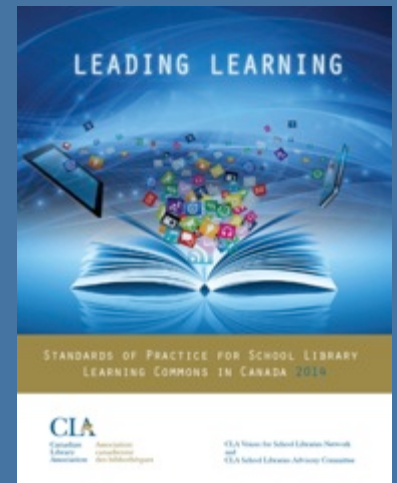
Loertscher's Cornerstones of the School Library Program



(Adapted from Loertscher, D.V., *Reinventing Your School's Library in the Age of Technology: a guide for principals and superintendents*. Hi Willow Research and Publishing, 2002)

What is a Library Learning Commons?

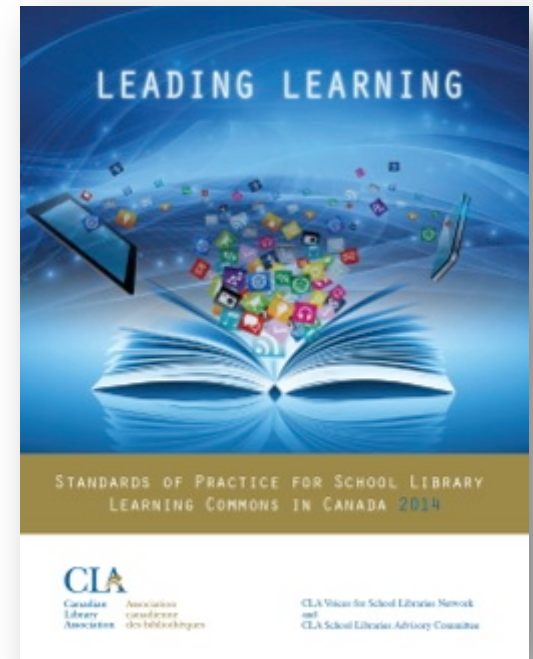
A learning commons is a whole school approach to building a participatory learning community. The library learning commons is the physical and virtual collaborative learning hub of the school. It is designed to engineer and drive future-oriented learning and teaching throughout the entire school. Inquiry, project/problem-based learning experiences are designed as catalysts for intellectual engagement with information, ideas, thinking, and dialogue. Reading thrives, learning literacies and technology competencies evolve, and critical thinking, creativity, innovation and playing to learn are nourished. Everyone is a learner; everyone is a teacher working collaboratively toward excellence.

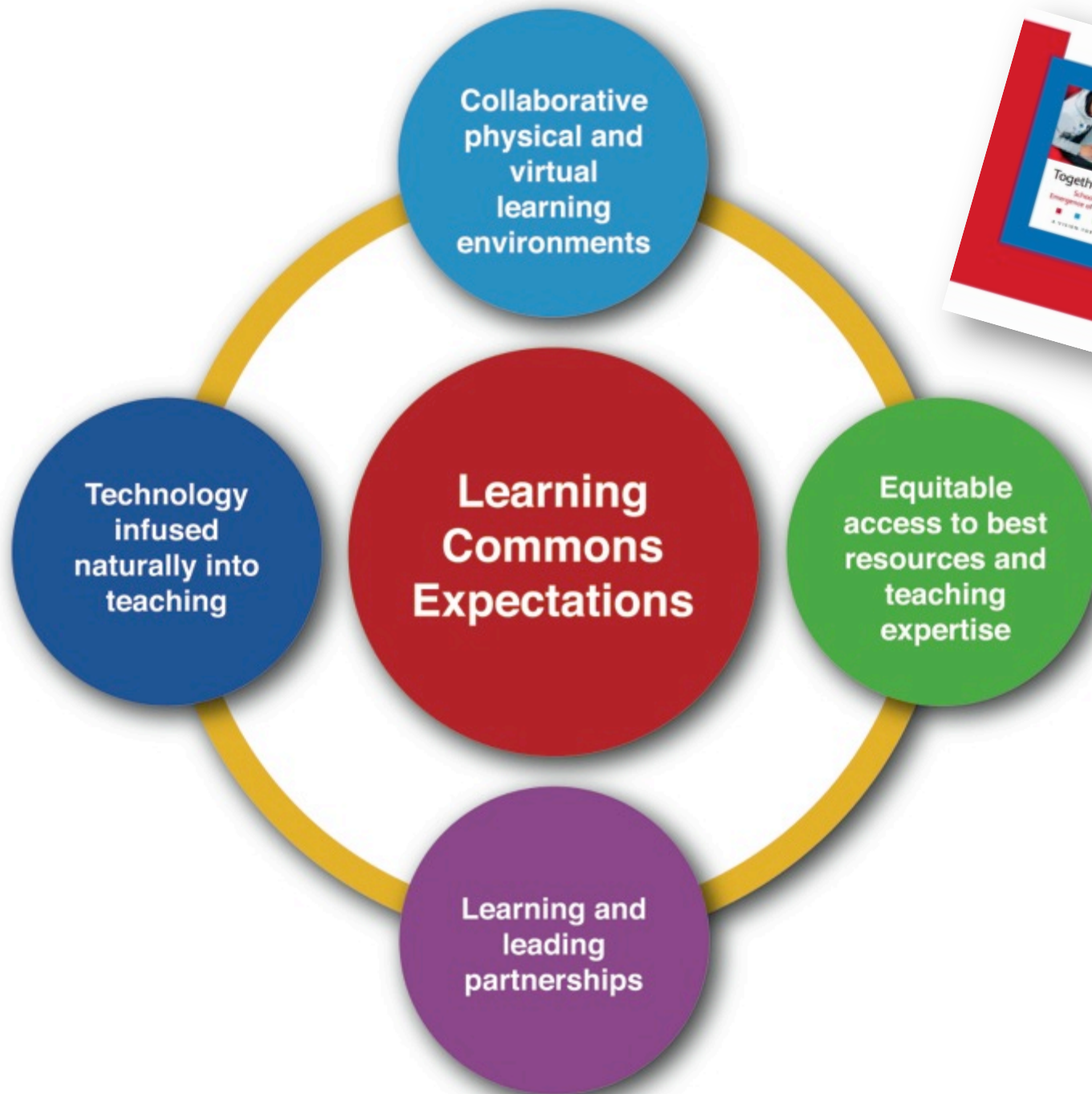


Canadian Library Association (2014). *Leading Learning: Standards of Practice for School Library Learning Commons in Canada*.

What is a Library Learning Commons?

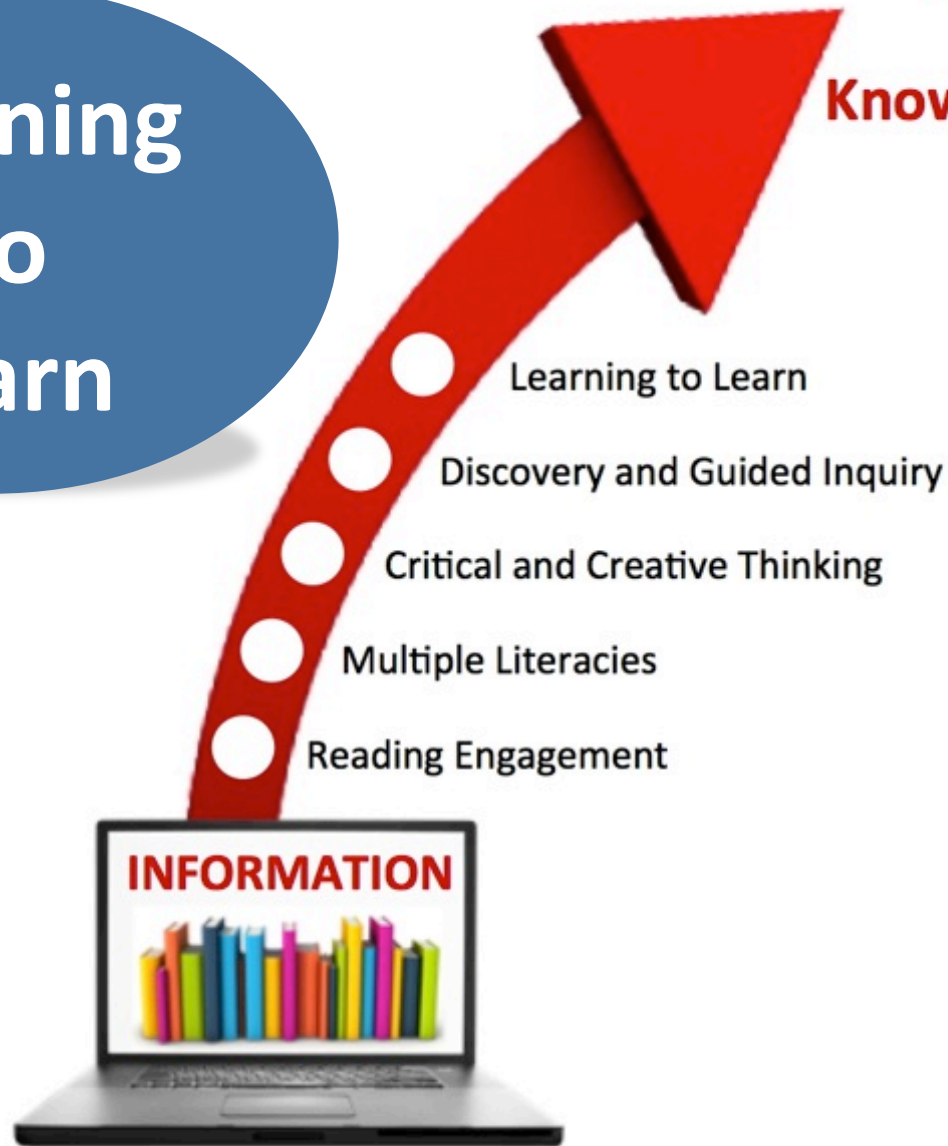
- ❖ Whole school approach
- ❖ Participatory learning community
- ❖ Physical and virtual collaborative learning
- ❖ Drives future-oriented learning and teaching
- ❖ Inquiry, project/problem-based learning:
 - ❖ Reading
 - ❖ Learning literacies
 - ❖ Technology competencies
 - ❖ Critical thinking
 - ❖ Creativity
 - ❖ Innovation
 - ❖ Playing to learn
- ❖ Everyone is a learner, everyone is a teacher
- ❖ Working collaboratively toward excellence





Learning To Learn

**Deep Understanding
and
Knowledge Creation**



Seeing everyone as a learner is at the crux of the Learning Commons.

Collaboration



Community

Within a Learning Commons, new relationships are formed between learners, new technologies are realized and utilized, and both students and educators prepare for the future as they learn new ways to learn.

Creativity

Co-Learning