End of Year 2016

The Memorial Library reflects on the past year and looks forward to the year ahead.

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The Collection

FOCUS: to create collections that contain high interest, relevant reading materials and support curriculum teaching and learning; ensuring also that the book stock is appealing and well maintained.

Main points:

- Intensive weeding of fiction by removing copies that had not been issued in the last five years.
- Buying plan this year has focused on: student requests, illustrated texts, graphic novels, Māori and Pasifika resources.
- Non-fiction resources are not being borrowed as much in the last three years, the focus on this collection continues to be reading engagement and endeavouring to locate NZ books that are still used by the History Department but are no longer in print.
- Re-labelling, correcting catalogue records, and authority control of subject headings for non-fiction books continues.
- Catalogue records for series books have now been made uniform and new spine labels attached so they are more easily discoverable by users. Upon completion of this task, series books were reintegrated back into the fiction collection.

Library Resources by Collection
Library Usage

Main points:

- The library continues to be a busy and active place during break times.
- While the English Department appears to continue their domination of library usage, their use has actually dropped by 40%. One English teacher made use of the National Library’s reading engagement loan, which saw her classes visit less than normal. However, I will need to discuss this with the department to find out the reasons for the great decrease in usage.
- The Social Sciences department saw their library usage increase by over 100%. As they didn’t appear to use any of the collections or services available in the library, I can only put this increase down to lack of IT resources in F Block.
- Some Year 13 students utilised the library for their study time this year – though not as many as past years. There was little difficulty with them, and I would probably vote them as the 2nd best cohort since I’ve been here!
- Other uses for the library this year include: Scinde House information evening, university recruitment and lectures, ANZAC and Service assembly refreshment area, Year 10 Careers expo hub, Year 13 Art exhibition gallery, exam venue, furniture supplier for Dads n Lads breakfast and Year 13 hospitality cafe, interschool debating, and Old Boys’ reunion.

Library Use by Department

- English: 45%
- Social Sciences: 26%
- Maori: 6%
- Science: 3%
- Commerce: 2%
- Careers: 16%
- Other: 2%
Library Teaching

Main points:
- Year 9 and 10 library orientation presentations: included note taking
- Year 9 and 10 book talks: including how to choose a book
- Science 2.4 standard: on the importance of referencing, included how to use RefMe, an online tool, to collate a reference list
- English 2.8 standard: included keyword search strategies, searching different information repositories and how to evaluate web sources
- English 2.9 standard: book talking good reads at an appropriate level
- English 3.8A standard: included using a framework for more effective search methods, searching different information repositories and how to evaluate sources

Total Yearly Issues

This year’s issues continue to be very disappointing. This may be partly due to the fact that the Memorial Library did not run a junior school reading competition again this year. However, if the school is serious about its desire to raise the literacy levels of our students a school-wide effort at improving our reading culture is required.

*NB: 2010 is the year that the silent reading programme was stopped at NBHS*

“I think I’ve found my happy place!”

*Year 9 student, during his library orientation session*
Library ICT

FOCUS: to integrate technologies to help the Memorial Library be seen as a centre of information, in all its forms; and to endeavour to provide library access anytime, anywhere.

Main points:

- This year saw the introduction of Tech-free Tuesday, with no devices allowed during interval and lunchtime. The main reason for this is student health and wellbeing. Most of the students are not a fan of the library’s tech-free status on this day and it has become our quietest day of the week. This initiative will probably continue next year.
- EBooks are now available for loan: we joined a consortium with other high schools this year allowing access to over 1200 eBooks. This was promoted in Term 4; experiences in other schools show this collection needs to be promoted regularly to be used well.
- Content curation of digital resources continues to be a challenge. To do this job well requires time, which is not always available, and the service also needs to be constantly promoted. I have worked with Sarah Collins learning how to “embed” this service into class notebooks with OneNote. This needs to be continued to develop in 2017.
- The Library’s online presence has continued to be a bit hit-and-miss this year due to time and workload issues. A strategy will be put in place next year to ensure a more consistent approach to maintaining and promoting our online networks:
  - LiveBinders – a website curation tool.
  - GoodReads – social network for readers.
  - Tumblr – a microblogging platform.

Library Environment

Main points:

- New seating – has added comfort and a splash of colour
- Carpet was patched where it had become a tripping hazard
Professional Development

Professional Development I’ve received:

- uLearn Conference
- Attended SLANZA Central Professional Development sessions:
  - Your Dream Collection (collection development)
  - Book Covering 101
  - Publishers evening at Paper Plus Taradale
- Dr Ian Hunter’s *Write That Essay* workshop (held in the library)
- Oliver Software training webinar and User Group meeting
- Close reading of Rachel van Riel’s book *The Reader-friendly Library Service*
- Discussed embedded librarianship with Sarah Collins and how to utilise OneNote for this service
- Professional reading from my PLN (mainly Twitter) kept track of on my blog, *A Thoughtful Spot to Rest*
- National Library facilitated Hawke’s Bay School Library Network meetings
- Attended monthly #libchatnz Twitter chats

Professional development I’ve shared:

- Continued to run BookTalk group for Hawke’s Bay children and young people’s librarians to discuss books for kids
- Article published in SCIS Connections magazine (an Australian publication):
  - School libraries supporting literacy
- Article published in SLANZA’s Collected magazine:
  - But, wait…there’s more!
- National Library published one of my blog posts on their website
- Member of SLANZA Professional Development team:
  - Aided in writing and facilitating two-week online courses on: referencing and the ethical use of information; content curation
  - Wrote and facilitated online discussion group for Rachel van Riel’s book *The Reader-friendly Library Service*, and also participated in and facilitated a virtual tour of NZ school libraries
- Member of SLANZA Central Committee:
  - Wrote and presented “The Reader-friendly Library” session
  - Facilitated end of year “successes and challenges” get together

“A quiet space for study would be good.

Year 13 debater, when asked what the library lacked that he would use
Financial Management

Main points:
- There were no unexpected expenses this year.
- Using All Books to manage magazine subscriptions worked really well once all subscriptions were up and running. The time and energy that this has saved me is well worth the small fee.
- With an annual fee of $1250 we now have access to over 1200 eBooks thanks to a high school consortium. This represents great value for money, but still allows us the flexibility to add our own eBooks to the collection too.
- I had planned to spend a smaller amount on physical books this year, however, a large cull of the fiction section and many popular books needing replacement did not see this happen. I am conscious of limited shelf space and the “visual clutter” of too many books making it difficult for some boys to find something to read.
- A greater percentage of the budget needs to be spend on our digital collection next year. In particular, I will be looking at titles that support curriculum teaching and the possibility of multi-user eBooks.
- The security gates have been out of action most of the year. The end of year stocktake revealed only 30 books missing. The expense of fixing the gates and the cost of adding security tags to books is not justifiable by this small loss at this stage.
- Thanks to the Board of Trustees and Senior Management for your support of the Memorial Library – it is appreciated!

Library Spending

- Books: 63%
- Magazines: 7%
- Newspapers: 1%
- Software: 3%
- eBooks: 10%
- Book Protection: 10%
- Other: 6%
Other stuff

- ICT steering committee: I put myself forward to join this committee to help shape the direction the school takes towards digital technologies. While I appreciate the need to take an inclusive and measured approach, as an action person I do find the talking a little frustrating at times! I really enjoyed the opportunity I had to attend uLearn16 and found it a valuable experience.

- Relay for Life: helped Sarah Hargrave organise the NBHS team and supervised over the day. I was really impressed with the NBHS team, particularly the way the seniors included everyone in the team :)

- Exam invigilation: the library has always been a venue for school examinations and this year I was again required to supervise those exams. I mucked up over the timetable again, which meant I missed my lunch breaks. I will discuss the timetable with Bruce Smith next year and endeavour to get it right the third time!

- Prize giving: seemed to run okay. Due to the short notice about the server outage at the end of the year, I was unable to help Rob Silver out as much as I have in the past as I needed to get the stocktake done. Sorry about that, Rob!

- Judged Year 9 speech competition: I think this was my fourth year doing this. The standard was not as high this year as it has been in the past, but it was still an enjoyable experience seeing students in a new environment.

- Summer Lending: participation was disappointing again this year. I think I need to start promoting this earlier, before it gets swallowed up by the clearances process and prize giving madness.

Goals for 2017

Main goals for next year are:

1. Promote and increase Memorial Library presence online: to enable the students to have more access to the library and its services.
2. Spend more time and resources on curating digital collections to support curriculum teaching.
3. Survey a selection of student readers and non-readers about their attitudes, perceptions and ideas about the library.
4. Promote and encourage the use of our eBook collection.
5. Run a reading competition based on houses. More details to be decided.