

# Editorial

Staying connected and informed have never been more important, and professional reading can play a part in this. At a time when we find the state of the world troubling, our professional reading, and other forms of professional connection, can also help us to stay enthused about our work and inspire us with new ideas and programs. *Synergy* aims to be one part of this ongoing conversation.

Each year *Synergy* hosts a new guest as our Reflections and Actions Section author. Over the years we have welcomed a range of interesting commentators who have shared their work with us. For 2021, we welcome a guest author who has written for *Synergy* many times. [Dr Anne Whisken](#) wrote the Learning Landscapes section of *Synergy*, creating a series of articles that documented the development of a particularly beautiful school library and looked at the thoughts and planning that went in to creating it. Now a library consultant, Dr Whisken joins us to explore ideas as the guest author of the Reflections and Actions section for 2021, and we are thrilled to have her back with us.

In this issue's Strategies section, we are fortunate to have two articles describing literature festivals during 2020. While both were impacted by ongoing restrictions, one took place face to face and the other was conducted solely online. [Rachel Kerr](#) and [Claire Gibson](#) demonstrate their extraordinary levels of creativity, commitment, and enthusiasm – both creating excellent celebrations that will offer ideas and inspiration to many; the festivals they created were truly remarkable. I know you will enjoy reading about what they accomplished.

Of particular interest in this edition, is the Research into Practice section article entitled - [The Essential School Library: A prototype for the reform of 21st century education](#), by Dr Carol Gordon. This article brings together concepts and views that Dr Gordon has formulated and discussed for decades, as well as the views of other important commentators, offering us a model of an Essential Library worth exploring.

This issue of the journal includes a range of articles that engage with issues of our time – remote learning, well-being, disaster preparedness, and equity in collection development and programming. All the authors in this edition are to be congratulated for their work, and we thank them for sharing with us. We are thrilled to be able to bring their views to you, and hope that they inspire you to consider your own practice while helping you to remain connected to, and enthusiastic about, this wonderful profession we all belong to.

***Dr Susan La Marca***  
***Editor***