

# Reviews

## ChatGPT Resources:

Massachusetts Library System (2023). [ChatGPT and Generative Artificial Intelligence](#) [LibGuide, last updated 25/9/23]

Softlink (2022). [Navigating the Future of Education with AI Chatbots](#) [Blog]



*Reviewed by Joy Whiteside, Library Resource Manager, Christian College Geelong.*

Massachusetts Library System has developed an extensive LibGuide with curated ChatGPT and Generative Artificial Intelligence resources. One of the pages, dedicated to [AI and Schools](#), aims to assist library team members, teachers and school administrators to get started with learning about the technology and incorporating it into their practice. Many of the linked resources pose questions about the technology and its impact on the way that we live and work. While the impact on learning and pedagogy in the future is impossible to predict, this library guide and its resources can provide you with an understanding to get you started in the classroom or school library.

As I began to explore the resources I was intrigued by one of the sites linked on the guide: [School Librarian interviews ChatGPT](#). I wondered whether I could use the same technique to write this review! But no, ChatGPT relies on previously sourced data rather than accessing the internet and analysing a source. It seems that this is one of ChatGPT limitations! It is relying on data that it has accessed previously.

[Ways school libraries can make the most out of ChatGPT](#) is another resource linked on the guide. Lucas Maxwell explains that while not an expert he has made use of ChatGPT to assist with advice and guidance, particularly about what to read next, quizzes, creating displays, writing prompts, a guide to understand complex issues, and library program development. The blog post by Softlink also asked ChatGPT for a book recommendation as an exercise in using the technology and demonstrated the potential of using the technology for this purpose in the library. The Softlink blog post is a good introduction for library team members inexperienced with ChatGPT and wanting to start somewhere.

Both resources support the introduction, exploration and use of ChatGPT technology in the school library and classroom setting and promote the development of expertise so that we can assist students to know how to be critical users of the technology. Softlink explains that as with

all learning tools, students need to understand the limitations and potential inaccuracies of their sources of information. The Massachusetts Library System LibGuide is an extensive guide that that is a great starting point for anyone interested in learning about the technology and implementing it in their library or teaching practice. I recommend both resources.

**Editor's Note:** The following resource may also be of interest to readers:

ASCD (2023). [\*Navigate the World of AI Resources\*](#): Published in collaboration with ISTE.

## Leading for School Librarians: there is no other option

Weisburg, Hilda K (2023) *Leading for School Librarians: there is no other option* (2nd ed.). Chicago, Ill., ALA Neal-Schuman.



ISBN: 9780838938492

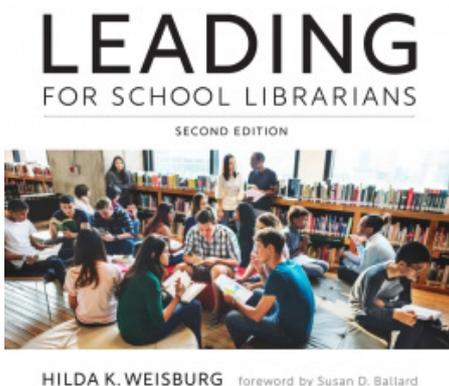
224 pages

*Reviewed by Margaret Sinnott, Library Coordinator, Emmanuel College Warrnambool.*

This book is an update of a 2017 publication. It calls on Library staff to take up the challenge of being a leader in their school library and ultimately a leader in their school, to improve outcomes for themselves and their students.

The 240-page book is divided in to three parts:

- Safe first steps to leadership
- Building your leadership skills
- Playing larger.



It consists of eleven chapters, with a foreword written by library professor and lecturer Susan D Ballard.

Weisburg in the introduction to the book states that “There is no other option. Librarians must learn how to lead in order for their programs to succeed and for them to thrive” (xv). Each chapter has an informative title enabling Library staff to dip in and out of the topics as required or alternatively to start at Chapter 1 and work through each one. Written with many American reference points, Australian school library staff could still easily identify with the statements and make links to our own Library standards and promotions. Each chapter includes key ideas, making it time efficient to glance over what has been written about in the chapter and perhaps mark in the book what they need to focus on (the beginnings of a personal career checklist), improve or change in themselves and how the school library operates and is perceived.

The chapters are written in an easily readable, approachable style, talking directly to the reader, always encouraging them to change and make the library and their role better. Included in the book are the qualities of a leader, developing library mission and vision statements, managing classes, being an expert teacher and the latter half of the book deals with library leadership skills: becoming a leader, finding your strengths, being visible and vital, using toolkits. In Chapter 9 which deals with always having a plan, Weisburg suggests we use S O A R (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations and Results), rather than the usual SWOT to analyse how we are perceived and how we can grow professionally.

Whatever career stage a Library professional is at, *Leading for School Librarians: there is no other option* (2023) is a very useful guide, a helpful planning tool to further elevate a library career while all the time improving the school library, its status, efficiency, breadth and programs of the person reading it.

## The School Library Toolkit

School Library Association of Victoria (2023A). *The School Library Toolkit*

*Brief Review by Rosemary Abbott, Synergy Reviews Editor*



The School Library Toolkit has been recently published and was introduced to participants at a recent SLAV Masterclass. It has been designed to enable additions to be made whenever appropriate. It will be available purchase shortly at a cost of \$100.

What is immediately striking on opening the Toolkit web page is the clean, clear design. It is easy to navigate regardless of where in the extensive range of materials you might find yourself. How it is laid out is clearly explained on the home page.

The Toolkit is arranged under five major headings; Spaces, Learning, Literacy, Management and Community. Each heading links to documents, articles, exemplars and templates. A strong connection is established throughout the website back to the SLAV Statement on School Libraries. For anyone uncertain as to the importance of the Toolkit, the question “Why do you need the Toolkit” is posed and answered in some detail, giving a clear explanation as to why time taken to investigate the resources is well spent.

Search buttons are to be found in numerous locations, and the breadcrumb trail for each resource is clearly displayed and assists further in easy navigation around the site.

The considerable value of the Toolkit is the extensive range of documents and articles on the key issues around the place of school libraries and the critical task of developing documentation for the individual library. The SLAV Statement on School Libraries is supplemented by resources from IFLA, Canadian School Libraries and other international associations.

Further Reading provides an extraordinary array of articles on a wide range of topics. Articles are listed chronologically and are all very recent. The Toolkit provides links to resources on key topics from both *Synergy* and *FYI*.

The School Library Toolkit is both inspiring and practical. Its wealth of authoritative resources does the research for you and presents you with the best information available on critical issues. It will facilitate in the articulation of the library's contribution to learning in your school through the development of vision statements and quality documentation of policies and programs. The Toolkit is highly recommended.

## At a Glance

### **Brief listings, with both a local and global focus.**

#### **Additional Resources on Leadership in School Libraries:**

International Literacy Association (2022). [Essential Leadership of School Libraries: Literacy Leadership Brief](#)

Hutchinson, Elizabeth & Toerien, Darryl (2023). [Making School Libraries Integral to the Educational Process](#). UK, School Library Association

This book is a brief introduction to the IFLA School Library Guidelines.

Note: the SLA website also contains useful resources and ideas on a range of topics. Its journal, TSL The School Librarian has published a special issue on [Information Literacy](#).

[International Society for Technology in Education](#) (ISTE)

This website contains books, blog, podcasts, and journals. The Professional Development section contains an area specifically for Librarians

#### **Future Publications:**

Pavey, Sarah (2024). *The Networked Librarian: The School Librarian's Role in Fostering Connections, Collaboration and Co-creation Across the Community*.

This book will consider teams, group dynamics, change management and communication. It will be available in print and ebook format. It will be reviewed in Issue 1, 2024.

*Contributions to this section are warmly welcomed, so please let us know if you discover a wonderful new resource you wish to share with your colleagues. Your review only needs to be a couple of lines.*

**Rosemary Abbott**

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