

LRC and Learning Resources Program Review



**Learning
Resources®**

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Historical Perspective

The LRC started in 1969 in the basement of Courtenay Elementary School with supplemental readers and SRA Reading kits. Over the years the LRC expanded to include curriculum kits, a print shop and AV equipment as well as expanding staff to oversee the collection. There has always been a coordinator or a district principal in charge of the program as well as support staff.

Current LRC operation

The LRC is currently located at the Glacier View School site. It consists of 7 classrooms, a meeting room and a modular which houses the Print Shop. The LRC continues to maintain and develop an expanding variety of kits and resources to support many areas of the curriculum including: literacy, numeracy, science, social studies, the fine arts, aboriginal education, inquiry, the core competencies and the ADST curriculum. Resources are available in both French and English Languages.

The Print Shop, in collaboration with educators, creates learning materials for classrooms in SD 71 which are also purchased and used by teachers in many other districts in the province . An extensive catalogue displays a large variety of high quality educational items which anyone can order, pay a fee and use. In addition, the Print Shop produces materials for conferences, workshops and other school related uses.

The Curriculum Support Teachers are housed at the LRC and they assist the district librarian in the development of English resources K-7 as well as working in schools on assessment and teaching strategies.



Alignment with District and Program Values and Goals

The LRC District Librarian works collaboratively with individuals from the following District programs and initiatives in order to ensure the creation of learning resources are responsive to the needs of their clientele. Learning resources are made in alignment with district values and goals:

- Student Services Department
- French Immersion Program
- Aboriginal Education Department
- Navigate Distributed Learning
- Elementary Teacher-Librarian Team
- District Elementary Inquiry Fair
- District Makerspace/Design Thinking Initiative
- District Lead Teacher-Technology
- District Curriculum Support Teachers
- Community programs and projects



Staffing

- Print Shop: 35 hrs. per week
20 hrs. per week
- Admin Assistant: 25 hrs. per week
- 1.0 FTE for District Teacher Librarian
- Library Clerk: 35 hrs. per week
10 hrs. per week
- 12 hrs. per week to deliver LRC kits and resources to schools




Financial Review of the LRC

- Admin. assistant, Library Clerk, Print Shop costs: \$150,000
- Teacher Costs: \$100,000 (District Teacher Librarian)
\$300,000 (CST Teachers)
- LRC Budget: \$112,000 (supplies, pro d, mileage and resources)
- Print Shop Budget: \$25,000



Print Shop Revenue

- \$75,000.00 projected revenue
- \$126,150.00 Revenue generated last year



What Gaps Exist in the Current LRC/Print Shop Model?

- Print Shop generates over \$126,000 in revenue. Do we want to explore a profit model and generate income for the district targeting external sources outside of SD 71 staff?
- There is a current inequity in the support the LRC provides, through its resources, to the teachers and students in the French Immersion program, compared to the support provided to the teachers and students in the English program. A French speaking District Curriculum Support teacher would be beneficial to create Teacher Guides that match the French resources in existing, and future, LRC kits. More than translating is required, as the guides need to match the resources, as well as be in alignment with second language pedagogy and the language ability levels of the students.

What Gaps Exist in the Current LRC/Print Shop Model cont...

- Secondary offerings are not as rich as elementary kits and resources. The focus has been on the K-7 Curriculum. Do we want to survey and expand our secondary offerings both in the LRC and the Print Shop as Secondary offerings are currently limited to Aboriginal novel sets, DVDs and regalia; high interest/low vocabulary novel sets. Currently there is a significant difference in the level of funding for library and learning resources for elementary and secondary students (i.e. secondary \$30 per student and elementary is \$12 per student) in recognition that the LRC has shared resources for elementary schools.
- Do we want to expand our delivery beyond the current model? Do we need daily delivery? Currently mail is delivered twice a week and kits are delivered once per week meaning wait times do exist for teachers receiving kits from the LRC (as recently as 2 years ago, we had daily delivery to our schools prior to the budget reductions).
- Should we develop a website designed for online shopping at the Print Shop?
- Media Manager Software is no longer supported by Follett. We may need to seek other sources.
- The Print Shop needs to explore software options for the billing and recording of fees as well as inventory.



Potential Recommendations for the LRC/Print Shop in SD71

- Keep the LRC/Print Shop operating in SD 71
- Continue to create, produce and promote educational materials for other school districts and community users at a profit
- Add a Print Shop website for online shopping
- Expand our French Immersion resources
- French CST/Resource Teacher to supplement LRC/Print Shop programs
- Explore the expansion of service to our secondary schools.
- Expand the physical space and staffing of the Print Shop



Risks involved in changing LRC operations:

- 1. Closing the LRC is not a viable option** even though it would initially save money in reduced employee costs it would lead to loss of valuable materials which would create an inequity among schools. Individual sites would need to take on the overseeing of resources and the creation of new kits. No one responsible for reviewing, selecting, ordering, organizing or replacing lost or ruined materials would likely lead to reduced “hands on”, place-based, inclusive activities for students in SD 71. The diversity of targeted materials available to support district programs would decrease dramatically. Classroom teachers would experience a huge loss of support which would affect the learning of their students. The cost of replacing materials without the LRC would also increase as the LRC provides materials at a very low price point to SD 71 employees.



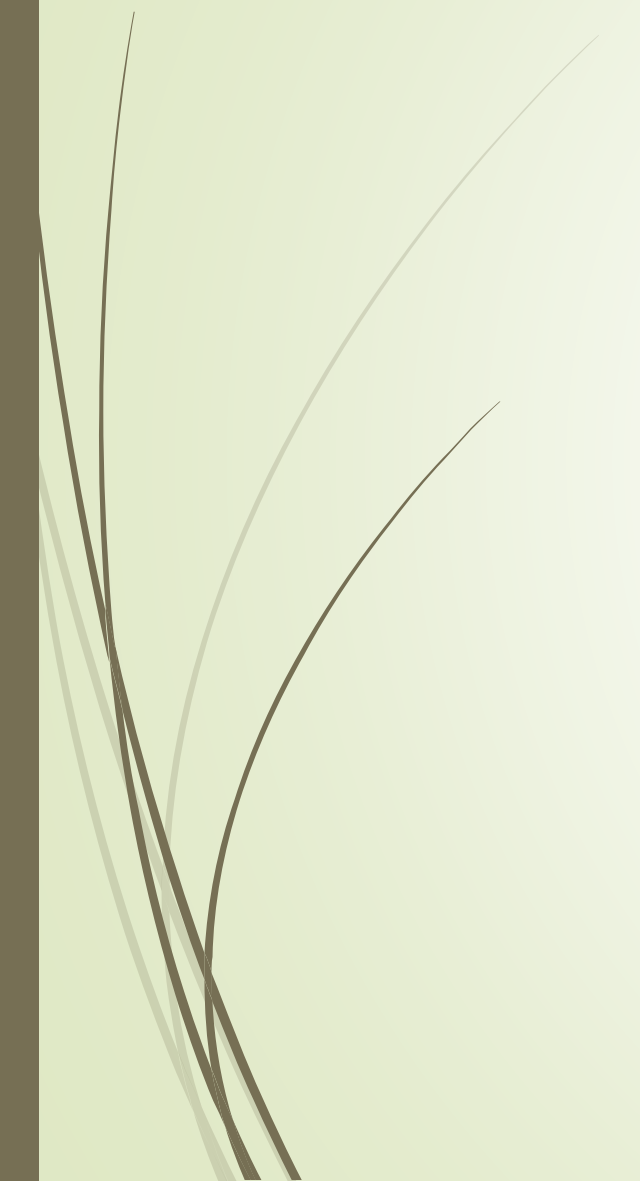
Risks involved in changing LRC operations cont...

2. Expanding the LRC: This would improve and increase usage and service of the LRC, ultimately improving service to students and bringing in more revenue to the district. There would be costs associated with expansion. New equipment would need to be purchased and software updated. Extra personnel may also need to be hired, increasing costs as well. Additional space for the Print Shop would also need to be acquired, adding to overall costs. A cost analysis would need to be done in order to ascertain whether costs exceed potential profits.

3. Keeping the LRC the same: There is no risk in keeping the LRC the same. It provides quality resources for our district at a minimal cost.



Preferred Future of the LRC in SD 71



SD71 is provincially recognized as an innovator and leader in educational pedagogy and its application. Much of this is made possible by the rich foundation we operate upon provided by the LRC and Print Shop. This allows district staff at all levels to expand what they do with ease as they are not burdened by assessing, purchasing or creating amazing quality resources to support instruction. Our staffs are exceptionally aware of what a treasure this district priority has been and continues to be. At this time, many districts across the province are looking to us for guidance to set up a similar system. Our preferred future is to continue to operate the LRC as it is and potentially look at expanding operations if it is cost effective to do so.