

### **Richard Reid, OLA Board President (2019)**

Hello everyone. My name is Richard Reid and I am the 2019 OLA Board president. I'm excited today to get to introduce myself to everyone reading *Open Shelf*, or listening to *Open Shelf* in this case, but also to talk about some of our priorities, ah, for our board in 2019 along with Shelagh Paterson, our executive director. One priority that is near and dear to my heart but also connected to so many things we do in library world is the Ontario School Library Impact Project. We know that in Ontario that we are dealing school libraries where students, in elementary and secondary, go to school without a teacher-librarian.

The mandate related to this lack of teacher-librarians of this study is to look at and investigate the impact secondary school libraries have on development of key information literacy skills including research and inquiring questioning, ah, upon students as they enter post-secondary education. As I mentioned, we know that schools in some jurisdictions don't have teacher-librarians. We have students without 48% in elementary and 32% of students in high school, don't have teacher-librarians. This then relates to the problem or the issue that kids aren't able when they move on to post-secondary education potentially research in an accurate way.

So the goal of this project is to discover whether a school, staffed with a teacher-librarian particularly in secondary school, has an impact on post-secondary students' information literacy skills. Also very important related to this, ah, some listeners think, "How does this ah, impact other divisions of OLA?" Immediately we can draw the connection to the OSLA, our school library association and OCULA, where we know that students may be coming to institutions where there aren't teacher-librarians and no school teacher-librarians, the information they pass and the teaching and learning skills they provide to our students aren't there so those students as they enter post-secondary are experiencing difficulties.

Also the makeup of our research team is also very cross-divisional. So we have a research program where we have representatives from high school libraries and we have representatives from academic institutions including faculties of ed and libraries. Ah, Mary Kavanaugh will be our lead researcher and also OLA member Courtney Lundrigren will be one of our advisor group members. And then we want to also make sure that we're looking at geography, we're looking at methodology, research design and different data analysis skills so that we really are truly making an impact with this research study.

### **Shelagh Paterson (OLA Executive Director)**

Hello and welcome to *Open Shelf*, OLA's official publication. I'm Shelagh Paterson, Executive Director, Ontario Library Association, and I would like to tell you a bit about advocacy and government relations for the upcoming year. OLA staff and members have been building relationships with the new Ontario government. We have had the opportunity to meet with the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education and the finance ministry.

Our message: Public libraries are essential to people and families across Ontario. They provide job training, small business support, equitable, reliable access to broadband, front-line access and support for digital government services and affordable, high quality children's programs

among many other things. In addition, school libraries have been at the core of Ontario's schools, with a proven impact on student achievement and standardized test scores.

Our task is to mandate rather than recommend that annual funds currently allocated for school libraries are spent on these important priorities. OLA is looking forward to hosting another Library Day at Queen's Park in the fall, which is our opportunity to meet with MPPs, ministers and policy advisors, to talk about what libraries are doing for Ontarians and why support and investment in Ontario's libraries is important. We encourage all of you to take every opportunity to demonstrate and talk about how the work you do makes a difference in the lives of Ontarians.