



PCHS LIBRARY LEARNING COMMONS REPORT 2021

"A school year like no other"

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2020-2021 RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED - CHALLENGES MET

The novel coronavirus pandemic, declared in March 2020, shut down the world as we knew it. The **PCHS Library Learning Commons (LLC)** became a multi-purpose, multi-functional resource. Student access to the LLC was made possible with teacher reservations only. Whether as an alternate teacher staffroom or an alternate class bubble space, the purpose of the LLC was "to meet the needs of the entire PCHS community's information-seeking, curricular, and leisure reading goals..." - AASL

The global pandemic meant supporting in-person or online **digital learning** including:

- multiple, weekly **Zoom** meetings
- contributing and participating in numerous **webinars and Quick PD's**
- providing an **"Ask the Librarian"** online service
- creating an **LLC Google Classroom**

The LLC is flexible and adapts. It has been a year of new beginnings and firsts. It also means "re-imagining equity & access for diverse youth" with the help of Project Ready, ESD-approved professional development.

REGARD DATABASE

The Library uses Regard, a GRICS product and a standard throughout the Lester B. Pearson School Board. The merged database for high schools makes it possible to share the combined knowledge of the Board's high school librarians. It also allows for inter-school loans. It is regularly updated. Contingency plans are in place when the database is inaccessible due to network failure. This platform is not available for "work-at-home".

TECHNOLOGY

ONLINE DATABASES

- available at school and at home via the library webpage & LBPSB Mosaik/Single Sign On
- SSO/Mosaik/Google accounts management provided by school librarian to all students
- an average of \$1300.00 charged to the library's budget annually. + \$500 paid by ESD
- password accessible
- databases provide MLA Citations to help curb plagiarism
- Sora by Overdrive and Cantook Station e-books
currently offered encyclopedias, research & curriculum: Gale OneFile CPI.Q, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Universalis, Edumedia + Scoop + much more!

PHOTOCOPIER

- updated Konica Minolta, black-and-white photocopies, **to be networked**
- teachers are asked to make use of the copy room

PCHS WEBSITE

- updated **LIBRARY WEBPAGE**... <http://pchs.lbpsb.qc.ca/>
- access to our catalogue, an assortment of databases, citation style guides and numerous useful web-links – an essential one-stop page for student homework & research needs

Recommendation: A switch to the board's DNN platform and website format should be considered in order to be in line with other LBPSB high schools.

ACQUISITIONS

- 2020-2021 budget of \$19720 for the purchase of books as per Ministry grants
- books, periodicals and periodicals database (code 421)
- specialized materials (code 420) are paid for by the school budget
- **810 books were purchased or donated, catalogued and processed**
- book selection is based on the curriculum, student needs and LLC usage
- extensive weeding of the collection - books were donated to students & staff
- a marked increase in price impacted the selection of resources

LITERACY

- curated displays and project ideas (financial, digital, media, visual...)
- library instruction & basic research methods for students
- prepared thematic reading lists (Indigenous, BIPOC, FLASH, LGBTQ+, Mental Health +)
- an "up & coming Black authors" collection
- created three Canadian Black History Challenges for staff
- collaborated in school Instagram & Twitter account posts

BOOKSHARE + CELA + DOLPHIN EASYREADER APP FOR PRINT DISABLED

- collaborated with The Learning Centre in managing this essential service for students

IB PERSONAL PROJECT & MENTORSHIP – JAC STAGIÈRE

- an on-going privilege to take part in IB mentoring & IB students' Personal Project research
- mentored John Abbott College student in Information & Library Technologies
- IB Service as Action and Leadership Community Service opportunities

DIGITAL LIBRARY

- students and staff now have access to over 3000 titles in Sora by OverDrive & Cantook Station (e-books & audiobooks)
- details available on library webpage and <https://lbsbqc.libraryreserve.com>
- students are encouraged to subscribe to their local public library and to the BANQ

CLASS BUBBLES BOOKED

- the library accommodated **186** class bubbles according to covid-19 restrictions
- masks and sanitizing individual work spaces were mandatory

STATISTICS

Pandemic-related restrictions meant 75% fewer physical loans. On-site consultations are not documented. The necessary shift towards digital consultations is evident. Statistics do not reflect database or online reading: Infotrac, OverDrive, Bookshare, and so on.

English Fiction	303
Non-Fiction & Reference (Eng., Fr. & SPA)	319
French Fiction	27
Graphica	206
Other (non-book material & Chromebooks)	218
TOTAL	1073

- **6** books borrowed by students have not been returned and have been considered as lost.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021-2022

- continue to upgrade & increase digital resources **ONGOING!**
- pursue additional 21st Century Library concepts to enhance services to our community
- explore “Learning Lunches in the LLC” Several staff members have expressed interest!
- offer additional workshops to staff, students and parents **ONGOING!**
- encourage greater student participation in community service work in the library **ONGOING!**
- promote Going Google™ & encourage student use of research databases **ONGOING!**
- continue to encourage accurate, effective research skills among students **ONGOING!**
- expand resources based on current event themes **ONGOING!**

PCHS has a full-time, fully trained, experienced Library Technician whose duties include:

- Management of the library, and of the library's annual budget; scheduling class visits
- Collection development; book, database, and magazine purchasing
- Supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion in the LLC
- Cataloguing and classification of new books; physical processing of new books
- Library instruction, ie. guiding students how to find and use print and online resources
- Reference services, ie. assisting students in finding appropriate resources, including effective Internet searching; promoting school board databases
- Computer and Google instruction
- Password management
- Creating a collaborative interaction between the Library Learning Commons, teachers & Resource
- Searching, co-planning, and gathering books on specific topics for teachers' class assignments
- Managing 2 student lunch-hours and animations daily (Junior & Senior)
- Developing library programs to support the curriculum, ex. Battle of the Books, Book-spine Poetry
- Planning and curating thematic bulletin board and book displays
- Library promotion programs & contests
- Circulation desk duties
- Overdue book tracking and notices
- Training student volunteers and JAC student-librarians in library duties
- Monitoring the regular functioning of the technical equipment; contacting computer technical staff as needed
- Library webpage updating and management as required
- Providing copyright advice
- Curating, and sharing appropriate resources from the Web
- Maintaining open communication with LBPSB library technicians
- Preparing Annual Reports to the PCHS community