

Dorothy Williams

Dorothy Williams is Emeritus Professor of Information Science at Robert Gordon University in Scotland. Her research interests and activities over many years have focussed around information literacy and school libraries. Her research includes the [Making Connections Programme](#), a series of research studies with a focus on information literacy in school and other contexts. She was the founder and first Director of the Information: Interactions and Impact (i³) Conference, concerned with the way information can make a difference for individuals, organisations, and communities. She led the research team behind the influential 2013 report for the Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC) on [the Impact of the School Libraries on Learning. This report](#) provided an evidence base which was used to underpin a [professional advocacy strategy and campaign](#) to protect school libraries and librarians in Scotland and in turn led to the development of the Scottish Government's new National School Library Strategy.

The impact of a school library on learning

What difference does the school library make to learning? At a time when so much information is available to learners through the internet, can a school library really make a difference? The answer is "yes". There is a large body of international evidence pointing to the positive impact of school libraries on academic attainment, reader development, and the wider personal development of the learner. The presentation will look at some of that evidence including the feedback from learners and teachers. It will also ask the question of what are the key library factors that really make a difference.