

Chair: Luisa Marquardt (Roma Tre University, IFLA, IASL, AIB)

Facilitators from Osnovna škola Dobriše Cesarića, Zagreb (Croatia): Gordana Fileš (School Principal) and Antonija Lujanac (School Librarian, Director Europe for IASL, Founder of Investeam - myinvesteam.com)

Based on Oberg, D. & Marquardt, L. (eds.) (2025). *School Librarians and Principals Leading Together: International Perspectives*. Bloomsbury, and the *IFLA-UNESCO School Library Manifesto 2025*.

Abstract:

Research from multiple international studies (e.g., Ohio, Colorado, Papa & Marzoli, etc.) confirms a strong link between effective school library programmes and improved student learning outcomes. Yet, these benefits are not uniformly realised due to technological disruptions, evolving pedagogy, and institutional inequalities. This interactive workshop explores how strong leadership collaboration between school principals and school librarians can drive educational excellence, equity, and student well-being. Drawing on contributions from the new book *School Librarians and Principals Leading Together* (Marquardt & Oberg Eds., 2025) and the updated *IFLA-UNESCO School Library Manifesto 2025*, overall aims are:

- ✓ Building awareness of the strategic importance of the principal-librarian partnership
- ✓ Sharing research evidence and case studies
- ✓ Facilitating reflection on roles, trust-building, shared leadership and practical actions
- ✓ Generating ideas for action/plans participants can take back to their schools.

Workshop participants will:

- ✓ Examine evidence-based practices and real-world success stories
- ✓ Discuss shared leadership models
- ✓ Reflect on local challenges and opportunities
- ✓ Identify concrete strategies to promote and sustain quality school library programmes.

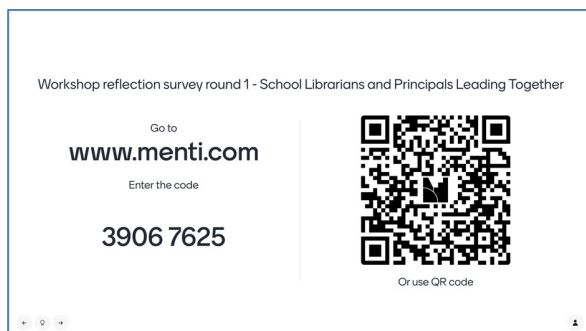
Two further outcomes for Erasmus papers:

- i. Participants will be able to identify and apply at least two evidence-based strategies to enhance collaboration between school librarians and principals in promoting inclusive and future-ready learning environments. Measurement indicator: Participants demonstrate application by drafting a mini action plan for joint leadership in their school (shared during group reflection). Linked Erasmus Priority: Inclusion and Diversity in Education and Training
- ii. Participants will be able to integrate the principles of the IFLA-UNESCO School Library Manifesto 2025 into their school improvement or Erasmus project plan to support digital, AI, and sustainability literacy. Measurement indicator: Participants formulate at least one concrete initiative or curriculum link that embeds sustainability or digital literacy via the school library. Linked Erasmus Priority: Digital Transformation in Environment and Fight against Climate Change.

Participants will leave with inspiration, practical ideas, and a renewed sense of partnership to support innovative, inclusive, and future-ready school libraries.

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Workshop Feedback:



Workshop reflection survey round 1 - School Librarians and Principals Leading Together

Go to
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Enter the code
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School Librarians and Principals Leading Together

ESHA 2025, Rome, 29 October 2025 (17:30-18:30) - **Workshop B10**

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Handout 1: Collaboration Audit Worksheet

Complete individually or in pairs to reflect on current collaboration practices between principals and school librarians.

Reflection Area	Guiding Questions	Notes
<i>Vision & Strategy</i>	Is the school library part of our strategic plan? Do we share educational goals?	
<i>Communication & Trust</i>	How often do the principal and librarian meet or plan together?	
<i>Curriculum & Instruction</i>	Does the librarian co-teach or co-design learning activities?	
<i>Professional Development</i>	Is the librarian involved in staff training or innovation projects?	
<i>Resources & Visibility</i>	Is the library adequately staffed, funded, and recognised?	
<i>Challenges / Barriers</i>	What obstacles exist?	
<i>Opportunities</i>	Where can collaboration grow?	

Reflection Prompt: "In what ways could closer collaboration strengthen teaching, learning, and inclusion in your school?"

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Handout 2: Action Plan Canvas

Group Activity. This canvas is intended to design a collaborative initiative between principals and librarians.

Section	Guiding Prompts	Your Notes / Plan
<i>Shared Vision</i>	What's our common goal (e.g., literacy, digital skills, inclusion)?	
<i>Current Strengths</i>	What's already working well?	
<i>New Actions / Initiatives</i>	What will we start, stop, or improve?	
<i>Resources & Partners</i>	Who can help? (Teachers, local library, parents, municipality, etc.)	
<i>Timeline</i>	When and how will we implement our ideas?	
<i>Indicators of Success</i>	How will we know we've succeeded?	
<i>First Step</i>	What's one small action to take within the next month?	

"Change begins with shared purpose and trust. Leadership is more powerful when we lead together."

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Handout 3: Key Takeaways Sheet

Leading Together: Principals and Librarians for Quality Education

Why Collaboration Matters:

- ✓ Improves literacy and learning outcomes.
- ✓ Promotes inclusion and well-being.
- ✓ Strengthens digital and media literacy.
- ✓ Builds a culture of innovation and shared leadership.

Grounded in the *IFLA-UNESCO School Library Manifesto 2025*:

- ✓ The school library is a partner in teaching and learning.
- ✓ Collaboration is essential for education for all.
- ✓ Libraries support lifelong learning and sustainability.

Successful Partnerships Share:

- ✓ A common vision for student learning.
- ✓ Ongoing communication and co-planning.
- ✓ Mutual trust and respect for each other's expertise.
- ✓ Joint initiatives (reading promotion, media literacy, AI literacy, inclusion).
- ✓ Support for professional growth and visibility.

Inspiring Idea: "The librarian is the principal's ally in creating a learning school — one where everyone reads, questions, and grows."

Further Reading

Abson, E., Schofield, P., & Kennell, J. (2024). Making shared leadership work: The importance of trust in project-based organisations, *International Journal of Project Management*, 42(2) 102575. ISSN 0263-7863.

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Wilson, P.J. & Lyders, J.A. (2001). *Leadership for today's school library : a handbook for the library media specialist and the school principal*. Westport (CT): Greenwood Publishing Group.

Websites

IASL <http://www.iasl-online.org>

IFLA School Libraries Section <https://www.ifla.org/units/school-libraries/>

Investeam <https://myinvesteam.com/>