IFLA School Libraries Guidelines & Best practices of Teacher librarians in France

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**National commitment**

- Member of the national board of APDEN (*French Teacher Librarian Association of State Education*) in charge of International relationships
- President of APDEN Lyon

**International commitment**

- IFLA School Libraries member since 2015
- IFLA School Libraries secretary (2017 - 2021)
- IFLA School Libraries chair (2021 - 2023)
IFLA School Libraries Guidelines & Best Practices of Teacher librarians in France

Presentation of best practices in France regarding each chapter with a special focus on Chapter 5 (Programs and activities)
I. Chapter 1: Mission and purposes of a school library
II. Chapter 2: Legal and financial framework for a school library
III. Chapter 3: Human resources for a school library
IV. Chapter 4: Physical and digital resources of a school library
V. Chapter 5: Program and activities of a school library
VI. Chapter 6: School library evaluation and public relations
INTRODUCTION

- Terminology employed
  - CDI = Centre de Documentation et d'Information = School library
  - Professeur documentaliste = Teacher librarian
  - CAPES = Certificat d'Aptitude au Professorat de l'Enseignement Secondaire = Certificate of Aptitude to Teaching Profession in Secondary Education
  - APDEN = Association des Professeurs Documentalistes de l'Education Nationale = French Teacher Librarian Association of State Education
  - Collège = middle high school
  - Lycée = high school
Chapter 1: Mission and purposes of a school library
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School libraries: history, national framework and regulations

History, regulations, national framework

- **1958**: 1rst school library in Janson de Sailly high school in Paris
- **1962**: 1st school libraries called « services de documentation »
- **1966**: School libraries called « services de documentation et d’information » and staff « documentalists librarians »
- **1972**: Foundation of the FADBEN (now APDEN)
- **1973**: Official creation of CDI
- **1977**: Official circular about pedagogical function of CDI
Chapter 1: mission and purposes of a school library

History, regulations, national framework

- 10th of July 1989 Education Act: law governing education
  - Law integrated now in the Education Code
  - Creation of the status of Professeur documentaliste
  - Each secondary school must be equipped with a CDI

School libraries: history, national framework and regulations
Chapter 2: Legal and financial framework for a school library
Chapter 2: legal and financial framework for a school library

School libraries: history and regulations

Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:French_Academies_Zone.png
Chapter 2: Legal and financial framework for a school library

Organization of the secondary educational system

Collège (middle high school)
6ème = 1st year (11-12 years old)
5ème = 2nd year (12-13 years old)
4ème = 3rd year (13-14 years old)
3ème = 4th year (14-15 years old)

Lycée (high school)
Seconde = 1st year (15-16 years old)
Première = 2nd year (16-17 years old)
Terminale = 3rd year and final year (17-18 years)

Final exams for the “Baccalauréat” (high school diploma)
Chapter 2 : legal and financial framework for a school library

Infrastructure and funding for CDIs in “Collège” provided by the “Départements”

Chapter 2: legal and financial framework for a school library

Infrastructure and funding for CDIs in “Lycée” provided by the “Départements”

Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:FR-R%C3%A9gions.svg
Chapter 3: Human resources for a school library
Chapter 3: Human resources for a school library

Teachers librarians: brief history and regulations

Professeurs documentalistes: definition, role and regulations

- 1979: 1st mission statement (http://www.apden.org/Exercice-de-fonctions-de.html)
- 1989: creation of the “Capes de documentation”, the certificate allowing to teach in secondary schools, for teacher-librarians and implementation of a CDI in each secondary school
- “July 2013 Act”: reaffirmation of the teaching mission of professeurs documentalistes, this act calls for the necessity of specific knowledge associated with information and medias
- 2017: update of Professeur documentaliste’s mission statement
Chapter 3: Human resources for a school library

Teachers librarians: brief history and regulations

The 2017’s professeur documentaliste mission statement
https://www.education.gouv.fr/bo/17/Hebdo13/ME1708402C.htm

3 main part:

1- The teacher librarian, teacher and master of the acquisition by all students of an information and media culture

2- The teacher librarian is in charge of the organization of the school's documentary resources and of making them available

3- The teacher librarian as an actor in the opening up of the school to its educational, cultural and professional environment
Chapter 3: Human resources for a school library

Teachers librarians and paraprofessional school library staff

Others staff in the CDI
(points 3.6 and 3.7)

➢ officially no paraprofessional school library staff (but subsidized contract provided by the French government, education assistant...)
➢ officially no school library volunteer
Chapter 4: Physical and digital resources for a school library
Chapter 4: physical and digital resources of a school library

Facilities

- No national standards for the size and design of CDIs facilities in France
- Organization and space of CDIs following IFLA SL Guidelines recommendations (study and research area, informal reading area, instructional area.....)
- Physical and digital resources are accessible via an online website for each CDI
School library’s example
School library’s example

Collège du Renon

Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Coll%C3%A8ge_Renon_Vonnas_5.jpg
School library’s example

Collège du Renon

Features:
- middle high school (11 to 15 years old)
- rural area
- 420 students

Source: https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ain_(d%C3%A9partement)
The CDI different spaces : example
School library’s example

Collège du Renon

View of the global space
School library’s example

Collège du Renon

The professeur documentaliste’s desk
School library’s example

Collège du Renon

The reading corner
School library’s example

Collège du Renon

The teaching space with video projector
School library’s example

Collège du Renon

The computer space
Chapter 4: physical and digital resources of a school library

Facilities and collection development and management

Collection development and management

- Each CDI is equipped with an online catalog and CMS, E-sidoc (provided by Canopé, a national network attached to the Ministry of Education) or PMB (open-source library management software, free of charge).

- Collection development and management is adapted to the school features (rural area, disadvantaged public, vocational students...)

- No national collection development policies: only recommendations

- Work in collaboration with subject teachers to develop collection
Chapter 4: Physical and digital resources of a school library

Facilities and collection development and management

Digital resources in CDIs

- **GAR** = Gestionnaire d’Accès aux Ressources (Resource Access Manager)

- [https://gar.education.fr/](https://gar.education.fr/)

- National level

- The Resource Access Manager supports the development of uses of digital resources in the school. It guarantees the protection of the personal data of students, teachers and other staff.

- Students and teachers access all their digital resources from their Digital Workspace without seeing the GAR. Indeed, it acts like an invisible safety filter.
The CDI’s collection management: example
The collection settings

Budget per calendar year:
- 2021: 3800 euros
- 2022: 2600 euros

Physical resources:
- Non-fiction: 2073 (2021), 1919 (2022)
- Fiction: 3930 (2021), 3742 (2022)
Chapter 5 : Programs and activities of a school library
Chapter 5: Programs and activities of a school library

Programs and activities in French CDIs

- Literacy and reading promotion
  Book challenges, reading club, cultural projects (theater workshops...)
- MIL instruction
- Inquiry-based learning
- Technology integration
French Teacher Librarian and Instruction
First part of the mission statement: instructional mission

“The teacher librarian, teacher and supervisor of the acquisition by all students of an information and media culture”

- Teacher librarian should contribute to teaching and projects to implement a culture of information and medias
- Learning progression required
- Teacher librarian can teach alone or in co-teaching
French Teacher Librarian and Instruction

Information Literacy instruction mission

First part of the mission statement: instructional mission

“The teacher librarian, teacher and supervisor of the acquisition by all students of an information and media culture”

- Teacher librarian can contribute alone and in interdisciplinary projects
- Should build on national subjects curriculum
- Can build on pedagogical devices
French Teacher Librarian and Instruction

Information Literacy (IL) instruction mission

Institutional framework

- 2015: publication of a MIL programme for cycle 4, which includes grades 5ème, 4ème, 3ème (https://cache.media.education.gouv.fr/file/MEN_SPE_11/76/0/Programme_cycle_4_pour_B.O._1424760.pdf) p. 111-112
- MIL competencies scattered across school subjects such as French, foreign language, history-geography, technology...
APDEN’s work

- **1997**: Publication of a *Référentiel de compétences informationnelles des élèves* (= information literacy skills framework for students)
- **2007**: Publication of a corpus of 64 ideas or concepts in a framework of 7 main ideas in information and documentation in *Mediadoc* (APDEN’s journal)
- **2010**: Edition of *12 propositions to develop a curriculum in information and documentation* by the GRCDI (Research Group on Information Culture and Didactics)
APDEN’s work


The « Info-Doc Wikinotions »’s goal is to update the corpus of knowledge, assembling educational activities, providing an exhaustive list of scientific and professional references.

« Info-Doc Wikinotions » is organized by fields, levels, objectives, concepts and skills.
French Teacher Librarian and Instruction

Information Literacy instruction implementation
The CDI’s program: media and information literacy instruction: example
School library’s example

Collège du Renon

Media and Information Literacy instruction

- A learning progression based on APDEN’s curriculum (cf. https://profdoc.iddocs.fr/spip.php?rubrique3) for all levels (6ème to 3ème)
- Led by the professeur documentaliste both alone and in co-teaching with some subject teachers (mainly history-geography-moral and civic instruction)
- When instructional sessions are led by the professeur documentaliste alone, it’s scheduled on a classroom hour when a subject teacher is absent
Media and Information Literacy instruction

Learning progression: 6ème

School library’s example

- Du document aux documents (18/05/2018)
- Recherche documentaire en Histoire (14/04/2015)
- Histoire de la communication (08/11/2018)
- En 2017/2018, deux recherches ont été menées, en SVT et en histoire : définition du besoin d'information, recherche, conception d'un diaporama et d'un exposé oral.
- Les médias sociaux (18/05/2018)

Source: https://profdoc.iddocs.fr/spip.php?rubrique3

Collège du Renon
School library’s example

Media and Information Literacy instruction

Learning progression : 5ème

- Du document au média (08/11/2018)
- Recherche en Éducation civique (14/04/2018)
- En 2017/2018, un travail de création d’un journal a été assuré, avec des compétences variables selon les groupes d’élèves.
- Le Moyen Âge sur Vilidia (01/05/2017)
- Les médias d’information et les médias sociaux (23/05/2018)
- Usagers du web (expo) (23/05/2018)

Source : https://profdoc.iddocs.fr/spip.php?rubrique3
School library’s example

Collège du Renon

Media and Information Literacy instruction

Learning progression : 4ème

- Recherches en SVT et Histoire, EC... (14/04/2015)
- Le web - une constellation de sites (01/10/2019)
- Recherche sur les médias (01/03/2017)
- Les médias sur Vikidia (01/03/2017)
- Le droit à l’épreuve d’Internet (18/05/2018)

Source :
https://profdoc.iddocs.fr/spip.php?rubrique3
School library’s example

Media and Information Literacy instruction

Learning progression : 3ème

- Les traces numériques (07/10/2019)
- À l’épreuve des sources (02/03/2021)
- Actualités du numérique (21/01/2020)
- Une séance de recherche dans l’année avec un professeur de discipline (rien de cadré de manière systématique, mais avec des exigences plus importantes qu’en Quatrième, en particulier au sujet des références et du croisement des sources).
- Désinformation : de la médiatisation à l’éthique de l’information (publié sur SavoirsCDI) : cette séquence a notamment été modifiée avec une présentation des cas de désinformation comme étant vrais dans leur énoncé [1]

Source :
https://profdoc.iddocs.fr/spip.php?rubrique3
The CDI’s program : MIL instruction in project-based learning : example
MIL instruction in project-based learning: “Les classes actus”

- Project named “Les classes actus” (= “News classes”)
- 2 classes: 5ème and 4ème
- 1 hour per week for each class during all the school year
- Led by the teacher librarian alone
- Final productions: presentations and audio podcasts (https://renon.ent.auvergnerhonealpes.fr/le-college/le-renon-media-du-college/)
- Topics covered: current news and society subjects in general
- Knowledge and skills developed: information search, type of medias and information
MIL instruction in project-based learning: newspaper creation

- Newspaper’s title “Le super collégien” (= “the great middle high school student”)
- 2 classes of 5ème
- 3 hours in total
- A collaboration with the history/geography teacher
- Topics covered: current news and society subjects in general
- Knowledge and skills developed: information search, type of medias and information
Chapter 6: School Library evaluation and public relations
Evaluation of French CDIs

- **Common practices**: an annual report of the CDI activities written by the teacher librarian for the principal (sometimes presented to the school board)
- **Evaluation of the school library program** at the end of the school year
- **Culture of evaluation for school libraries** is not really anchored in the French system
- **Evaluation of CDIs**: concerns mostly projects for renovation and spaces
- **National evaluations**: concern students skills for compulsory instruction
Chapter 6: school library evaluation and public relations

Evaluation of teacher librarians’ practices

- APDEN’ surveys: [http://professionprofdoc.educapass.fr/enquetes/](http://professionprofdoc.educapass.fr/enquetes/)
- Professeurs documentalistes evaluation: “rendez vous de carrière” (career appointment)
Bibliography on French school libraries/librarians

- Wikinotions InfoDoc: [Notions - WikiNotions](http://professionprofdoc.educapass.fr/)
- APDEN Information Literacy curriculum: [Vers un curriculum en information-documentation](http://professionprofdoc.educapass.fr/)
- *Les CDI des collèges et des lycées*/ Françoise CHAPRON
Thanks for your attention!

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