

Libraries work! Published in the Los Angeles Times, May 7, 2019.

Re: “Schools still fighting the same stinking battle,” Los Angeles Times, May 5.

The “stinking battle” over library funding in the Los Angeles Unified School District might be resolved if we look at the research. Here is what it tells us:

- *Those who read more read better and have larger vocabularies. This is true of readers at all ages. Reading material that students select themselves is, in fact, the most powerful factor in improving reading and literacy.**
- *Readers also have more knowledge of literature, social studies, science and even practical matters.**
- *Students read more when they have more access to reading material.**
- *Students living in poverty have little access to books.**
- *Providing access to books increases reading achievement and offsets the effect of poverty.**
- *Librarians and their staff are an important source of information about books. Studies confirm that the presence of a librarian contributes significantly to literacy development.**

We cheerfully spend billions on unvalidated tests and technology, yet we ignore the impressive research supporting libraries and library staff.

Stephen Krashen

Not included in published letter:

Article: Lopez, S. Schools ‘still fighting the same stinking battle’. California Section, LA Times, May 5, 2019. page B1.

Some sources

Read more, read better, larger vocabularies, all ages:

Sullivan, A. and Brown, M. 2014. Vocabulary from Adolescence to Middle Age. Centre for Longitudinal Studies, University of London

“Reading ... the most powerful factor”; more access to books: Krashen, S. 2004. The Power of Reading. Libraries Unlimited (second edition)

Knowledge of literature, social studies, science: West, R., Stanovich, K., & Mitchell, H. (1993). Reading in the real world and its correlates. *Reading Research Quarterly*, 28, 35-50.

Poverty: Neuman, S.B. & Celano, D. 2001. Access to print in low-income and middle-income communities: An ecological study of four neighborhoods. *Reading Research Quarterly*, 36, 1, 8-26.

Offsets the impact of poverty: Krashen, S., Lee, S.Y. and McQuillan, J. 2012. Is the library important? Multivariate studies at the national and international level. *Journal of Language and Literacy Education*, 8(1): 26-36. http://www.sdkrashen.com/content/articles/multivariate_studies.pdf

Librarians: Keith Curry Lance and Debra E. Kachel. Why school librarians matter: What years of research tell us. *Phi Delta Kappan*., March 26. 2018. <https://>

www.kappanonline.org/lance-kachel-school-librarians-matter-years-research/