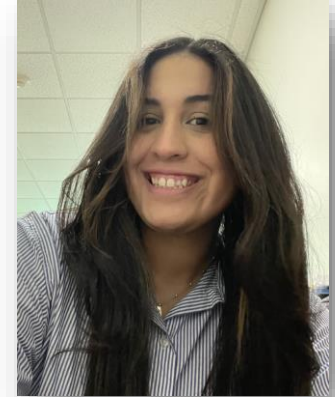# Today's Presenters

Jennifer Sills
Worcester County
Public Schools (MD)

Brittany Tignor
Worcester County
Public Schools (MD)

Damaris Arocho
CeDIn Elementary School,
Interamerican University
of Puerto Rico

Fabiola Baez
CeDIn Elementary School,
Interamerican University of
Puerto Rico

School Librarians Lead Learning and Transformation

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Accelerating Promising Practices: Transforming School Library Practice

Transforming School Library Practice

IMLS	Project initiator and funder.
Grantees	Fifteen grantees from small and rural public schools, selected by IMLS, working on projects to transform their school libraries' practice.
OCLC	Mentor organization. Support and mentor grantees as they implement their grant-funded projects.
SMEs	School Library Consultant, subject matter experts, advisors from AASL, YALSA, Campaign for Grade Level Reading, Council of State School Library Consultants.

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makerspaces, learning labs

"Libraries: The Hub of Our Community Schools"

improving collaboration with classroom teachers

engaging stakeholders

"Transforming Our Space; Transforming Our Practice"

strategic planning

Projects

"Stargate to Innovative Learning Lab Center (ILLC)"

"Project Connect"

professional development opportunities

redesigning outdated libraries

"C3 (The Cube): Communication, Collaboration and Creativity in a Culturally Relevant Learning Commons"

active and inquiry-based learning

SCHOOL LIBRARIAN'S INFORMATION SHELF

Transforming School Library Practice

Empowering school libraries to serve their communities

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Transforming School Library Practice

Empowering school libraries to serve their communities
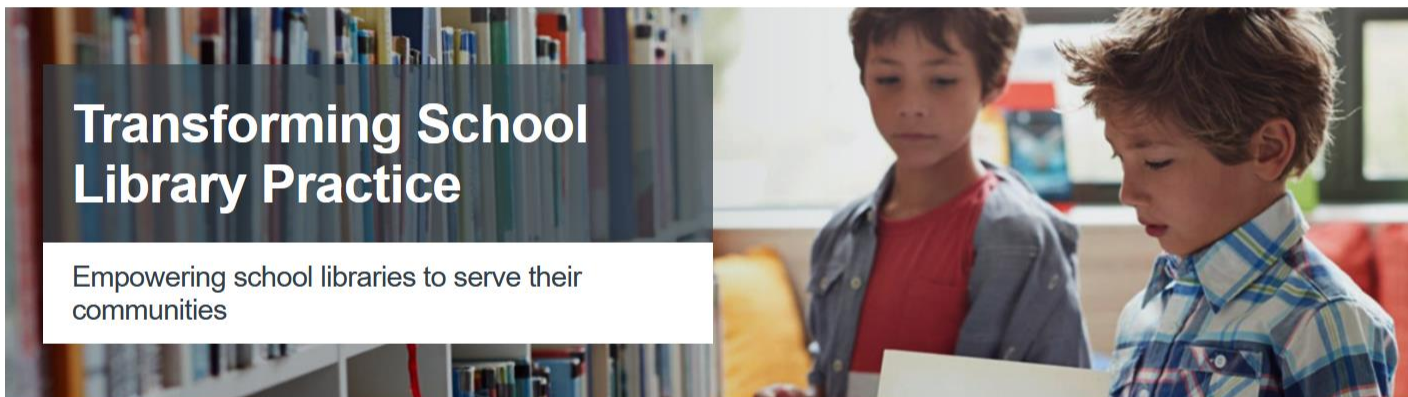
A School Librarian's Information Shelf

School librarians are vital to the work of preparing all children for academic and economic success in a rapidly changing, technologically driven, and globally connected world. Every day they are transforming their practice by reimagining and redesigning school libraries to support new models of learning, engagement, and partnerships in support of this goal of success. This information shelf offers a curated body of resources—recorded presentations by school librarians, topical articles, and practical toolkits—that can be applied to any school library looking to become a dynamic learning center for their students.

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Five Topic Areas

School Library Advocacy

Craft a compelling impact story using data, testimonials, and strategies.

The Student-Centered Library

Implement effective approaches and models to create a student-centered learning experience in your school library.

Inquiry-Based Learning

Support student-driven learning in your school library using models and examples.

School Library Makerspaces

Leverage creative and compassionate approaches and materials for a successful school library makerspace.

Virtual Teaching and Learning

Explore effective tools and practices for teaching and learning in online spaces.

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School Library Advocacy

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Transforming School Library Practice: A School Librarian's Information Shelf

School Library Advocacy

There is a widespread need to advocate confidently and continually with multiple stakeholders about the valuable ways that school libraries are evolving to empower students. Studies confirm that there is "a positive relationship between full-time, qualified school librarians and scores on standards-based language arts, reading, and writing tests, regardless of student demographics and school characteristics." (Lance and Kachel) Despite such strong evidence of the value of school librarians, schools' budget cuts have been eliminating these positions due in large part to the misconception that they are an expendable element of K-12 education.

Listen to the voices of these experienced school librarian advocates. Read the studies and compelling data to develop a powerful advocacy story for your library.

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School Library Advocacy

"I feel that I am better prepared to advocate for my library and students... I appreciate the resources and support I received to make our library more useable and inviting for our students."

TSLP grantee Kelly Dyer
Librarian, Osage County Interlocal Co-Op Libraries, OK

Stakeholder Buy-in

VIDEO
Leading from the Library – Ashley Cooksey (31:55)

Accelerating Promising Practices for Small Libraries: Transforming School Library Practice

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VIDEO
How to Demonstrate Your Value as An Instructional Coach to All Community Stakeholders – Hillary Marshall (8:08)
This short, informational interview with high school librarian Hillary Marshall demonstrates, through real-world examples, how Marshall advocated for significant visibility and transformation in her school system through persistent relationship-building with key stakeholders and data-informed storytelling.

PDF
Practical Tips for Advocacy
After watching the videos *Leading from the Library* and *How to Demonstrate Your Value as An Instructional Coach to All Community Stakeholders*, pin this sheet in a visible space as a constant reminder of many of the major points covered: Identify and build relationships with key stakeholders, Communicate successes to those stakeholders, Present stakeholders with real-world data. Add to this document the knowledge gained through personal experiences as needed.

School Library Studies and Data

GRAPHIC
Students Reach Greater Heights with School Librarians
This infographic visualizes the benefits students experience through the presence and guidance of a certified school librarian across five key areas: safe spaces, information literacy, exposure to diverse resources, school achievement, and access to quality educational technologies. The visualization is supported by references that can be further explored for additional advocacy data.

ARTICLE
Why School Libraries Matter: What Years of Research Tell Us (March 2018)
Drawing on findings from several studies of school library impact, this review further underscores the data presented in the above infographic—that the presence of a school librarian and the actions taken by that librarian with school administrators and fellow teachers directly correlate to student achievement. The article offers concrete recommendations on how schools can make the most of their libraries and librarians as leaders, technology mentors, and collaborators.

WEB
SLIDE (School Librarian Investigation — Decline or Evolution) Project

The Student-Centered Library

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Transforming School Library Practice: A School Librarian's Information Shelf

The Student-Centered Library

The modern school library has become so much more than a place for quiet study or to check out books. Those important activities continue, but school librarians have expanded their engagement with students in ways that nurture curiosity and creativity and place control of learning in the student's hands. Through redesigning physical space and using strategies to get students excited about reading and learning, school librarians are having a big impact on students' educational trajectories.

Learn about putting the student at the library's center by:

- Redefining the physical space
- Applying the principles of connected learning, object-based literacy, creating a culture of reading, and other student-focused strategies
- Exploring school and public library partnerships to increase capacity and opportunities

The Student-Centered Library

"From 2015-2019, our library was used as a classroom and for detention only. It was neither a modern information space nor a modern learning space. After completing this project, it has become the place everyone wants to use. We hosted over 32 events or programs in the library, including school board meetings, Maker Nights, and teacher trainings all during COVID."

TSLP grantee Angelica Spreen
Librarian, Wahluke School District, WA

Creating Interactive Spaces

VIDEO

Space Planning for Flexible, Innovative Learning Environments (42:24)

Accelerating Promising Practices for Small Libraries:
Transforming School Library Practice

WEB

Toolkit for Creating Smart Spaces
Drawn from a study looking at how libraries can reimagine their spaces to support active learning, this toolkit offers school librarians a variety of approaches and strategies for encouraging exploration and play. In particular, look at these two sections:

- Understand Active Learning and Community-driven Spaces
- Rethink Use of Your Physical Space

Strategies for Student-Centered Learning

VIDEO

Student-Centered Programming – TuesD Chambers and Rebecca Wynkoop (33:40)
Two school librarians—one high school, one middle school—share their approaches for developing and sustaining a student-centered library. Four concepts lie at the core: Building community; making space for all students; programming for all students, not just readers; and using social media to promote and connect what students are doing in the library. The video is packed full of accessible, innovative programming ideas that appeal to young people's interests and provide a variety of access points for engagement with the library. Check out #thisistheirlibrary to see some of these creative ideas!

VIDEO

Designing Connected Learning Programs via School Libraries – Mega Subramaniam (32:37)
This video offers an accessible, in-depth background on the concept of HOMAGO (Hanging Out, Messing Around, and Geeking Out) and its evolution into the Connected Learning Framework. Examples from both public and school libraries offer ways to apply this student-centered framework to develop learning-rich programs about a variety of subject areas. This video also offers an introduction to the research-based ConnectedLib Toolkit that offers librarians a variety of resources and information regarding how to serve youth through a Connected Learning approach, including community-centered services, mentoring, assessment, and more.

Resources highlighted in the video:

- ConnectedLib Toolkit
- Connected Learning Alliance Resources

The Student-Centered Library

School and Public Library Partnership

VIDEO

[Public Libraries as Partners in Learning – Liz McChesney](#) (36:04)
Liz McChesney's video is chock-full of recommendations and ideas on how public and school libraries can work together, partner, and learn from one another to support children's reading and learning development. Using the Chicago schools and libraries as a case study, McChesney presents ideas for building successful school and public library partnerships, promote summer learning, and expand opportunities for children and families to read and learn in unexpected places, such as laundromats. Key tips include starting small, deciding on formal and tangible goals, and being accountable.

PDF

[Public Library & School Library Collaboration Toolkit](#)
Developed in collaboration with AASL (American Association of School Librarians), ALSC (Association for Library Service to Children), and YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association), this toolkit explores several topics related to the purpose behind school and public library partnerships. The toolkit offers examples of successful partnerships, contact information to learn more, and ways to sustain partnerships once they are underway. Resource lists and citations offer additional sources of information.

WEB

[Leaders Library Card Challenge](#)
The Leaders Library Card Challenge, initiated by President Obama as part of his ConnectED initiative in 2015, provides another example of how school and public libraries can partner to ensure student success. Since then, more than 100 library systems in North America have taken part in the Challenge, providing library cards to 3 million children, many of whom had not previously had a library card. Moreover, the Challenge worked to build connections between school leaders and public libraries that can support student success at the community level. This web page offers background information on the Challenge as well as a Strategic Guide to aid with messaging for key stakeholders.

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Inquiry-Based Learning

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Transforming School Library Practice: A School Librarian's Information Shelf

Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL)

Inquiry-based learning is a pedagogical approach that emphasizes students' questions, ideas, and observations. School librarians play an important role in collaboration with teachers to provide resources that encourage students to think, explore, and interpret along their own paths of inquiry. School librarians have special expertise in the inquiry and research processes and can share this knowledge with teachers. In the process of facilitating student-led learning, librarians have opportunities to teach other essential information literacy skills. IBL models align with AASL National Standards.

The IBL model intersects with related approaches: Project-based Learning (PBL) and Connected Learning. All these strategies empower the student to pursue what interests them and take ownership of their learning path.

Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL)

IBL Models

VIDEO

Inquiring Minds Want to Know: Inquiry-Based Learning in the School Library - Lori Donovan (38:47)

This in-depth video provides a thorough explanation of Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL), particularly how it differentiates from Project-Based Learning. Lori Donovan walks viewers through the various aspects of IBL: the benefits and purpose, four main process models, and recommendations on how to plan and implement an IBL unit in a school library. Donovan offers insights into ways to think about the IBL process that are helpful for accommodating a variety of students and learners. She also establishes connections between IBL and AASL standards as well as the role of the school librarian in IBL work.

School Library Makerspaces

Makerspaces come in many varieties, with a range of equipment from low- to high-tech sophistication. The most important driver for creating a makerspace is being clear about the "why." School librarians often include plans for a makerspace in physical space makeovers as key to transforming the library into the place where students go for self-directed exploration through hands-on making and learning. Student engagement and empowerment is at the heart of devoting time and space to making and STEM activities.

"It was obvious that the kids liked doing projects with hands-on materials. They needed meaningful projects and materials. They knew nothing about the engineering design process. Their library did not have a makerspace, but they needed one. When the librarian gave them materials to create, the students 'went to town!'"

TSLP grantee Meg Jones
Librarian, Hillsboro-Deering Elementary School, NH

VIDEO

Makerspaces in the School Library – Heather Moorefield-Lang (42:31)

Accelerating Promising Practices for Small Libraries:
Transforming School Library Practice

Virtual Teaching and Learning

When schools across the country experienced the sudden COVID-19 pandemic shift from in person to virtual school, most teachers encountered a steep learning curve around conducting classes online. Many school librarians responded swiftly to support teachers in the online classrooms and to create online versions of the library to maintain connections between the library and students. The following resources can meet the challenge of supporting online learning with energy and creativity.

VIDEO

Delivering Engaging Online Learning – Betha Gutsche (22:52)

Accelerating Promising Practices for Small Libraries: Transforming School Library Practice

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This informative video offers effective, impactful practices to facilitate engaging online learning experiences for students. By emphasizing the unique and distinct aspects and needs of producers, presenters, and participants (the roles people adopt in online spaces), this video encourages a holistic approach that prioritizes preparation, support, and fun in the form of online games that can break up a virtual lesson. The resources below offer additional information regarding these effective practices.

Resources highlighted in this video:

- Delivering Engaging Online Learning: The Three P's of Preparation (article)

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TRANSFORMATIVE PRACTICES

Jennifer Sills

Coordinator of Instruction, K–12 Science, Environmental Education, and School Library, Worcester County Public Schools (MD)

Brittany Tignor

School Librarian, Stephen Decatur High School, Worcester County Public Schools (MD)

Strategic Planning: Uniting Library Islands

Brittany Tignor and Jen Sills, Worcester County Public Schools

Our Why

- Awarded IMLS APP Grant in 2019

- Grant Project Goals:

  - <u>Goal 1</u>: Produce a strategic plan and recommendations to provide all 12 librarians with a unified set of strategies and objectives.

  - <u>Goal 2</u>: Use the recommendations and objectives to engage librarians in professional learning and project formation focused on program improvement and best practices for school libraries.

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The Process

Stage 1- Assess

Stage 2- Design

Stage 3- Build

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Assess

➢Identify your stakeholders

➢Determine the key data you need

➢Collect and analyze your data

Assess- SWOT Analysis

Strengths

How can you leverage your strengths?

Weaknesses

How will you address your weaknesses?

Opportunities

How can you take advantage of your opportunities?

Threats

How will you mitigate threats?

Stock Image from Microsoft PowerPoint for Mac

Stock Image from Microsoft PowerPoint for Mac

Design

➤ Work with select stakeholders to review your SWOT.

➤ Determine your collective <u>WHY</u>!

Build

➢Establish goals and objectives (short- and long-term)

➢Develop an action plan and timeline

Worcester County Public Schools
SCHOOL LIBRARY PROGRAMS

OUR VISION

WCPS libraries aspire to be flexible, open spaces that are the heart of our schools, led by librarians who celebrate diversity and empower students to become seekers of ideas and information, innovative users of technology, passionate readers, and life-long learners.

OUR MISSION

WCPS libraries provide equitable, inclusive, safe, and flexible centers of collaborative learning where students can think, create, share, and grow in meaningful ways. Through positive relationships with the school community, school librarians foster a love of literacy, promote ethical practices, advocate for equitable access to diverse resources and technologies, and encourage and inspire future ready learners.

OUR VALUES

- *Advocacy*- WCPS librarians value a diverse and inclusive learning environment led by a librarian who advocates for literacy, equity, access, and creativity.
- *Relationships*- WCPS librarians value positive relationships that serve to establish and sustain our diverse communities, our collections, and our users. We seek to build connections through collaboration.
- *Empowering Learners*- WCPS librarians value empowering students to become life-long learners and readers, as well as critical seekers of information and ideas through teaching and modeling digital citizenship.
- *Welcoming Environments*- WCPS librarians value safe spaces where everyone feels accepted, included, represented, and supported.

GOALS

- Library instruction will align with and support curriculum and standards and promote positive digital citizenship and ethical use of information.
- Libraries will be flexible, student-centered spaces that support making, creating, and innovation.
- Librarians will develop collaborative relationships with students, staff, families, and communities through timely and honest communication.
- Librarians will promote equitable access to collections and resources that are diverse and inclusive.
- Librarians will be leaders within the schools who foster collaborative relationships with teachers and school administration.

Transformative Practices:
Strategic Planning as an Advocacy Tool

- Diversity Audit PD

- Intentional Data Collection

- Ongoing Communication with Stakeholders

Transformative Practices:
Student Centered Collections & Spaces

- Standardized Collection Development Plan

- Dynamic Shelving & Discoverability

- Flexible Spaces

- Robust Makerspaces

- School & Public Library Collaboration

Transformative Practices:
Grade Band Curriculum & Program Alignment

- Elementary Curriculum Development

- Secondary Programming Alignment

- Common Databases and District Digital Collections

- Group Grant Applications

- Shared Reading Challenges

Transformative Practices:
Innovative Mindset from Virtual Learning

WCPS Media Expo

- All-digital entries

- Virtual judging

- Live-streaming

- Student-focused and facilitated program

- Increased digital/virtual presence and resources

Information Shelf Resources

- **School Library Advocacy**
    - School Library Studies & Data
    - Telling the Advocacy Story

- **Makerspaces**
    - Compassionate Making-Gina Seymour

- **Student Centered**
    - School and Public Library Partnerships

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Damaris Arocho

Librarian, CeDIn Elementary School, InterAmerican University of Puerto Rico

Fabiola Baez

Teacher, Second and Third Grade English CeDIn Elementary School, InterAmerican University of Puerto Rico

Transformative Practices

Damaris Arocho & Fabiola Baez
CeDIn Elementary School,
Interamerican University of Puerto Rico

Transformative activities

The library was our research center to integrate the school's environmental education and curricular activities.

4th graders
researched and planted sunflowers

7th & 8th graders
cleaned school vegetable garden

6th graders
made an herbarium

Monthly STEAM Conference

7th and 8th grade

NETWORK SECURITY   MEDICINAL PLANTS

CLIMATE CHANGE

Conferences with different STEM experts

THE SCIENCE FIELD OF ASTRONOMY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2021
STARTING AT 1:00 P.M

KEVIN ORTIZ-CEBALLOS
PH.D STUDENT OF ASTRONOMY
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

MODERATED BY
MR. EMERSON RIVERA-RAMOS
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE TEACHER
7TH GRADE

Planting STEAM Seeds Club

8th grade students created a STEAM club

The key to success is collaboration

3rd
grade
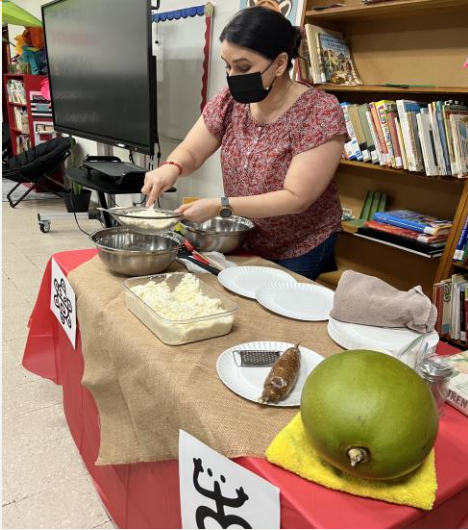
Preparing cassava bread,

after the lesson on our

ancestors, the Tainos

The key to success is in collaboration

robotics conference

6th grade space biome prototype

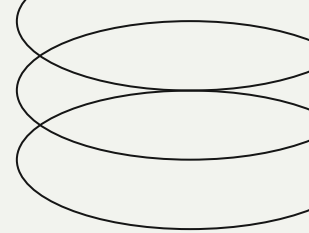showing their work to 2nd grade

space engineer conference

Example of collaboration

Natural resources

Vertebrate and Invertebrate Research

curricular integration (science and Spanish class)

*offered by Government Organization **Para la Naturaleza***

Ecosystem conference

Field Trip

field trip to natural reserve

ways to preserve the environment (English class)

Recycled paper

Mother's Day gift

comic strip and bookmark with recycled paper

Essential Elements for Collaboration

01

Library Resources

Knowing the resources I have in the library allows me promote them when planning with teachers

02

Syllabus of the classes

Having the syllabus helps me visualize which topics I can suggest for collaboration with the library

03

Teachers' Schedule

Allows me to plan the coordination meetings

04

Online Resources

Pinterest - Instagram - Facebook

Helps us find ideas for future collaborations

Flexibility

Keep in mind that planning can be imagined one way, but the execution can be different. Think about **CONTROLLED CHAOS**. Adapt to each situation and remember what's important is to learn from the experience and apply what you learned to future opportunities!
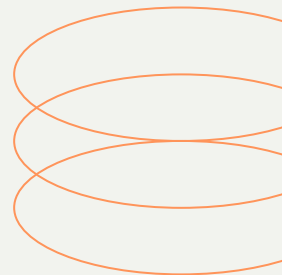
Thanks!

Do you have any questions?

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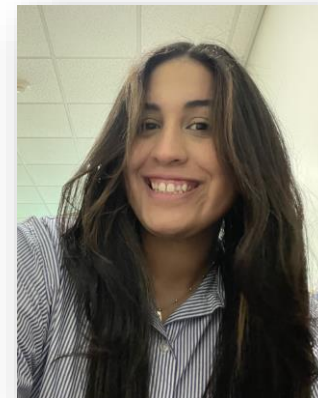
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Questions?

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Public Schools (MD)

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Damaris Arocho
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Interamerican University of
Puerto Rico

Fabiola Baez
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Interamerican University of
Puerto Rico

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NEXT STEPS

School Librarian's Information Shelf
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