



## **Online program from Britannica and AASL helps school librarians plan and succeed**

### **Interactive planning guide makes implementing AASL program guidelines easier**

**CHICAGO, January 19, 2011**—Diligent school librarians working to put program guidelines into practice now have help from a new online, interactive program from the [American Association of School Librarians](#) (AASL) and [Britannica Digital Learning](#).

The [program](#), called A Planning Guide for Empowering Learners, is designed to support implementation of AASL program guidelines, saving librarians time and providing them with data they can use to evaluate, improve and support their practices.

The association's program [guidelines](#) help school librarians teach students “to be critical thinkers, enthusiastic readers, skillful researchers, and ethical users of information.” The program guidelines are a response to the rapidly changing nature of research and learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and are meant to be a source of support for librarians, but, the association acknowledges in [a statement](#), “in their entirety [they] can seem a bit overwhelming to school librarians who may struggle to figure out how to ensure proper implementation.”

That’s where the planning guide comes in. It provides a tool for evaluation, planning, implementation and advocacy that enables librarians to establish general principles for effective library programs, including goals, priorities and criteria of evaluation.

Among its features is a School Library Program Assessment Rubric that allows librarians to assess their program on 16 different sets of criteria.

“Helping students learn to find information, understand it, and use it well is a big part of Britannica’s mission,” said Michael Ross, a senior vice president at Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc. and general manager of Britannica Digital Learning. “It was a perfectly natural thing for us to get together with AASL to make the planning guide more interactive and useful. We’re delighted to be part of the project.”

The site has features to help librarians with a number of key tasks, such as developing measurable and attainable goals and explaining and supporting their programs within their schools and districts. For example, it produces easy-to-understand reports, worksheets, charts and graphs that can be used to update administrators and build support for library programming. The site is completely interactive, with step-by-step modules that make it easy to use.

Individual annual subscriptions for the planning guide are \$40/year, with a renewal rate of \$20. AASL members pay \$36 and \$18 for renewal. Interested customers can call 1-800-621-3900 or go to <http://info.eb.com/aasl> for more information.

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