

Empowering school libraries: A shared mission of IASL and ISLM

By Raman Deep

Snapshot

Raman Deep, the Regional Director of Asia for the International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) and the Chairperson of the International School Library Month (ISLM) Committee, explores the opportunities offered by the IASL (International Association of School Librarianship) advocacy projects offered under the banner of the ISLM – the International School Libraries Month.

As a passionate advocate for school libraries and an active member of the [International Association of School Librarianship \(IASL\)](#), I am constantly inspired by the collective efforts of our global community. Every October, we come together to celebrate [International School Library Month \(ISLM\)](#)—a special time to recognize the vital role school libraries play in nurturing young minds.

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Since its inception, ISLM has united schools worldwide, encouraging them to acknowledge and celebrate their libraries. From storytelling marathons to international collaborations, this initiative embodies the true spirit of connection, creativity, and innovation. Over the years, I have had the privilege of witnessing the dedication of students, teachers, and librarians, and I am always amazed by the transformative power of these celebrations.

IASL & ISLM: A shared vision

At IASL, our mission perfectly aligns with ISLM. We strive to create a strong network where school libraries can thrive, grow, and innovate by offering resources, advocacy, and professional development opportunities. In the Asia Region, we've seen firsthand the unique challenges that educators and librarians face—but we've also seen their resilience, creativity, and commitment to overcoming these hurdles. Initiatives like ISLM bridge geographical and cultural gaps, proving that collaborative efforts can create meaningful change in school libraries across the world.



Exciting ISLM projects

Each year, ISLM offers a variety of engaging projects that promote collaboration, cultural exchange, and creativity among schools, librarians, and students worldwide. Here are some of our ongoing and upcoming projects:

ISLM bookmark exchange project 2024

A cornerstone of ISLM, the [Bookmark exchange project](#) continues to connect students from different parts of the world through handmade bookmarks that reflect the year's ISLM theme. This initiative fosters global friendships, cultural appreciation, and creative expression among participants. Schools exchange bookmarks, share stories behind their designs, and build meaningful international connections.



Digital bookmark exchange project 2024

Building on the traditional exchange, the [Digital Bookmark Exchange Project](#) offers a modern and eco-friendly twist by allowing schools to create and exchange bookmarks digitally. This ensures greater accessibility, encourages the use of digital creativity tools, and promotes sustainability.

Virtual connections around the world: A unique opportunity for global interaction

This [interactive project](#) allows school librarians and students to connect with peers across the globe through virtual meetups, storytelling sessions, and cultural discussions. By leveraging digital platforms, participants engage in live conversations, exchange ideas, and explore diverse perspectives on literacy and learning.

Narratives uniting nations: International storytelling exchange project 2024

Stories have the power to transcend borders, and [this project](#) brings schools together in a cross-cultural storytelling exchange. Participating schools share traditional tales, personal narratives, or original stories with partner schools, creating a rich tapestry of voices that highlight both differences and commonalities in storytelling traditions.

International book review exchange project 2024

Encouraging global literary conversations, [this initiative](#) invites students to write and exchange book reviews with their peers worldwide. By discussing books from different cultures, participants broaden their perspectives, develop analytical skills, and foster a deeper appreciation for international literature.

Treasure box of native folktales and fairytales: A cultural story vault (A-Z)

[This project](#) serves as a repository of native folktales and fairytales from around the world. Schools contribute traditional stories from their regions, helping to preserve cultural heritage and promote storytelling traditions. The collection, arranged A-Z, becomes a valuable resource for educators and students seeking to explore diverse literary traditions.

ISLM official poster making contest 2025

One of the most highly anticipated events every year is the ISLM Official Poster Making Contest! This contest invites participants from around the world to showcase their creativity and love for school libraries through art. The official announcement will be made soon for the ISLM Official Poster Making Contest 2025, so keep an eye on our social media platforms and emails for updates. We are excited to see the incredible talent and inspiring designs that will emerge from this global event!

These projects empower school libraries to meet the ever-changing needs of students and communities, ensuring that they remain dynamic spaces of learning and discovery.

Join the IASL community

We are always eager to welcome more members into the IASL family! Becoming a member connects you with a worldwide network of educators, librarians, and advocates working together to empower school libraries.

By joining IASL, you gain access to:

- Professional development opportunities
- Global collaborations
- Exclusive resources and publications
- A platform to share and exchange ideas

To become a member, visit the [IASL official membership page](#).

Get in touch!

For any inquiries about IASL or ISLM, feel free to reach out:

[IASL Secretariat](#)

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Let's continue working together to empower school libraries worldwide!

Raman Deep hails from Khanna, Punjab (North India), renowned as Asia's largest grain market city. With a profound commitment to education, literacy, and global collaboration, she has made remarkable contributions to the field of school librarianship, inspiring students and educators worldwide.

Currently, she serves as a Librarian, Events Coordinator, and International School Award Coordinator at Delhi World Public School, Ludhiana, Punjab. In this role, she curates enriching learning experiences, fosters a love for reading, and leads international collaborations to broaden students' perspectives. Her dedication to integrating technology and innovation in school libraries has empowered young learners to thrive in the digital age.

As the Regional Director for Asia for the International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) and Chairperson of the International School Library Month (ISLM) Committee, Raman has been instrumental in bringing school libraries together on a global platform. She also spearheads the International Bookmark Exchange Project (ISLM), facilitating cross-cultural exchanges and creative engagement among students worldwide.

Raman has been awarded the prestigious FAP National Best Teacher Award in 2022, recognizing her unwavering dedication to education.

As an elected member of IFLA's Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section Standing Committee, Raman actively contributes to shaping the future of school libraries globally. She is also a Core Team Member of the UniGlobal School Project and International Coordinator of the International Expressions of Kindness Project, championing literacy, kindness, and intercultural understanding.