

What is a learning commons?

A learning commons is a whole school approach to building a participatory learning community. The library learning commons is the physical and virtual collaborative learning hub of the school.

Leading Learning, CLA, 2014

This learning guide is designed for use by instructional leaders and professional learning communities or as a self-paced study to explore learning commons.



Use this learning guide after viewing the [LC Video Byte 4, Rethinking Resources Collections](#)

Synopsis: *In LC Video Byte 4 we examine re-thinking learning commons resources – print and digital collections - to support participatory learning.*

Key understandings:

- Designing responsive print & digital collections is cyclical and ongoing.
- LC collections are updated, balanced in format and content, include Canadian content and equity resources.
- LC collections support curriculum and student reading, and involve teachers and students in connections for knowledge building and personalized learning.
- Alberta ELA curriculum mandates student knowledge of resource evaluation and library systems.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

- How are print & digital collections developed at your school?
- How do you obtain feedback from students on what LC resources are most helpful to them?
- How is feedback from teachers obtained about what resources are most needed and effective?
- How are suggestions for acquisition of new or alternative materials sought?

Additional resources:

[Awareness and understanding of Alberta Education Learning Commons Policy & Guidelines](#)

[Alberta Education: Programs of Study English Language Arts](#)

[Learning commons indicators for participatory learning design pp.19- 20, Leading Learning](#)

[Keeping Your Library Collection Smelling F.R.E.S.H! \(LaGarde\)](#)

Acknowledgement:

This guide was developed by the Calgary Regional Consortium and funded through a grant from Alberta Education to support implementation. It is freely provided in support of improved teaching and learning under the following Creative Commons license.

