# Contents

Foreword ................................................................. ix
  How to read this book ........................................ xi
  Acknowledgements ............................................ xii

Part 1 Who is the librarian? ................................. 1
  1 Professionalism and the school librarian. ............... 1
    What are the discourses of professionalism? ............. 4
    Discourse of managerialism ................................ 4
    Discourse of technical-rationalism ......................... 9
    Discourse of social democracy ............................. 11
    Where does this leave school librarianship in the 21st century? 15
    What influences the school librarian's professional identity? .. 18
    Our professional identity .................................. 22

  2 How others see us. .............................................. 25
    Who are the significant others? .......................... 27
    Within the school community ............................. 27
    Outside the school ......................................... 34
    What influences the perceptions of these significant stakeholders? 36
    How do school librarians think the stakeholders see them? .. 41
    What are the implications of the perceptions of the librarian? .. 44
    Conclusion .................................................. 45
3 Bridging the gap ........................................ 47
   Is there always a dichotomy? .......................... 47
   In what circumstances might a dichotomy arise?  ... 49
   How can we resolve the dichotomy? .................. 55

Part 2 Your community: from perceptions to practice. .... 61
4 Identifying and understanding your community ............... 61
   How do we define our community? ..................... 62
   What informs the ways we explore our community? ... 64
   Ways of thinking about your learning community ...... 66
   What does learning look like in our own institutions? . 69
   What does learning look like for the individuals in our own communities? .................................. 73

5 Making a positive response ................................ 77
   Getting into position ..................................... 77
   What is possible in the real world of school libraries? . 78
   Staying positive .......................................... 80
   Using evidence to support your case .................... 83
   Benchmarking between school libraries ................. 83
   Learning from the world ................................ 86
   Making a difference ...................................... 88
   Tapping into school and user priorities ................. 89
   How do we make line-management systems work for us? .... 92
   How do we use other relationships to help us? ........ 95
   Learning from the students ............................... 97
   What if our personal vision does not match the library reality? ... 99
   How do we know if we are meeting the needs of our community? .. 100
   How well are we doing? ................................... 101

Part 3 Moving forward ....................................... 103
6 Inspiration ................................................. 103
   What is inspiration? ....................................... 103
   Where does inspiration fit into school librarianship? .... 103