



International Network for School Social Work

<http://internationalnetwork-schoolsocialwork.htmlplanet.com>

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What to read

Children and their problems at school

Children bring every imaginable human problem to school. Their parents and school staff bring adult versions of the same problems. Schools turn to school social workers for help with handling the problems, so that teachers can continue to teach and children learn. Systems based and holistic, school social work is a good match for the huge range of problems, making the school social worker a key school team member. The children's problems are both broad and deep, so a school social worker must have a huge range of knowledge and skills. It often seems to the social worker that she must quickly learn about a new topic every day. It then takes years to understand it at a deeper level.

School social work literature

School social workers, like any professional, continue to learn throughout their careers. Some take a higher degree, most use expert supervision and take continuing education classes, and they must read all they can about children, schools and how to apply knowledge to help schools. Finding relevant reading material is not easy, even when working with a school population that appears to be in mainstream western culture. It can be even harder to find literature that is suitable if you are working in a country where school social work has not produced texts that fit the culture.

School social work has a long history in the United States and texts have been available for decades, some with several editions, produced to respond to the emerging needs of the field. These texts typically offer the history of school social work, policy, theory and practice, all of which is important for the professional to know. For example, the 8th Edition of *School Social Work* and the 7th edition of *Social Work Services in Schools* both came out in 2015. Some authors to look for are Allen-Meares, Alvarez, Bye, Constable, Flynn, Franklin, Frey, Kelly, Massat, McDonald, Raines. A complete book chapter by Robert Constable of Loyola University, Chicago, (<http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.536.6620&rep=rep1&type=pdf>) on *The Role of the School Social Worker* is available online.

Journals and guides help school social workers in the US to stay up-to-date. The *School Social Work Journal* has been published by the Illinois Association of School Social Workers since the late 1970's. Questia has a portal to articles in the School Social Work Journal with free previews <https://www.questia.com/library/p439754/school-social-work-journal>. The National Association of Social Work publishes the journal *Children and Schools*.

There is extensive German language literature on Schulsozialarbeit and Sozialpädagogik, including works by Baier, Drilling, Nieslony, Rademacker, Speck, Vyslouzil. There is a short bibliography at <http://www.schulsozialarbeit.net/literatur/> and more publications with some free downloads at http://www.schulsozialarbeit.ch/index.php?p=7_0_0.

Sweden has an online quarterly magazine *Skolkuratoren* for all members of the Swedish School Social Workers Association and a 2005 textbook *Socionomen i skolan* (The Social Worker in the School) by Yvonne D. Wester.

Professor Min-Sun Sung of the Catholic University of Korea, founding President of KSSSW (The Korean Society of School Social Work), and several colleagues have translated Allen-Mearns 5th Edition of *Social Work Services in Schools* into Korean and published it in February 2008.

The School Social Workers Association of Mongolia has published the journal *Mongolia School Social Work Practice* four times a year. The Association also has research reports and publications that have advanced the progress of the field, such as the *Situation Analysis on School Social Work in Mongolia*, Summary of a Research Report (2007), which unfortunately no longer seems available online.

In Japan, Yamashita, Kadota, Hanba, Uchida, Noriko Yamano and others pioneered school social work literature and there have been around 10 books published in just the last few years, *The Japanese Journal of School Social Work*, started in 2006, continues to publish an edition annually.

School Social Work History

<http://www.schoolsocialworkhistory.com/home.html>

Learning the history of school social work helps you meet the challenge of changing needs. The mission of this site by Randy Fisher is simple. It is to preserve the literature and history of the school social work field and to share it with practitioners, students, professors and historians.

International Network

This monthly newsletter has articles on school social work topics and practice from many countries. <http://skolkurator.nu/internationella-kontakter/> has an archive of the newsletter since 2007.

ERIC: Educational Resources Information Center

<https://eric.ed.gov/>

This is an easy-to-use online library for searching journal articles, reports and conference papers from international sources that are related to education. School Social Work is included. Some complete papers are available, otherwise only abstracts. Authors of material relevant to education can submit manuscripts to be reviewed and included in the database.

Fiction and Biography

Fiction and biography can help you get a deeper understanding of the lives and difficulties of the families you work with, and your own too. Here are recent works from two countries.

My Struggle by Norwegian novelist Karl Ove Knausgaard. Volume 1 deals with modern marriage and family, volume 2 deals with midlife and volume 3 portrays the struggles of childhood. It is available in over 20 languages.

The *Spider King's Daughter* by Nigerian novelist Chibundu Onuzo reveals how two teens from different backgrounds respond to ethical issues in present-day Lagos.