

In November, I was fortunate to attend the 2007 School Library Journal Leadership Summit Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. The weather unfortunately was lousy, but I learned a great deal. The title of the conference was **Where's the Evidence? Understanding the Impact of School Libraries.**

The real focus was Evidence-based Practice. Evidence-based Practice, a concept that originally came from the medical profession, is a way to understand the impact of school libraries on student achievement. Evidence-based Practice has three steps: 1) know and evaluate existing educational *research*, 2) combine this knowledge with local wisdom in order to create effective library programs. 3) Collect evidence if the new program is making a difference.

We heard from medical field professionals, plus several studies from Ohio, Delaware, New York, New Hampshire, Florida, and Saint Paul.

Although this conference was aimed at school librarians, the principles would be applicable to all kinds of libraries.