

**Libraries can prevent the School Year Slide.**

**Posted as a comment in response to an editorial, “Our View: Reading stops the summer slide,” (Wilkes Barre Times-Leader, July 11).**

**<https://tinyurl.com/y3q8vwun>**

**Yes, there is strong evidence that summer reading can prevent the “summer slide.” But it also prevents a different kind of slide.**

**In 2007, Shu-Yuan Lin, Fay Shin and I published a report of a high school student whose reading scores dropped during the school year, but increased each summer. In fact, her reading scores in the fall were much higher than they were the previous spring.**

**She complained that she had little time for pleasure reading during the school year because of school work. But during the summer, she spent hours in the local public library, reading about 50 books each summer. Not classics, but books by Nancy Drew, the Sweet Valley High series, and eventually the Christy Miller series. She was a member of the National Honor Society and was an award-winning member of the debate team.**

**By encouraging pleasure reading, public libraries might be doing more than combatting the “summer slide.” They may be combatting the “school year slide.”**

**Our paper: Lin, S-Y, Shin, F., & Krashen, S. 2007. Sophia’s choice: Summer reading. Knowledge Quest 35(4), 52-55. free download: <https://tinyurl.com/y3eezees>**