The Library as Conversation

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The Problem with “Prophets”

• Visionary without Reality
• Bibliofundamentalist
• Motto’s Over Intellectual Signatures
• The French Revolutionary
  • "There go my people. I must find out where they are going so that I may lead them." - Alexandre Ledru-Rollin
The Obligation of Innovation

• Innovation is Everyone’s Job

• You will Determine What the Future of the Library Should Be
Participatory Librarianship

• Knowledge is Created through Conversation

• Libraries are in the Knowledge Business

• Therefore, Libraries are in the Conversation Business
Free Library
Free Library
Free Library
Functional Logic of Librarianship

• More Books Requires Inventory
• Large Inventory Requires Classification
• Classification Requires Professional
• Large Classified Inventory Requires Automation
• Automation Leads to Networks
• Networks Require Standards
Daedalus’ Maze

- Libraries have become trapped in their own labyrinth of tools and organizations
- MARC, AACR2, DDC, LCSH, Z39.50, NISO, OPAC, DCMI, LibQual, ILL, AAT, GAC, ILS, LSTA, OCLC
The Story
The Story
The Story
Are We in the Document Business?
Facilitation Not Access

- Access
- Knowledge
- Environment
- Motivation
Free Library of Philadelphia

- Book Fair
- Speakers Series
- Entrepreneurium
Too Many Books

- The Scars of San Francisco
- Off Sight Storage
- Sapho’s Sphere
Knowing
Knowing

Writing = Knowing
Knowing

Writing = Knowing

Reading = Knowing
Knowing

Writing = Knowing

Reading = Knowing

≠ Knowing
Knowing

Writing = Knowing

Reading = Knowing

Conversing With ≠ Knowing

= Knowing
Conversation is not a Metaphor

- Conversants
- Language
- Agreements
- Memory
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Participatory Logic of Librarianship

- The User is in Control
- It is ALL About Learning
- Learning is a Collaborative Conversation
- The Library (Librarians) Serves as Facilitators of Conversation
- True Facilitation with the Community Means Shared Ownership
- Invest in Tools for Creation Over the Collection of Artifacts
Slides, Projects, and Opportunities
www.DavidLankes.org