The Obligation of Leadership

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Outline

• Mentors and Their Lessons
• Mentors and Their Legacies
• Creating a New Legacy
• Accepting the Obligation to Lead
• Mentors and Their Lessons
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Richard Lankes
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• How can you tell a pioneer in a crowd?
• He’s the one with all the Arrows in his Backside
Richard Lankes

- How can you tell a pioneer in a crowd?
- He’s the one with all the Arrows in his Backside
- You Cannot Wait for a Leader
Jeff Katzer
Jeff Katzer

- Change is Like Heaven
• Change is Like Heaven
• Everyone Thinks it’s a Good Idea
Jeff Katzer

• Change is Like Heaven

• Everyone Thinks it’s a Good Idea

• But Nobody Wants to Go First
Ray von Dran
Ray von Dran

- True Mentorship is Wanting those you Mentor to do Better than You
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• Leadership is Stewardship, not Ambition
Hold Fast to the Principles they Taught us and Chart a New Course
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• The Last thing they Wanted was Status Quo
• Hold Fast to the Principles they Taught us and Chart a New Course
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• The Library Field has had Field-wide Mentors - Dewey, Ranganathan, Lancaster, Taylor, Lippo
• Hold Fast to the Principles they Taught us and Chart a New Course

• The Last thing they Wanted was Status Quo

• The Library Field has had Field-wide Mentors - Dewey, Ranganathan, Lancaster, Taylor, Lippo

• Leaders throughout Library History Fought for Radical Change
• Service
• Knowledge
• Learning
• Intellectual Freedom
• Access
• Service
• Knowledge
• Learning
• Intellectual Freedom
• Access

Unbiased
• Service
• Knowledge
• Learning
• Intellectual Freedom
• Access
• Intellectually Honest
The True Mission

- Knowledge is Created Through Conversation
- Libraries are in the Knowledge Business
- Therefore, Libraries are in the Conversation Business
The True Mission

• Knowledge is Created Through Conversation

• Libraries are in the Knowledge Business

• Therefore, Libraries are in the Conversation Business

• People Need to be Active Constructor of their Knowledge

• They want Tools that Allow and Facilitate Conversation and Participation

• Pressure to Participate
The True Mission

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- Libraries are in the Knowledge Business
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- Pressure to Participate
The Great Conversation
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“A popular government without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy; or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance; and a people who mean to be their own Governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives.” - James Madison
“The people are the only censors of their governors; and even their errors will tend to keep these to the true principles of their institution. ... The way to prevent these [errors] is to give them full information of their affairs through the channel of the public papers, and to contrive that those papers should penetrate the whole mass of the people.” - Thomas Jefferson
Are We Ready?
We Can Do Better
We Can Do Better

• Discovery NOT Inventory
We Can Do Better

- Discovery NOT Inventory
- Stop Adding Lipstick to a Pig!
We Can Do Better

• Discovery NOT Inventory
• Stop Adding Lipstick to a Pig!
• Stop Having “Next Generation Catalogs” Conversations - Commit to this being the Last Generation of Catalogs
We Can Do Better

- Discovery NOT Inventory
- Stop Adding Lipstick to a Pig!
- Stop Having “Next Generation Catalogs” Conversations - Commit to this being the Last Generation of Catalogs
- It is Time to Replace them with Real Tools of Discovery and Knowledge, and Not Inventory
Are We Done Yet?

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We Can Do Better
Is This the Best We Can Do?
We Can Do Better
Is this Really the Answer?
We Can Do Better
Can We Do Better?
We Can Do Better
The Obligation to Lead
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• We Cannot Wait for Leaders
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- We Cannot Wait for Leaders
- We Cannot Wait for Change
The Obligation to Lead

• We Cannot Wait for Leaders
• We Cannot Wait for Change
• We Must Serve Society through Stewardship
The Obligation to Lead

- We Cannot Wait for Leaders
- We Cannot Wait for Change
- We Must Serve Society through Stewardship
- We are the Future of Librarianship
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www.DavidLankes.org