Year of the Librarian: Enduring Value and Shifting Mission

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Thank You
“Radical” Ideas

- Universal Classification
- Reference
- Copy Cataloging
- Open Stacks
- Circulation
The Mission
The Illinois State Library promotes excellence in information access and innovative services for government, libraries and people.
The Mission of Librarians is to Improve Society through Facilitating Knowledge Creation in their Communities
From Collection to Scholarship
From Collection to Scholarship

From Dissemination to Action
From Collection to Scholarship

From Dissemination to Action

From Sharing to Social Good
Knowledge as Thing versus Knowledge as Action
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Conversation

Facilitation

Values
Conversation
“This paper is not concerned with the usual library automation...routine automation is merely an extension of the control and warehousing functions of libraries. The work here is an early effort to understand better the communications functions of libraries...because that is what libraries are all about.”
- Bob Taylor, Question Negotiation, 1968
Conversation

Conversants

Memory

Language

Agreements
“As a more powerful alternative to the images of librarianship already available or proposed, I suggest that we begin to think of libraries as centers for conversation and of ourselves as mediators of and participants in the conversations of the world.”

- Joan Bechtel, College & Research Libraries, 1986
Literary Warrant
Reference Interview
Evolution of Classification
Readers Advisory
The Great Conversation in Humanities
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Facilitation
Access
Facilitation

Access

Knowledge

Environment
Facilitation

Access

Motivation

Knowledge

Environment
• Collection Building
• Bibliographic Instruction
• Intellectual Freedom
The Mission of Librarians is to Improve Society through Facilitating Knowledge Creation in their Communities.
Values

Intellectual Freedom and Safety

Service
Learning

Intellectual Freedom and Safety

Service

Values
Values

Intellectual Freedom and Safety

Openness

Learning

Service
Values

- Intellectual Freedom and Safety
- Learning
- Openness
- Intellectually Honest not Unbiased
- Service
Gorman’s Eight Central Values of Librarians

- Stewardship
- Service
- Intellectual Freedom
- Privacy
- Rationalism
- Commitment to Literacy and Learning
- Equity of Access
- Democracy
Intellectual Freedom and Safety

Intellectually Honest not Unbiased

Openness

Learning

Intellectual Freedom and Safety

Service
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A Few Examples

• Blogs in the Library
• Embedded Librarians
• Production Librarians
• Library without Walls
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- Embedded Librarians
- Production Librarians
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The Trap of Memory

“The Past: Our cradle, not our prison; there is danger as well as appeal in its glamour. The past is for inspiration, not imitation, for continuation, not repetition.”

-Israel Zangwill