The Future of Librarianship

R. David Lankes
Professor Syracuse University’s iSchool
The February 1, 1939 issue of *Vogue* ran this photo of the 21st Century man.

Gilbert Rhode banishes buttons, pockets, collars, ties. The man of the next century will revolt against shaving and wear a beautiful beard, says the designer of boilers, pianos, clocks, and metal furniture. His hat will be an antennae - snatching radio out of the ether. His socks disposable, his suit minus tie collar and buttons.

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YOU
The Future

• Apps will replace books as the primary means of distributing content
• Apps will exist in walled gardens
• Information will become a commodity traded for privacy and attention
• Proprietary interests as sole stewards
• A few libraries will continue to exist primarily as archives of unique content
• Staffed by subject experts
Are You OK With That?
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You are not a user, you are not a customer, or consumer - you are a participant in control of your world and able to shape it.
Are You OK With That?

What is the future of libraries?
What is the future of libraries?
Refining the Question

What should be the future of libraries?
Refining the Question

What should be the future of libraries and librarians?
What should be the future of libraries and librarians in a democracy?
Changing Nature of Librarians

• Unshackled from the “Collection”

• Our Communities Are Our Collections

• Collection Development - Connection Development

• The Ascending Resource of the Library

• Unlike the Peaking Collection
The mission of librarians is to improve society through facilitating knowledge creation in their communities.
THE GIFT OF
ANDREW CARNEGIE
TO THE CITY OF DALLAS
DALLAS
PUBLIC LIBRARY
1900
There is not such a cradle of democracy upon the Earth as the Free Public Library, this republic of letters, where neither rank, office, nor wealth receives the slightest consideration.

~Andrew Carnegie
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~Andrew Carnegie

Take away my people, but leave my factories, and soon grass will grow on the factory floors. Take away my factories, but leave my people, and soon we will have a new and better factory.

~Andrew Carnegie