The Future of Librarianship

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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
The Future

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- Proprietary Interests as Sole Stewards?
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- Staffed by Subject experts.
Are You OK With That?
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What is the future of libraries?
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?
The Future: Part 2

- Libraries retrench highly selective print and digital collections
- Popular material is rented as a means to entice a public in for engaging cultural enrichment
- Librarians are increasingly behind the scenes in specialized research and collection maintenance
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Developing An Agenda
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Today

Ideal Future

Predicted Future

Wednesday

3
Developing An Agenda

Ideal Future

Gap

Today

Predicted Future
Developing An Agenda

Ideal Future

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Today

Predicted Future

Task n
Task 3
Task 2
Task 1

Wednesday
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Agenda

Task 1

Task 2

Task 3

Task n

Today

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Gap

Ideal Future

Wednesday

3
Mission

• Not About Artifacts
• Not About Buildings
• Not About “Information”
• Not About Cataloging or Reference or ILL
Mission

- The mission of librarians is to improve society through facilitating knowledge creation in their communities
Grand Challenges

A Societal-Level Problem That is Solvable and Has High Potential Rewards

- Andrew Dillon, University of Texas
- Mary Stansbury, University of Denver
- Sam Hastings, South Carolina University
- David Lankes, Syracuse University
- Tula Giannini, Pratt Institute
- William Schickling, Polaris
- Corrine Hill, Dallas Public Library
- Annie Norman, Delaware State Library
- Martha Reid, Vermont State Library
- Anne Craig, Illinois State Library
- Mary Chute, IMLS
Knowledge Society

Nature of Knowledge and Deep Thought

How to accept multiple ways of coming to a solution - truth by consensus
Knowledge Society

Knowledge Economy

Skilled Workforce, Importance of Innovation, Distribution of Resources, Nature of Education
Knowledge Infrastructure

Uncoordinated and Conflicted
Producer/Consumption Oriented
Knowledge Infrastructure

Uncoordinated and Conflicted
Producer/Consumption Oriented
Knowledge Infrastructure

Technologically Uncoordinated and Conflicted

Producer/Consumption Oriented
Knowledge Infrastructure

Technology

People

Uncoordinated and Conflicted
Producer/Consumption Oriented
Knowledge Infrastructure

Technology

Sources

People

Uncoordinated and Conflicted
Producer/Consumption Oriented
Knowledge Infrastructure

Uncoordinated and Conflicted
Producer/Consumption Oriented
Coordinated Knowledge Infrastructure
Coordinated Knowledge Infrastructure

- Lifelong Learning
- P-20: Preparing Students to Engage in an Academic Culture
- P-20: Higher Education: Fixing an Increasingly Broken Model
- How to Credential Knowledge
Coordinated Knowledge Infrastructure

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- Transfer Community Knowledge Local to Global
Coordinated Knowledge Infrastructure

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- P-20: Higher Education: Fixing an Increasingly Broken Model
- How to Credential Knowledge
- Transfer Community Knowledge Local to Global
- Equality of Access for the 21st Century
The Future?

Information Apocalypse?

Book Museum?
The Mission of Librarians is to Improve Society through Facilitating Knowledge Creation in their Communities
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Serve

Innovate
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Want More Detail?
The Atlas of New Librarianship
Now Available From MIT Press