Expecting More From Our Libraries

R. David Lankes
Syracuse University’s iSchool
http://www.DavidLankes.org
Take Aways

1. Think People Not Buildings
2. Think Community Not Collection
3. Think Aspirations Not Deficiencies
Think People Not Buildings
Problem of Definition

library |ˈlɪbrəri| noun (pl. libraries)
a building or room containing collections of books, periodicals, and sometimes films and recorded music for people to read, borrow, or refer to: a school library | [as modifier]: a library book.
• a collection of books and periodicals held in a library: the Institute houses an outstanding library of 35,000 volumes on the fine arts.
• a collection of films, recorded music, genetic material, etc., organized systematically and kept for research or borrowing: a record library.
• a series of books, recordings, etc., issued by the same company and similar in appearance.
• a room in a private house where books are kept.
• (also software library) Computing a collection of programs and software packages made generally available, often loaded and stored on disk for immediate use.

ORIGIN late Middle English: via Old French from Latin libraria ‘bookshop,’ feminine (used as a noun) of librarius ‘relating to books,’ from liber, libr- ‘book.’
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Other Problem: Libraries Don't Make a Difference
Other Problem: Libraries

Don't Make a Difference
Other Problem: Libraries
Don't Make a Difference
A Mandated Facilitated Space (Virtual and/or Physical) Maintained by the Community, Stewarded by Librarians, and Dedicated to Knowledge.
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Community Not Collection
What do you love to do?

What are you passionate about?

Would you be interested in sharing what you know/teaching it to your neighbors/to the community?

Can I have your contact info?
Name__________________________
Phone________________________
Email__________________________

Do you want to speak in person? Please have the Executive Director contact me ______

Susan L. Considine, Executive Director
Fayetteville Free Library
300 Orchard Street
Fayetteville, NY 13066
315-637-6374 X 307
sconsidine@fflib.org

Staff Initials_____
Date___________
Aspirations Not Deficiencies
Two Types of Deficit Thinking

- What We Expect
- How We Market
Advocacy or Remediation?
Advocacy or Remediation?

Reading
Advocacy or Remediation?

Reading

Tech Skills
Advocacy or Remediation?

Reading

Tech Skills

Internet Access
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Remediation</th>
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We also cannot see our members as consumers whose primary deficit is their ability to create
Take Aways

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EXPECT MORE
Demanding Better Libraries for Today’s Complex World

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