Everything You Learned in Library School is Wrong

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Syracuse University’s School of Information Studies

http://www.DavidLankes.org
Everything You Learned in Library School or Almost Everything you Learned in Library School is Wrong

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"Common sense is the collection of prejudices acquired by age eighteen."
A Library is…

A Librarian is…

“We provide the highest level of service to all library users through appropriate and usefully organized resources; equitable service policies; equitable access; and accurate, unbiased, and courteous responses to all requests.”
A Library is…

library | ˈlɪbrərē, ˈbrərē |
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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Common Sense

• Libraries are Good and Necessary Things

• Libraries Collect, Organize, and Provide Access to Information
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For Whom?
Librarians Collect, Organize, and Provide Access to Information

For Whom?  Why?
Librarians Collect, Organize, and Provide Access to Information

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Librarians Collect, Organize, and Provide Access to Information.
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For Whom? Why?
Librarians Collect, Organize, and Provide Access to Knowledge
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Librarians Collect, Organize, and Provide Access to Knowledge
Librarians Collect, Organize, and Provide Access to Knowledge
Librarians Collect, Organize, and Provide Access to Conversations and Their Relations to Objects and Other Conversations
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Community is the collection

Librarians Collect, Organize, and Provide Access to Conversations and Their Relations to Objects and Other Conversations
Common Sense

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Common Sense

• Librarians are Good and Necessary Things

• Librarians Collect, Organize, and Provide Access to Information
“A library always makes the difference!”
“A Librarian always makes the difference!”
“A librarian chooses to make the difference!”
The Mission of Librarians is to Improve Society through Facilitating Knowledge Creation in their Communities
People Not Institutions

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- People Not Institutions
- Access
- Training/Knowledge
- Environment
- Motivation
- Created by Conversation
The Mission of Librarians is to Improve Society through Facilitating Knowledge Creation in their Communities.

People Not Institutions
Ethical Counter-Balance

Access
Training/Knowledge
Environment
Motivation

Created by Conversation
The Mission of Librarians is to Improve Society through Facilitating Knowledge Creation in their Communities

Access
Training/Knowledge
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Motivation

People Not Institutions
Ethical Counter-Balance
Learning

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- People, not Institutions
- Ethical Counter-Balance
  - Learning
  - Openness
  - Intellectual Freedom and Safety
  - Intellectual Honesty

- Access
- Training/Knowledge
- Environment
- Motivation

Created by Conversation
Those Who Improve Society…
Those Who Improve Society…

- Are NOT Unbiased
Those Who Improve Society…

• Are NOT Unbiased
• Are NOT Neutral
Those Who Improve Society…

• Are NOT Unbiased
• Are NOT Neutral
• Are NOT Invisible
Those Who Improve Society…

• Are NOT Unbiased
• Are NOT Neutral
• Are NOT Invisible
• Are NOT Alone
• Value is in **Improved Community, Not Collection**

• **Improve the World, Don’t Document It**
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or

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Screencast and Slides at:

http://www.DavidLankes.org