Expecting More From Our Libraries & Communities

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Bad Libraries Build Collections, Good Libraries Build Services, Great Libraries Build Community
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It Is Not The Size Of Your Collection, But The Reach Of Your Community That Really Matters
Agenda

- What is a Library
- The True Library Collection
- “Collection Development” Exercises
- New Skills
library | 'lɪ, brɛ̄, -brɛrɛ |
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.’
Problem of Definition
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library |ˈlɪbrəri| noun (pl. libraries) a building or room containing a collection of books and other materials for people to read, borrow, or study.

- a collection of books, films, or records available for research or borrowing
- a series of books, films, or records
- a room in a private house
- (also software library) a collection of routines available, often located in source code.

ORIGIN late Middle English (n.) and early Modern English (noun): Latin *librarius*, from *liber*, *library*.
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Now We Can Define a Library
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• A Mandated Mediated Space (Virtual And/Or Physical) Owned By The Community, Steward By Librarians & Dedicated To Knowledge
Now We Can Define a Library

• A Mandated Mediated Space (Virtual And/Or Physical) Owned By The Community, Stewarded By Librarians & Dedicated To Knowledge

• Building, Books, Databases Are Tools

• Like A Scalpel To A Surgeon Those Tools May Change But The Profession Remains.
Which is Knowledge?
Improvement Through Knowledge

- Knowledge is Uniquely Human
- To Grow Knowledge is Not Acquisition…
- It’s Learning
The Purpose of a Library
The Purpose of a Library

• Learning
The Purpose of a Library

• Learning
• Learning Through Conversation
The Purpose of a Library

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Means of facilitation

- Access
  - Two Way!
- Knowledge
  - More than Q&A
- Environment
  - Physical & Intellectual Safety
- Motivation
  - Intrinsic and Extrinsic
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The Greedy Librarian Problem and the Potential Death of the Public Library
New Media Type
New Media Type

3,000 BC

* not to scale…nor serious
New Media Type

* not to scale...nor serious
New Media Type

* not to scale…nor serious
New Media Type

* not to scale…nor serious
New Media Type

3,000 BC
1,000 BC
1,000 AD
1,970 AD
1,980 AD

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New Media Type

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New Media Type

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Documents
Services
Media
Documents
Databases
Internet
Instruction
Reference
Data Management
Employment
Tutoring
MakerSpaces
Service

- Diffuse Concept of Library
- Jack of All Trades, Master of None
- Overloaded Librarian Knowledge
- Inelegant Combination of Professionals
Services
Media
Documents
Databases
Internet

Child Care
Startup Support
GEDs
Admissions
Instruction
Reference
Employment
Tax Advice
Social Services
Testing Services
Study Space

Service
Break?
Today’s Date:

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___________
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Exercise: What’s Your Passion

- What Are You Passionate About?
- How Can You Share That with the Community?
Exercise: Mapping Conversation

- What Sub-Communities and Cultures Exist in Toronto?
- What are They Talking About?
- How Can You Help?
New “Collection Development” Skills

• What is a Librarian in this Community-Centric World?
Define the Profession First
The mission of librarians is to improve society through facilitating knowledge creation in their communities.
Define the Profession First

Access

Knowledge

Environment

Motivation

Mission

Facilitation
Define the Profession First

- Mission
- Facilitation
Define the Profession First

Learning
Openness
Intellectual Freedom and Safety
Intellectually Honest not Unbiased

Mission
Facilitation
Values
“Salzburg” Skills

- Transformative Social Engagement
- Advocacy (Organizing Communities To Action)
- Understanding Community Needs And Aspirations
- Technology
- Management For Participation
- Collaboration

- Asset Management
- Including Living Assets
- Cultural Skills
- Communications
- Support For Multiple Type Of Literacies
- Knowledge, Learning, And Innovation
Community

• The Future Will Not be Built by Engaging a Community, or Reaching Out to the Community, but By the Community Directly!

• The Future of a Community is Better Defined By Its Aspirations Than Its Deficiencies

• The Community Is the COLLECTION!
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Arguments and Debates @
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