The Need for a New Librarianship

R. David Lankes
Slides @ www.DavidLankes.org
The State of (North American) Libraries

• A Crisis is a Terrible Thing to Waste
• Some Bright Spots
• Obsession on Process and “How” not “Why”
• A Time of Great Flux
“[Librarians] have become so busy and adept at keeping the library efficient and well managed that we have lacked the space to step back and observe it from a higher level.“ - Derek Law
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http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/section?content=a914077465&fulltext=713240928
Finding a New Librarianship

• Committed to the Values of Service and Preserving the Cultural Memory
• Durable in the Face of Changing Tools
• Founded on Deep Conceptual Foundation
• Re-Centering Librarians in the Community
New Librarianship

• Learning Theory
• Participatory
• Centered on Knowledge not “Recorded Knowledge” or Artifacts
New Librarianship

- Knowledge is Created through Conversation
- So to Support Knowledge, Librarians Must Facilitate Conversations
Mapping Conversations
Mapping Conversations

Writers
Mapping Conversations

Writers

Musicians
Mapping Conversations

Writers

Musicians

Business
Mapping Conversations

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Librarians
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Writing  Research
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Librarians
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- Idea

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Librarians
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  - Research
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- **Musicians**
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- **Business**
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  - Research
  - Plan
  - Pitch

- **Librarians**
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- **Librarians**
  - Collections
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Librarians
- Collections
- Programs
Conclusion

• Librarianship Beyond the Library
• Embedded in the Community
• Increasing Focus on Services over Collections
• Collections and buildings are services; tools to achieve the Mission
• Librarians and Libraries are in the Learning Business and Therefore the Conversation Business
The Mission of Librarians is to Improve Society through Facilitating Knowledge Creation in their Communities
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Serve

Lead

Innovate
Building a New Librarianship

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