LIS Grand Challenges &
the Death of the User

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Abstract

Grand challenges are hard problems with solutions that have societal level impacts. They are as much rallying cry as research agenda, and are useful in promoting innovation in the field and building strong cross-disciplinary partnerships. What are the grand challenges in library and information science? This presentation will focus on efforts to define these grand challenges and the implications for research and education in the LIS field. Special emphasis will be put on moving past concepts of users to true participation and past information to knowledge.
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• Lankes Plots World Domination Through Library and Information Science
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
### Lifelong Learning
- P-20 First generation to not do better than their parents
- P-20: Preparing Students to Engage in an Academic Culture
- P-20: Higher Education: Fixing an Increasingly Broken Model
- How to Credential Knowledge

### The Science of Facilitation
- From Disintermediation to Facilitation (librarian, educator, curator, journalist, publisher)
- Representing and Organizing Complex Knowledge
- Processing Massive Scale Data

### Community
- Balancing Local v. Global Perspectives
- Identity (personal, community, etc) in a connected society
- Local Concerns (Environment, Economy)
- Engaged Citizenry (Democracy)
- Transferring Local Information to the larger society

### From Consumers to Participants
- Move away from information as something to be consumed to something to nourish society (civic contribution)
- From Jobs to Monetizing Knowledge Work
- Equality of Access for the 21st Century (who owns the information/walled gardens of access to cultural knowledge)
Knowledge Society

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Knowledge Infrastructure

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- Currently uncoordinated & conflicted
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- Challenge to conceptualize and form this infrastructure

Technology

Sources

People

Permissions
Knowledge Society

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The Grand Challenge:
Coordinating the Knowledge Infrastructure to Unlock the Potential and Passions of Society