

# New Narratives for Librarians

R. David Lankes  
Professor  
Syracuse University iSchool  
[www.DavidLankes.org](http://www.DavidLankes.org)

















# Fighting Outdated Narratives

- Library Users Consume
- Libraries Define Librarians
- Neutrality Equals Trust
- Security Versus Freedom



# Library Users Consume



# Library Users Consume



- Users
- Consumer
- Customer
- Patron
- Member
- Ally



# Switch Narrative

- Instead of users seeking a passive refuge or set of materials...
- Members engaging with the library to learn and improve themselves.



# Libraries Define Librarians



# Libraries Define Librarians

librarian | lī'bre(ə)rēən |

noun

a person, typically with a degree in library science, who administers or assists in a library.



# Libraries Define Librarians

librarian | lī'bre(ə)rēən |

noun

a person, typically with a degree in library science, who administers or assists in a library.

library | 'lī,brerē, -brərē |

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.'







chattlibrary.org

Hours & locations My account Get a library card

search the library catalog Search

Need or want something we don't have? Request it!

Catalog Resources Services Events Books Kids Teens Local History 4th Floor

**All the places you'll go!**  
Get your passport pain-free and fast.

Audio and eBooks from OverDrive

Click here for help on using eBooks and audio from OverDrive

Audiobooks from OneClick

Click here for help on using eBooks and audio from OneClick Digital

Audio and eBooks from Axis 360

Click here for help on using eBooks Axis 360

Featured articles

feedback

www.loc.gov

LOC.GOV CONGRESS.GOV COPYRIGHT.GOV

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Help Contact Ask a Librarian

Discover Services Visit Education Connect About

All Formats Search Loc.gov GO

Print Subscribe Share/Save Give Feedback

**About the Library**

NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL

Collection Highlights

Topics

CONGRESS.GOV U.S. Legislative Information

Copyright U.S. Copyright Office

Library Catalog Search and browse records

Resources & Programs

American Folklife Center

Center for the Book

Concerts

Copyright Royalty Board

Digital Preservation

FEDLINK

John W. Kluge Center

NLS: Services to the Blind & Physically Handicapped

Poetry & Literature Center

Veterans History Project

World Digital Library

Services

Acquisitions

Archival Description

Ask a Librarian

Linked Data Service

Cataloging, Classification

Cooperative Cataloging Programs

Copyright

Especially for

Kids & Families Publishers Teachers Researchers Librarians

Featured Videos from the Library of Congress

National Student Poets

EL Doctrow

Lincoln's Code

Visit the Library



# Hit the books with this year's CNO reading list

Oct. 24, 2012 - 02:31PM | Last Updated: Oct. 24, 2012 - 02:31PM | 0 Comments

Recommend 8

✉️ 🖨️ ➦ ⌵ A A ⌵



Every ship, squadron and submarine library will receive a collection of "essential reading" materials by mid-November. Here, a sailor browses the library aboard the aircraft carrier Dwight D. Eisenhower. (Navy)

ADVERTISEMENT



Start your day with a roundup of top defense news.

Sign up now

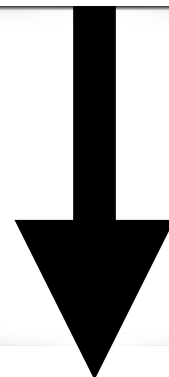
# New Definitions

The Mission Of Librarians Is To Improve Society  
Through Facilitating Knowledge Creation Within  
Their Communities



# New Definitions

The Mission Of Librarians Is To Improve Society  
Through Facilitating Knowledge Creation Within  
Their Communities



A Mandated And Facilitated Space Supported By  
The Community, Stewarded By Librarians, And  
Dedicated To Knowledge Creation.

# Switch Narrative

- Instead of libraries improving lives...
- Librarians build platforms [libraries] to facilitate improving society.



# Neutrality Equals Trust



# Neutrality Equals Trust

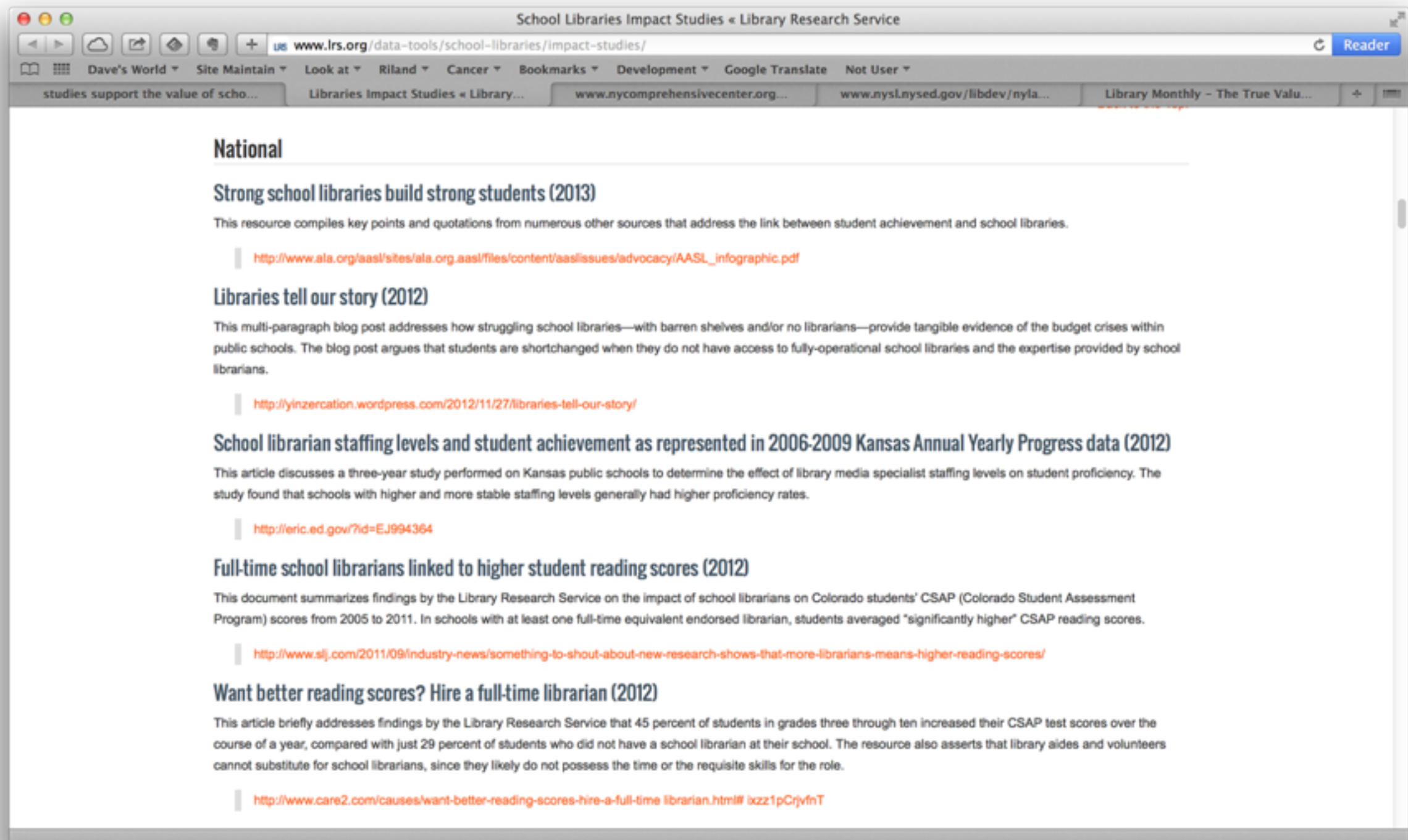


## Values of Librarianship

- Service
- Learning
- Intellectual Freedom & Safety
- Intellectual Honesty



# Libraries Don't Make a Difference: Librarians Chose To



# Switch Narrative

- Instead of librarians are objective/neutral...
- Librarians are trusted partners in knowledge creation/learning/society



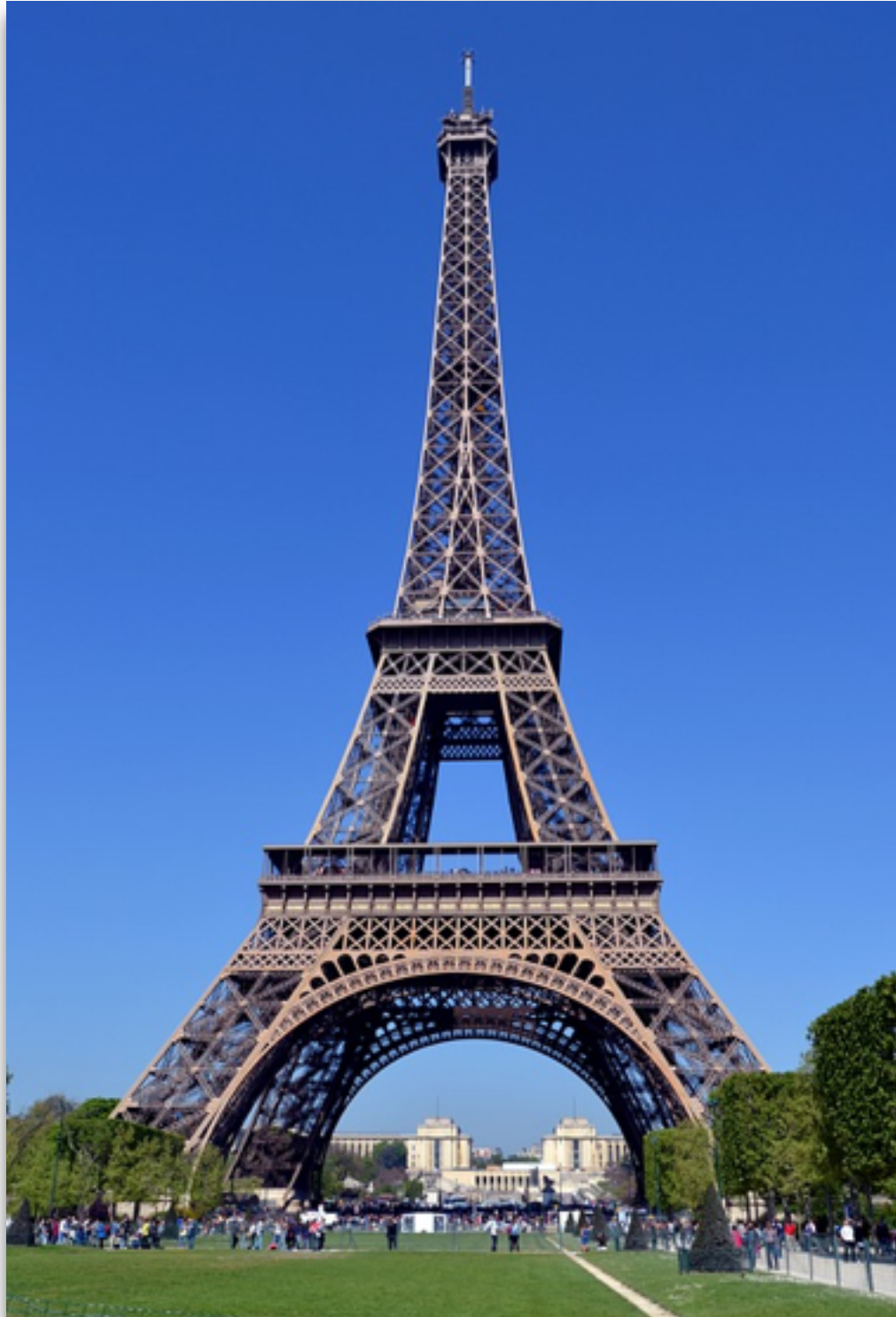
# Adding Up Narratives

Customers + Libraries + Neutrality = Passive  
People Accessing Passive Services

vs

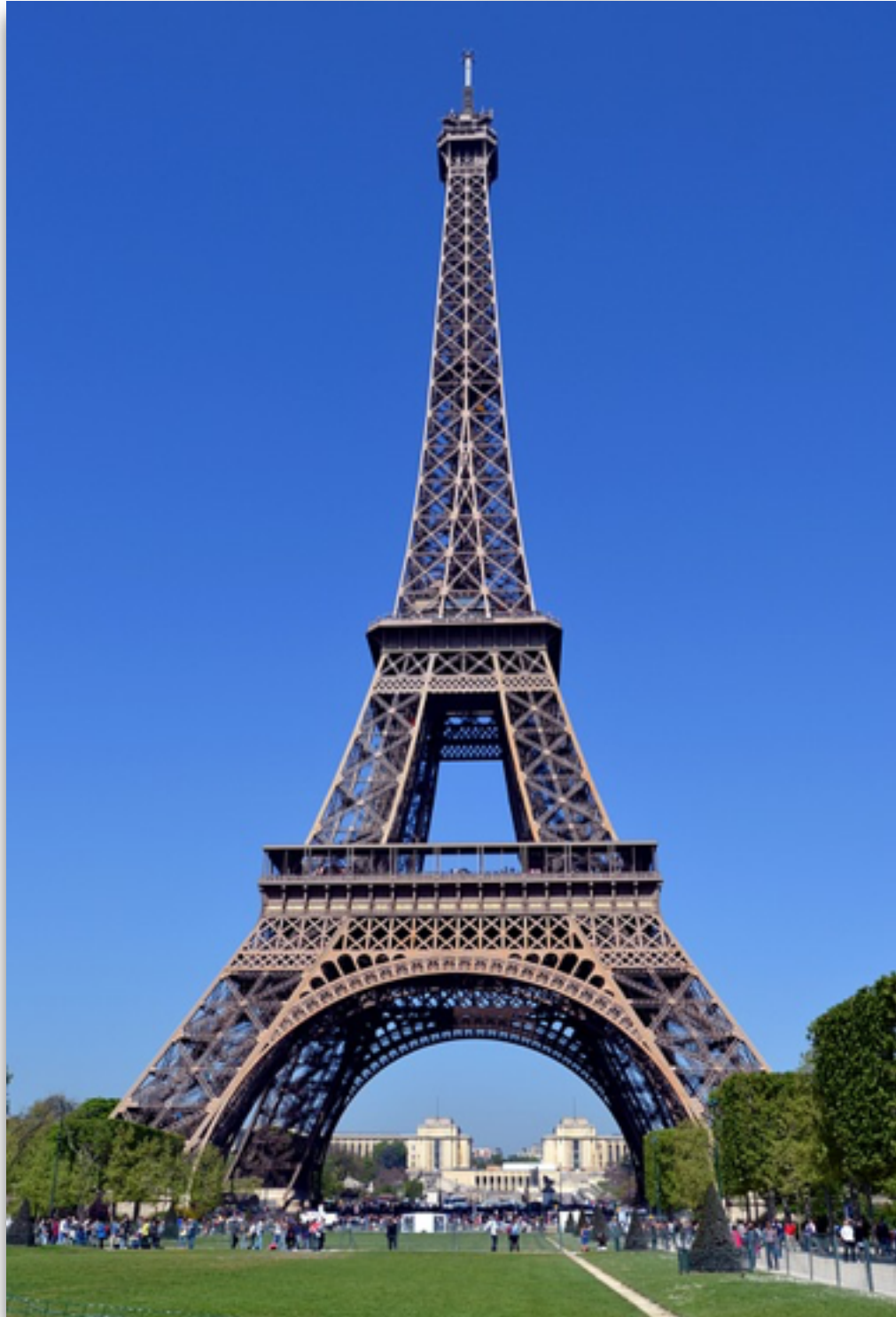
Members + Librarians + Intellect = Learners  
Improving with Partners

# A New Narrative?



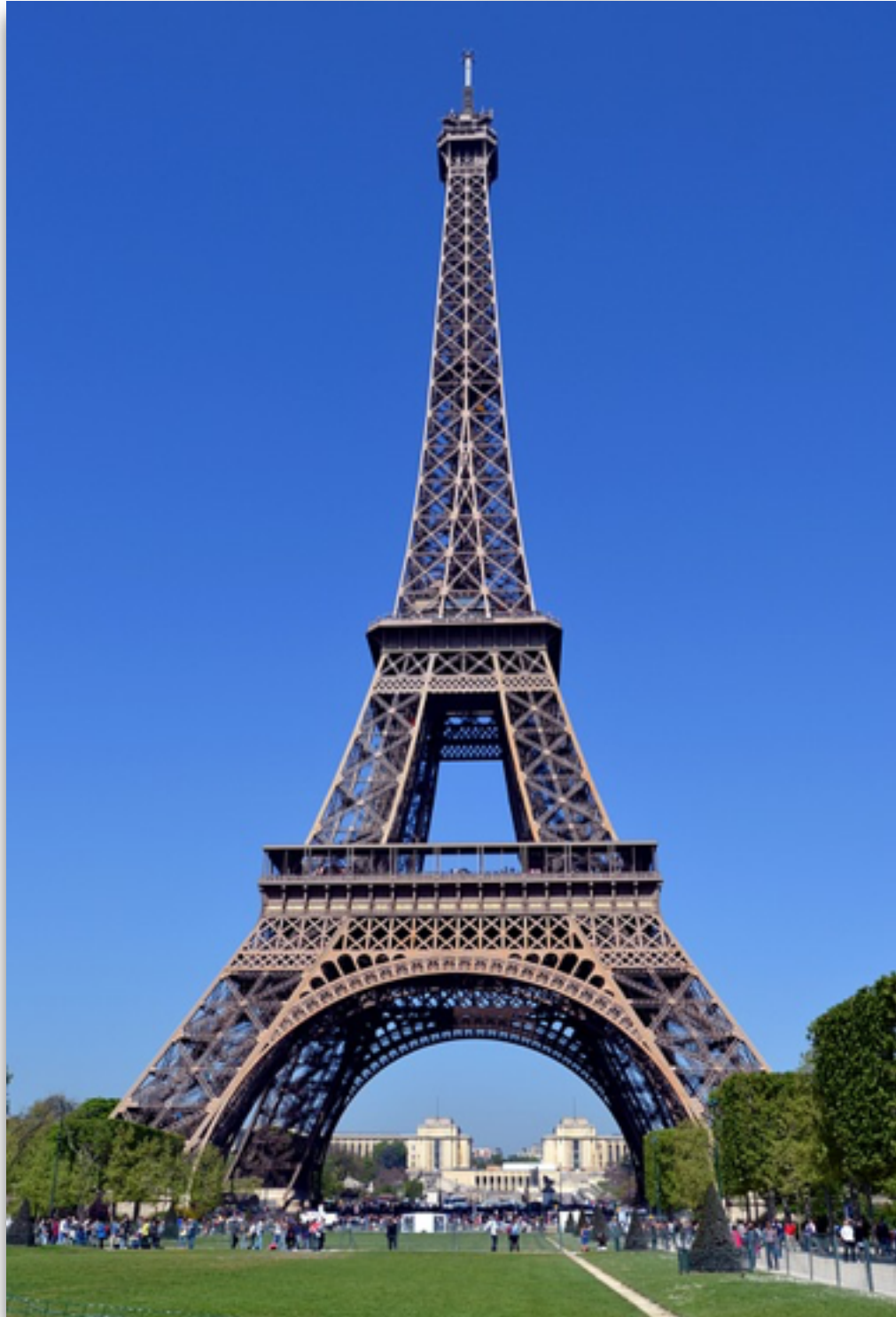


# A New Narrative?





# A New Narrative?





Rather Than Simply Fight The Current  
False Dichotomy Of Security Versus  
Freedom, Librarians Should Craft An  
Alternative Narrative Around Security  
Through Knowledge

Security Comes Not Through Limiting  
Freedom, But In Stronger Inclusive  
Communities Where Neighbor Knows  
And Respects Neighbor



OURS...to fight for



*Freedom of Speech*



*Freedom of Worship*



*Freedom from Want*



*Freedom from Fear*

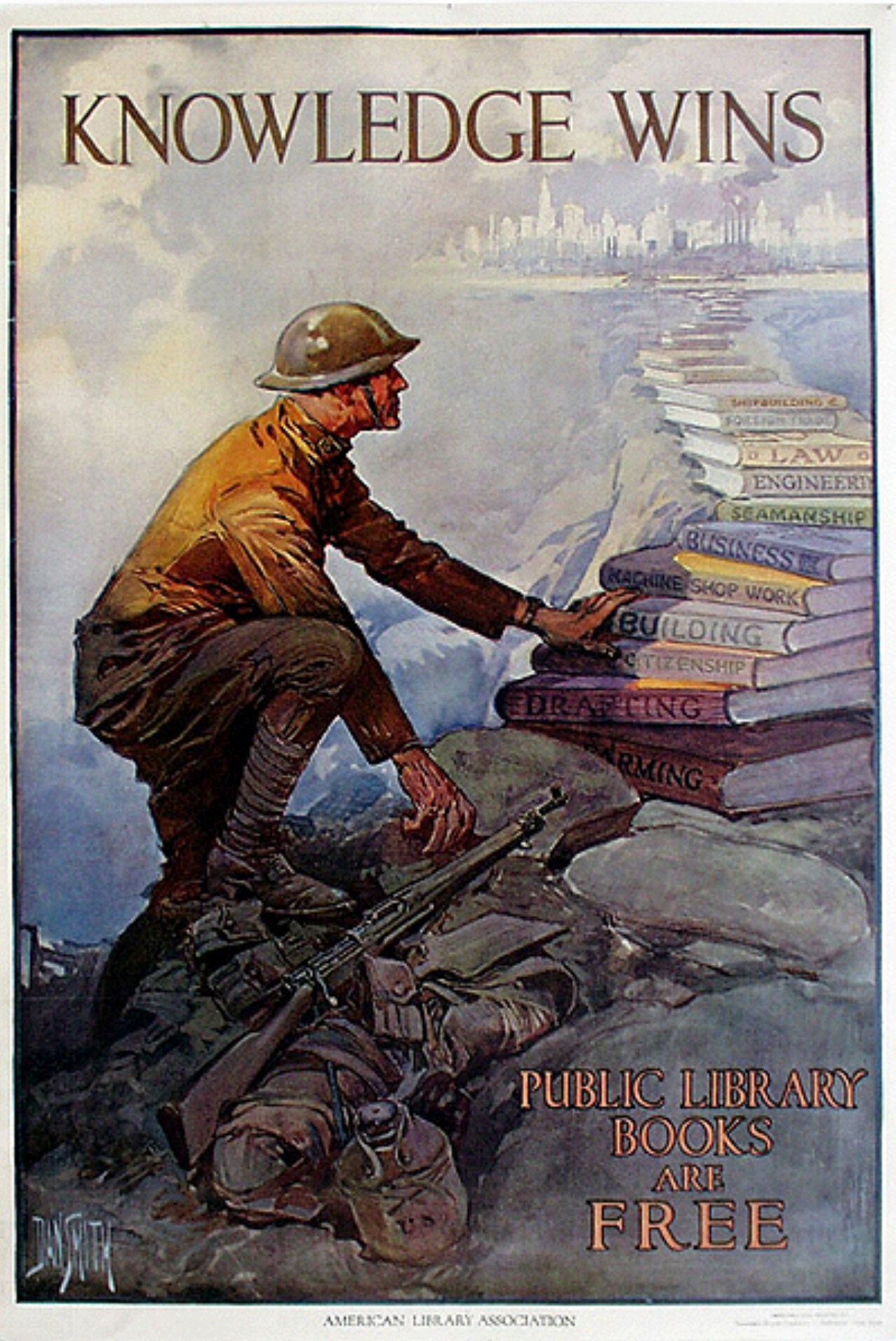
1778

1943



**AMERICANS**  
**will always fight for liberty**





# New Narratives for Librarians

Screencast and Slides:  
[www.DavidLankes.org](http://www.DavidLankes.org)

Arguments and Conversation:  
[@rdlankes](https://twitter.com/rdlankes)