Expect More: Why Libraries Cannot Become STEM Educators

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Libraries

• Buildings Or Abstractions Can Do Nothing
• People [Librarians] Make It Happen
• A Lot Of Attention Paid To The Front Of The Building Ignoring The Reality Of People Behind The Scenes
Greedy Librarians to...

• Consequences of Consumer/User Focus
  • Collection-Orientation
  • Service as Remediation “How Can I Help You?”
  • Collaboration as Failure

• Skills: Cataloging|Search|Acquisition|Question Acquisition

• Values: Neutrality|Efficiency|Equitable Access
...Knitters of Community

- Facilitator of Knowledge Creation with Members and Allies
- Skills: Access|Knowledge|Environment|Motivation
- Values: Intellectual Honesty|Learning|Openness|Intellectual Safety
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The Mission of Public Libraries?

• Literacy
• School Preparedness
• Economic Development
• Cultural Heritage
• Local Knowledge
• Third Space
• STEM?
emPOWERment

• There Is No App To Overcome The Barriers Of Race, Class, Sexual Orientation, And Gender, And App Building Won’t Either

• The Children Of Ferguson Were Hungry And Librarians Fed Them

• The Parents Of Baltimore Were Without Diapers And The Librarians Provided Them

• Public Libraries Were Created Out Of A Quest For Societal Equality - Any STEM Initiative Must Further This Cause Or Libraries Simply Become An Agency Of Elite Solutions Not Agents Of Change
Slides and Screencast: www.DavidLankes.org