

# The Future of Libraries: Predicting Through Invention



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Dominican University  
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“The best way to predict the future is to invent it.”



“The best way to predict your future is to create it.”

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## Community Impact Goals

The library is helping to transform the lives of its citizens through five community impact goals:

1. Every child will be ready for kindergarten
2. Everyone will discover their passion for learning
3. Everyone will continue learning new ways to live their best life
4. Topeka and Shawnee County will be an engaged community of readers
5. The library will be a learning organization committed to excellence in: Leadership, planning, customer focus, process management and partner focus

[Learn more](#) about our inclusive process for determining community impact goals.

The Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library is a 21st century, landmark library, and features the Alice C. Sabatini Gallery, the Millennium Cafe, Chandler Booktique (bookstore and gift shop), free meeting rooms, computer training and free gigabit Wi-Fi access. We're your place. Learn what's happening at your library by keeping up with [Library News](#), delivered to your mailbox, and [Library News Update](#), delivered to your email inbox.

Located in the heart of Shawnee County, the library has a collection of more than 500,000 books and serves more than 100,000 registered borrowers. About 3,000 people walk through our doors daily. Our [bookmobiles](#) make about 20 stops six days a week travelling across the county. We provide [services](#) to 55 senior living facilities and 85 homebound individuals. Our website serves customers' needs 24/7. The library offers state-of-the-art technology, youth programs that encourage learning and reading, accessibility services addressing the needs of older readers and persons with disabilities, and reference and research tools.

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# Strategic Plan

## Advance Our Community

*Richland Library is a vital partner and catalyst for bringing diverse peoples together to solve community problems. We believe that continuous, customized learning for all ages is the foundation for a strong economy and high quality of life.*

### Goal 1: Help create a strong and resilient economy.

**Outcomes:**

- We are viewed as valued partners to elected officials and business leaders in support of economic and community development.
- We help grow and support creative individuals and communities within the county.
- Library facility improvements serve as catalysts for greater investment in neighborhood and increased opportunities for residents.
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### Goal 2: Strengthen community cohesion.

**Outcomes:**

- There are an increased number of opportunities for diverse groups of people to convene, communicate and learn together.
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### Goal 3: Transform educational outcomes for youth.

**Outcomes:**

- The level of access to high quality out-of-schooltime opportunities increases.
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- Partnerships and services that support the path from high school to careers and college are strengthened.

### Goal 4: Help break the cycle of poverty.

**Outcomes:**

- Learning outcomes and access to educational opportunities of those living in poverty in Richland County are increased.
- Partnerships with service providers are created and strengthened, eliminating barriers for those customers with specific, basic needs.

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The more data, the better the decision





The better the information, the better the decision

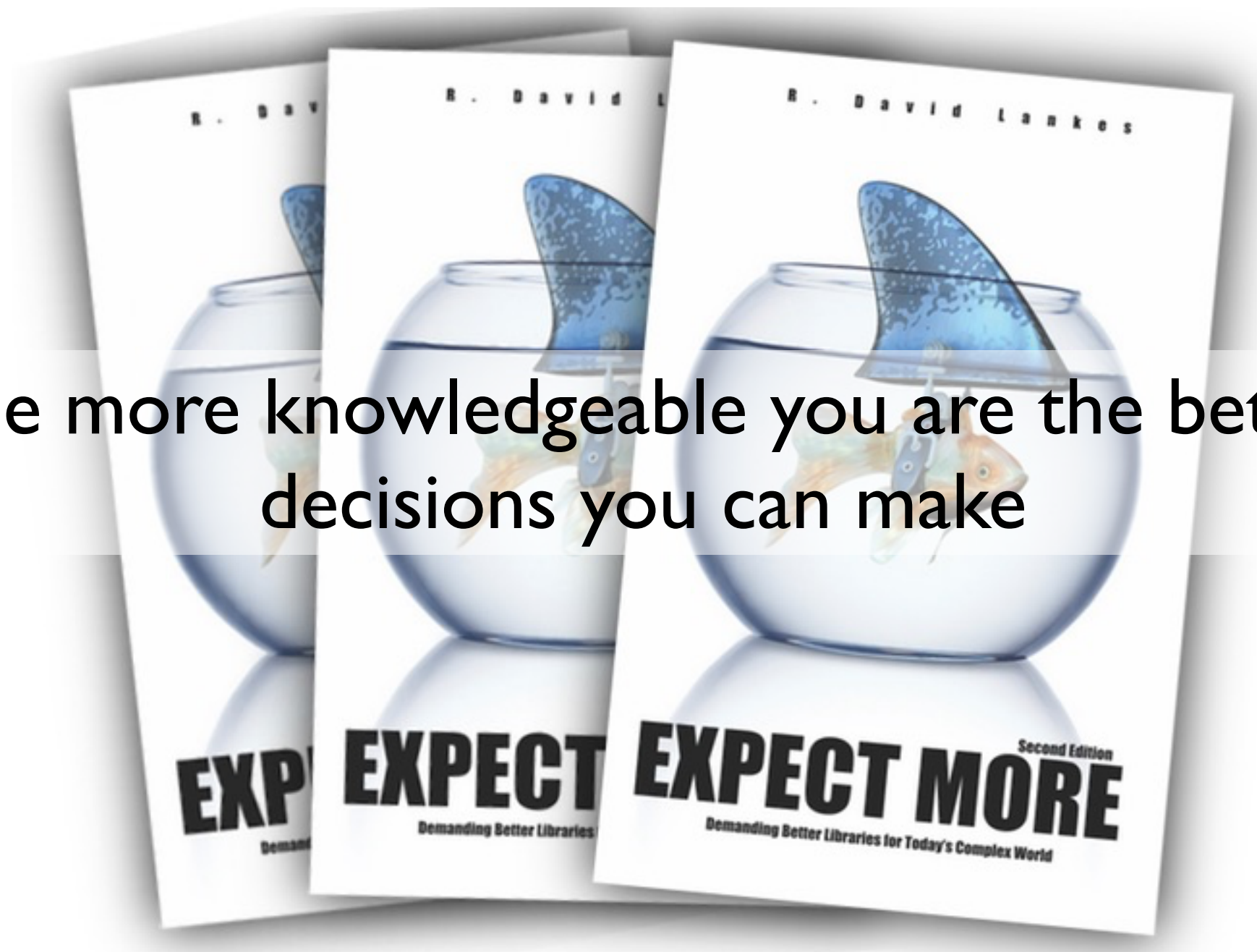
The screenshot shows the website for the University of South Carolina's Library and Information Science program. The header features the university's name and a navigation menu with links like 'Study', 'Experience', 'Visit', and 'Apply'. Below the header is a large photograph of three students working together at a desk. The main heading reads 'Library and Information Science at South Carolina'. A subheading states: 'Information science bridges the gap between information, technology and people. So, if you live to make connections, to analyze data and systems, to help people and companies communicate clearly, we will help you find ways to connect people to the information they need.' At the bottom right, a red star icon is accompanied by the text: 'The program ranks 18th out of 62 accredited American Library'.

The screenshot displays the website for Emporia State University's Library and Information Management program. The header includes the university's name and a navigation menu with links like 'Academics', 'Admissions', 'Student Life', 'Current Students', 'Give Now', and 'Athletics'. Below the header is a large photograph of three young girls looking at a large, reflective sphere. The main heading reads 'Specialize with our Certificate in Information, Technology, and Scientific Literacy'. At the bottom, there are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest, along with the text 'Access to Canvas'.





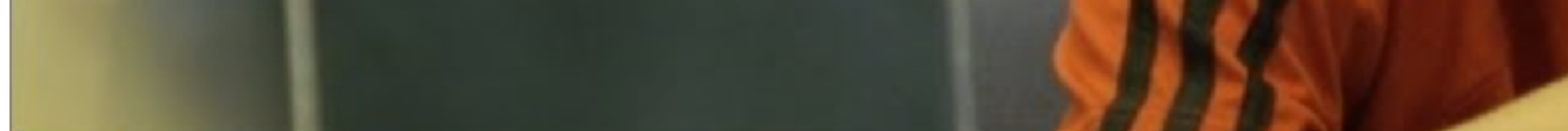
The more knowledgeable you are the better  
decisions you can make



Knowledgeable people don't improve society  
– engaged communities that share knowledge  
improve things







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## Goal 2: Strengthen community cohesion.

### Outcomes:

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## Goal 3: Transform educational outcomes for youth.

### Outcomes:

- The level of access to high quality out-of-school time opportunities increases.
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### Outcomes:

- Learning outcomes and access to educational opportunities of those living in poverty in Richland County are increased.
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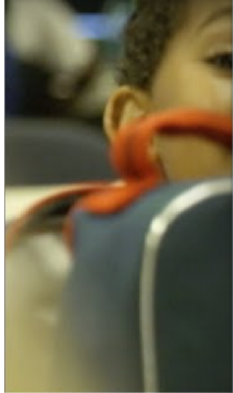
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### Community Impact

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4. Topeka and Shawnee
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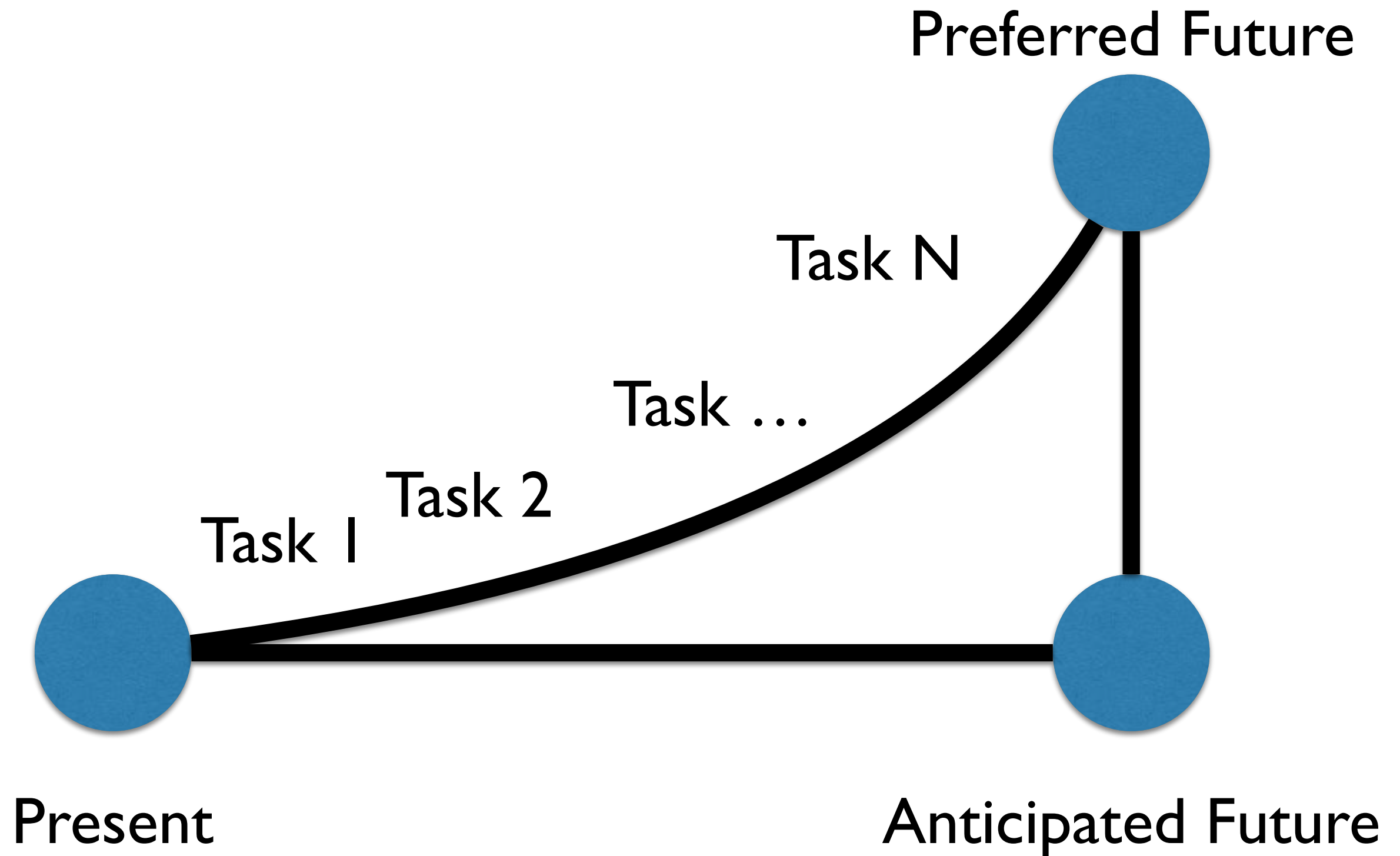
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Access Magazine & eNews

# Action Plan

- Think Impact
- Think Community First, Institution Second
  - Cross-Type Working Groups
    - Profiles of Success
- Community-Wide Strategic Planning

# Set an Agenda





# Build Linkable Ideas

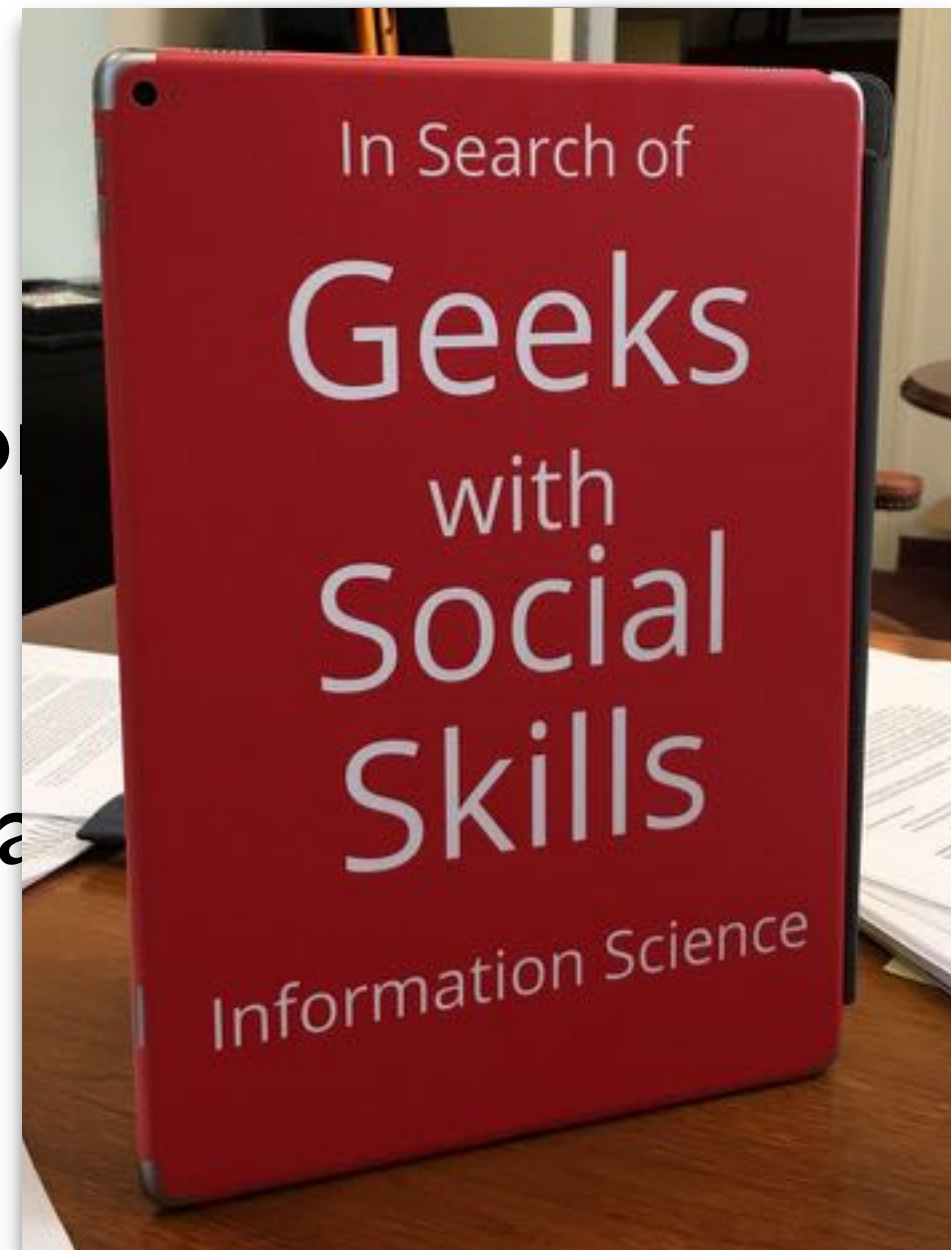
- Ideas Need a Findable Home on The Web
  - Name Everything
    - An Easy Tag to Refer Folks To
    - Makes It Seem Bigger and More Than Just You
  - Open Web v. Social Media Closed Gardens
- Linkable as in Invitations to Be a Part
  - Always be Ready for “The Ask”

# Build a Collection

- Capture Everything
- Open Software ➡ Open Effort
  - Screen Capture
  - Idea Trailers

# Build a Narrative

- Tell Stories
  - Every Presentation
- Think in Tweets
- Bridge From Normal
  - Always Go Big





# Build Tools

- Standards
- Associations/Groups
  - Crazy Ideas List
- Software
- Books
- Events

## Build...

## What are they?

## Specifics

## Examples

### Linkable Ideas

What change/impact do you want to achieve and why? You need to spell out the ideas and create easy ways to refer to them. This allows folks to share these ideas, as well as find and learn more about them.

Create a place on the open (at least accessible) web that is easily linked to and indexed. Bigger ideas and projects may deserve their own site, but all ideas should include an invitation and ways to participate.

Expect More Collaboratory <http://expectmorelibrary.com>

### Collections

People intrigued by ideas want to learn more and dig deeper into them. If they are very curious they are open to formative development. Make sure you provide ways of exploring ideas further through articles, blog posts, and online presentations.

Use screen capture software to create "Idea Trailers" that outline the basics of ideas and agendas. Create regular blog posts on how the idea is maturing and developing. Think "out loud."

Presentations and Blog Posts tagged as "Expect More" <http://davidlankes.org/?cat=39>

### Narratives

People respond to stories and examples. Think large scale narratives that bridge from existing practice and norms to a better future state. Use existing narratives and terminology to include people in the story of how *WE* will make the situation better.

Every presentation has a narrative arc from today to a better tomorrow. Narrative arcs should always be big - even incremental change can lead to or be linked to major positive change in the field or society.

Introducing the Expect More Collaboratory <https://vimeo.com/129673682>

### Tools

People need tools to make the narrative real, or to realize your ideas. They need workbooks and/or software to bridge from idea to reality. If you want people to join the movement, give them something concrete to join.

Write articles or books that spell out the idea with ample examples of how this will work. Develop standards, certifications, and events to deputize folks with your ideas and make them missionaries to new communities.

Expect More: Demanding Better Libraries For Today's Complex World

DRAFT 9/14/16- Brainstorm - Open to Suggestions