The Future of Libraries: Predicting Through Invention

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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.”
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. Tecumseh 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.

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 1,000 people walk through our doors daily. Our bookmobiles make about 20 stops six days a week traveling across the county. We provide services to 55 senior living facilities and 55 homeless individuals. Our website serves customers 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.

The library is a great meeting venue for community groups and is a cultural hub for art, music, and literature. People of all ages discover and experience art at the Arts Center. The library is also recognized for its two annual art festivals.
The more data, the better the decision
The better the information, the better the decision.
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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The library is a great meeting venue for community groups and is a cultural hub for art, music and literature. People of all ages discover and experience art at the Alice C. Sabatini Gallery. We celebrate individuality in culture, art and artists — both modern and classic. The gallery is also recognized for two national art competitions and its annual art.
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The Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library is a 21st-century, landmark library, and features the Alice C. Sabatini Gallery, the Millennium Café, 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.
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 neighborhoods and increased opportunities for residents.
- Jobseekers and entrepreneurs see the library as vital to their employment, career and business development aspirations.

Goal 2: Strengthen community cohesion.

Outcomes:

- There are an increased number of opportunities for diverse groups of people to convene, communicate and learn together.
- Neighborhoods recognize and celebrate their assets and strengthen their identities.
- Public, non-profit and private sectors convene at the library in an effort to solve community problems.

Goal 3: Transform educational outcomes for youth.

Outcomes:

- The level of access to high quality out-of-school time opportunities increases.
- Parents and caregivers have the knowledge and support necessary to help their children be successful in school.
- 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.

Click here for a printable version of Richland Library’s Strategic Plan.
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Action Plan

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

- Present
- Anticipated Future
- Preferred Future

Tasks:
- Task 1
- Task 2
- Task ...
- Task N
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 Should be a Journey
• Think in Tweets
• Bridge From Normal
• Always Go Big
Build Tools

• Standards
• Associations/Groups
  • Crazy Ideas List
• Software
• Books
• Events
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Build...</th>
<th>What are they?</th>
<th>Specifics</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Linkable Ideas</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Expect More Collabortory <a href="http://expectmorelibrary.com">http://expectmorelibrary.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Collections</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Use screen capture software to create &quot;Idea Trailers&quot; that outline the basics of ideas and agendas. Create regular blog posts on how the idea is maturing and developing. Think &quot;out loud.&quot;</td>
<td>Presentations and Blog Posts tagged as &quot;Expect More&quot; <a href="http://davidlankes.org/?cat=39">http://davidlankes.org/?cat=39</a></td>
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<td><strong>Narratives</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Introducing the Expect More Collaboratory <a href="https://vimeo.com/129673682">https://vimeo.com/129673682</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tools</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Expect More: Demanding Better Libraries For Today's Complex World</td>
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DRAFT 9/14/16- Brainstorm - Open to Suggestions