

# **What is a Library if the Building is Closed?**

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# Why This Question Matters

## Pandemic “Closures”

- Most libraries never closed their online operations
  - WiFi in the parking lot is the *least* we can do
  - Online story times (and copyright violations)
  - Member check-ins and contact tracing (San Francisco and Los Angeles)
  - Digital Collections and Digital Reference Services
- Tension over Reopening Facilities
  - COVID response reinforcing nostalgic views of libraries







**I have long contended that a room full of books is simply a closet but that an empty room with a librarian in it serving his or her community is a library**

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Access | Knowledge | Environment | Motivation

# The “New Normal” Agenda for Librarianship

## Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion

- Universal Broadband
- Workforce Development and Training
- Expanding Voter Access to Democratic Participation
- Ensure the Health and Well Being of Our Communities
- Essential Crisis Response Capacity