



Less; Better

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Part 1: Saving Our Communities



Community Centered Done Well



- Libraries should seek to meet the aspirations and character of their communities

Feeding the Mind and Body



Toronto



Philadelphia



Charleston

Community Centered Taken Too Far

- Jack of all trades, master of none
 - Adapt, don't adopt: need to kill the idea of toolkits and best practices
 - Not a single future for libraries, but as many futures as communities

Community Centered Taken Too Far

- Community centrality is not an abdication our values, mission, and professionalism
 - “Community Libraries” in England
 - Materials challenges and the exclusion of professionals and self-censorship

Community Centered Taken Too Far

- Instead of seeking to be all things to all people, we must strive to do less; better
 - Not the same as every other library though
- This is particularly vital now, as our communities atomize
- We must weave together the fabric of the community
 - We need to stop serving our communities and start saving them
- We are part of the community and must use our own agency and power to not simply serve our communities, but save them

NOT Bibliofundamentalism

- This is not about retreating to our book palaces
- Rather this means we must throw off the pretense of being unbiased
- Need to argue against book banning through our professionalism and understanding of the whole community, not a simplistic definition of neutrality as all points of view
- TLA Launches Texans for the Right to Read, EveryLibrary Banned Bookstore, NYPL Supports the Right to Read Banned Books

Part 2: Saving Ourselves



Why Virtue Calls Fail

- Librarians, America Is Counting on You
 - “I’m not hiding it. I’m furious. I’m stressed out to the point where I feel like I’m vibrating from anxiety. Several years ago, I wrote about how I hated the “hero” narrative surrounding library work because calling us heroes ignores the fact that we are just average humans who need way more from our profession than our leaders are willing to provide, and now I’m watching that narrative play out on a national level. Libraries are resilient, they say, ignoring the fact that it’s not safe for patrons or staff to open the libraries yet. But no one seems to realize that empty words can’t keep us safe.”

Katie McLain, Book Riot <https://bookriot.com/library-staff-safety/>



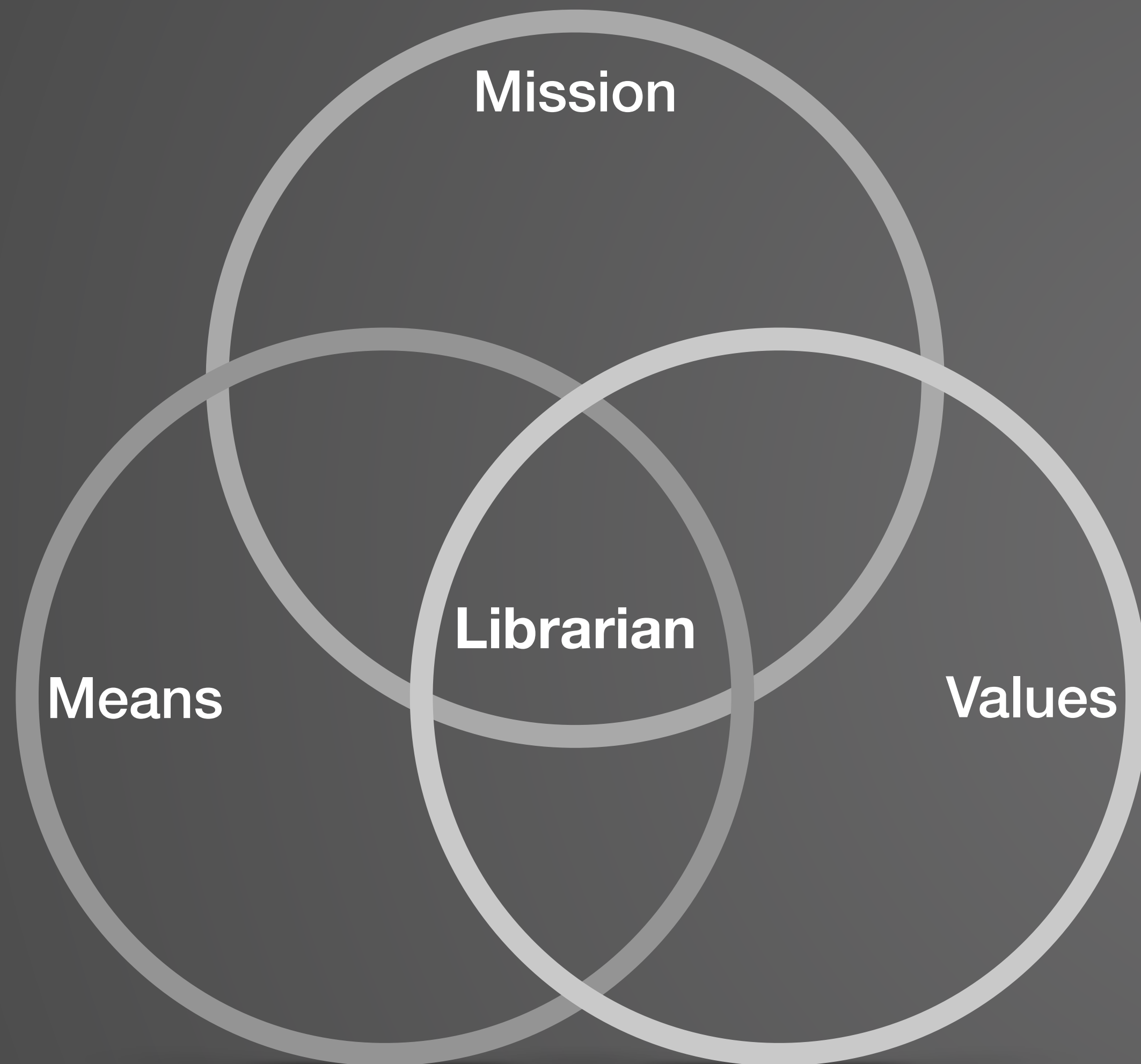
It's Not You...It's All of Us

- Vocational Awe - Fobazi Ettarh
- The trap of a service profession
 - The weight of empathy
 - Empathy versus compassion in oncology and medicine

Librarian, Know Thyself

- It begins with defining a librarian
- Relationships over transactions
- Library as:
 - Information to Service to Platform to Movement

Librarian, Know Thyself



The mission of librarians is to improve society through facilitating knowledge creation in their communities

Access, Knowledge, Environment, Motivation

Learning, Openness, Diversity, Intellectual Honesty (not Unbiased), Intellectual Freedom & Safety

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Libraries
Lead
in the
New

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