



From Serving to Saving

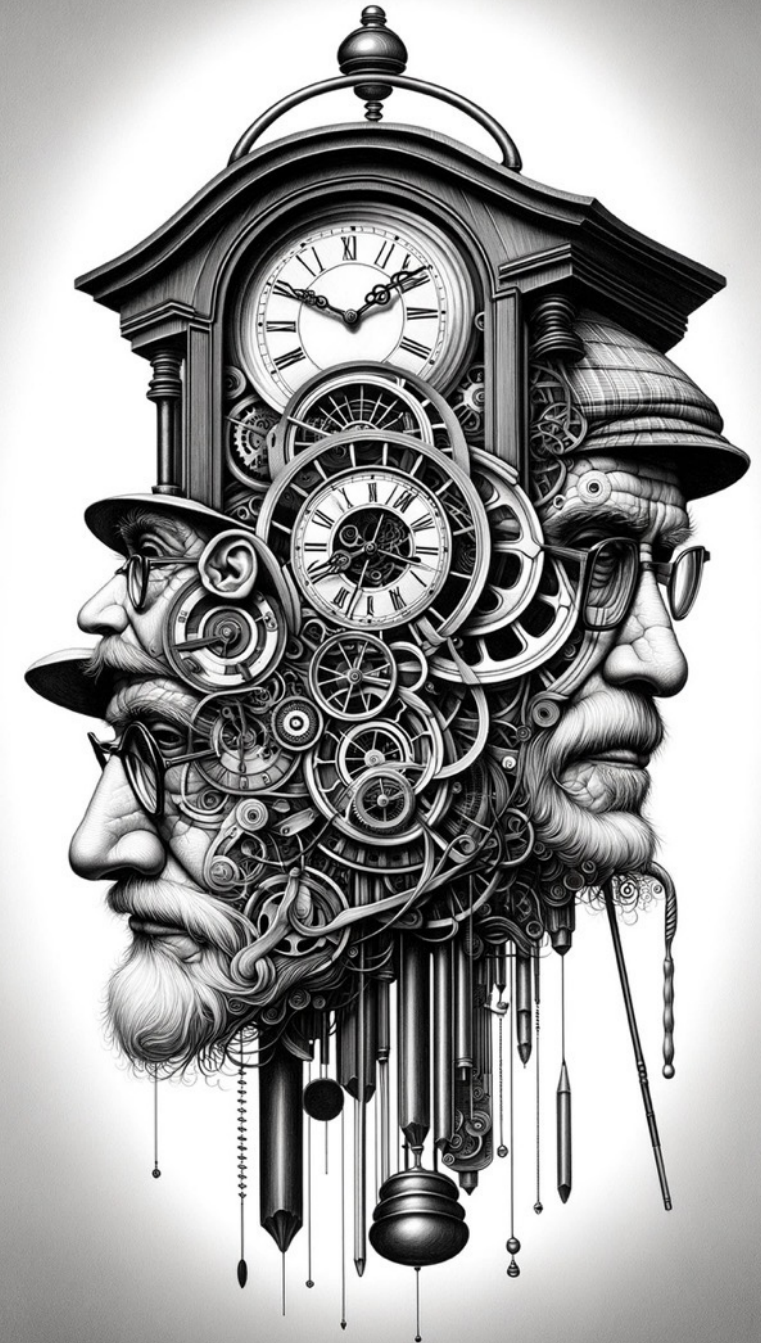
R. David Lankes, PhD

Virginia & Charles Bowden Professor of Librarianship

University of Texas

Agenda

- Report from the Front Lines
 - The United States and Book Banning
- Be Ready
 - Solving the LochHal Dilemma
 - The Taylor Swift Question
 - Solving the Rijksmuseum Dilemma
 - The Knowledge Business
- The Power of Stories to Shape the Future
 - Artificial Intelligence vs Augmented Intelligence
 - Deaths of Despair



Oh What Five Years Can Do



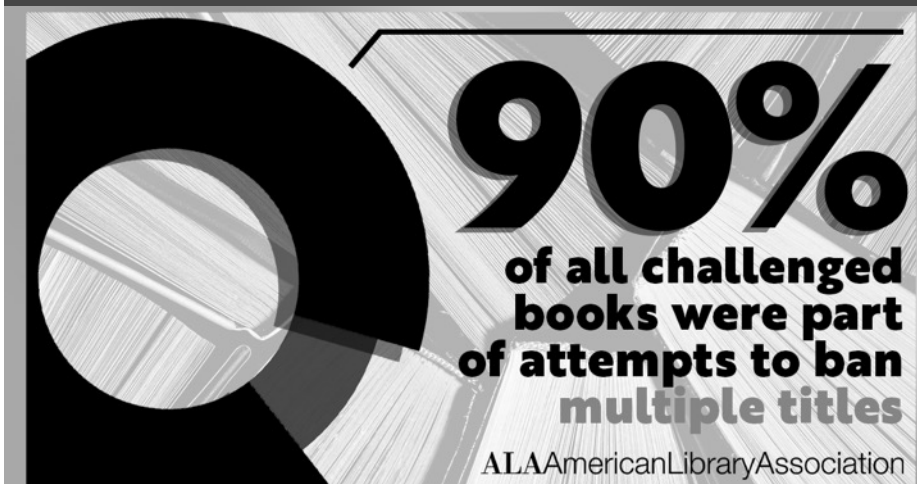
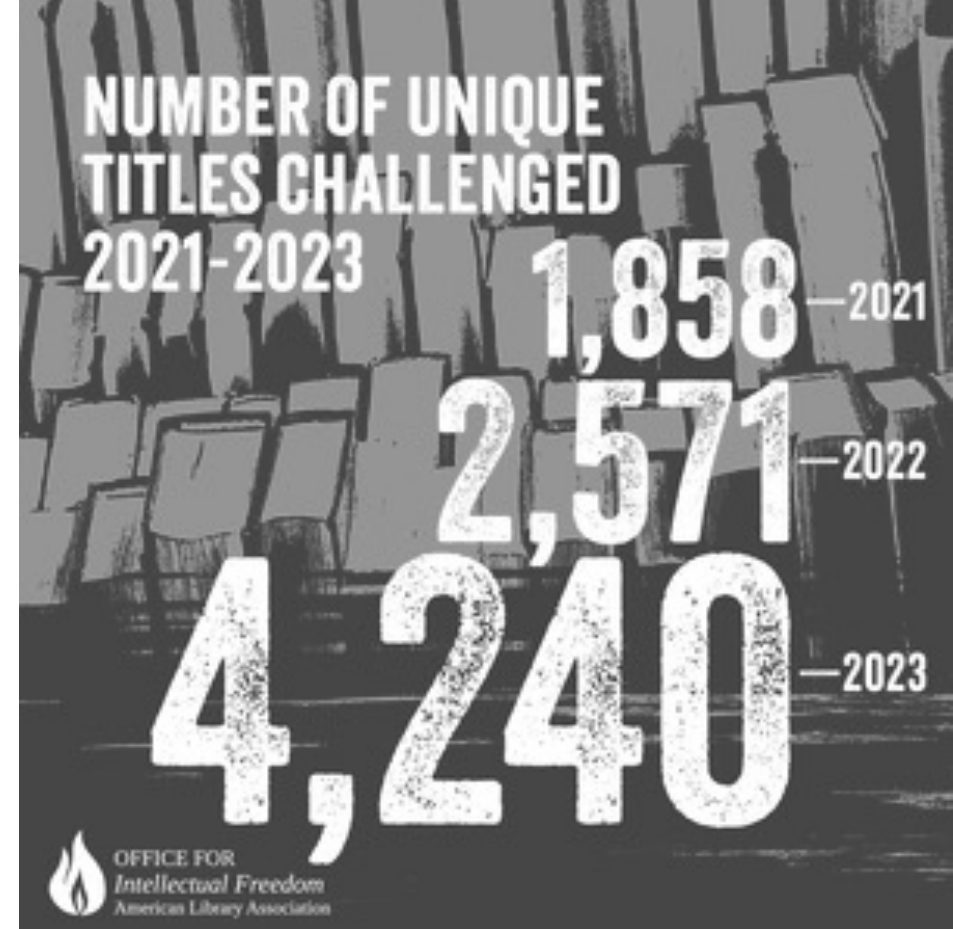
Shush



Groomer

Book Banning

- National Coordinated Effort
 - The Krause list, Moms for Liberty
- Built on legitimate concerns
 - Parents rights, Materials appropriateness, However, ultimately about imposing one view on many
- Voice of Minority
 - Llano County Population 22,540
 - Banners ~250, 10-15 Core



Librarians Under Attack



School librarians face a new penalty in the banned-book wars: prison

May 18, 2023 Updated Thu., May 18, 2023 at 9:05 p.m.

By Hannah Natanson
Washington Post

Librarians could face years of imprisonment and tens of thousands of dollars in fines for providing sexually explicit, obscene or “harmful” books to children under new state laws that permit criminal prosecution of school and library personnel.

At least seven states have passed such laws in the last two years, according to a Washington Post analysis, six of them in the past two months – although governors of Idaho and North Dakota vetoed the legislation. Another dozen states considered more than 20 similar bills this year, half of which are likely to come up again in 2024, the Post found.

Some of the laws impose severe penalties on librarians, who until now were exempted in almost every state from prosecution over obscene material – a carve-out meant to permit accurate lessons in topics such as sex education. All but one of the new laws target schools, while some also target the staff of public libraries and one affects book vendors.

One example is an Arkansas measure that says school and public librarians, as well as teachers, can be imprisoned for up to six years or fined \$10,000 if they distribute obscene or harmful texts. It takes effect Aug. 1.



Arkansas

[Act 372]

Missouri

[SB 775]

Texas

[HB 900]

Florida

[HB 1557]

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| EDUCATION |

Report: Texas Librarians Could Be Sued for \$10,000 Under 'Abhorrent' Proposed Ordinances

SIMONE CARTER | FEBRUARY 20, 2023 | 4:00AM



Some Texas conservatives are now taking aim at librarians. Photo by Johnny McClung on Unsplash

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HOW TO CREATE A SEX SCANDAL UNRAVELS THE FANTASY BEHIND MINEOLA CHILD SEX CLUB CASE

Texas' anti-abortion legislation lets private citizens sue those they believe have violated the state's ban. *Axios* reported on Thursday that **the Austin attorney who helped design the historic law, Jonathan Mitchell, has drafted city ordinances** that could potentially allow people to "[sue] librarians and others for their decisions about which books to put on shelves – or for expressing LGBTQ+ support."

Similar to the abortion law, the book-related ordinances would apparently mean that violators could be sued for at least \$10,000, plus attorney fees and legal expenses. The report also states that civil action could be brought against the library if workers don't scrub contested titles from shelves.

Librarians certainly aren't happy with the idea.

Response - Social

The screenshot shows the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom website. The header includes navigation links like 'Home', 'About ALA', and 'Office for Intellectual Freedom'. A sidebar on the left lists various ALA offices. The main content area features the office's logo, address (225 Michigan Ave, Suite 1300, Chicago, IL 60601), and contact information. A 'CONTACT CONGRESS' button is prominent. Below, there are sections for 'Support' and 'Training'. The 'Support' section lists services like confidential support, challenge report forms, and consulting services. The 'Training' section mentions subject matter experts and webinars. A vertical sidebar on the right contains several buttons: 'INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM Issues & Resources', 'CHALLENGE SUPPORT Report Censorship & Hate Crimes', 'BANNED BOOKS WEEK & Frequently Challenged Books', 'CHOOSE PRIVACY Resources & Programming', and 'OFFICE FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM Staff, Projects, & Communications'.

The screenshot shows the Texans for the Right to Read website. The header features the organization's logo and navigation links: 'About Us', 'What You Need to Know', 'Resources', 'Social Toolkit', and 'Partners'. The main content area is titled 'About Us' and includes a video player showing a library interior. Below the video is a text block describing the coalition as a grassroots group of concerned Texas residents opposing book bans. At the bottom, there is a 'Join our Coalition' section with a form for 'First Name' and 'Last Name', and a note that there is no charge to join.

The screenshot shows the Fight for the First website. The header includes navigation links like 'DONATE', 'GROUPS', 'CAMPAIGNS', 'EVENTS', 'ABOUT', and 'START A CAMPAIGN'. The main content area features a large banner with the text 'FIGHT FOR THE FIRST AMENDMENT!' and a 'START A CAMPAIGN' button. Below the banner, there is a section titled 'Fight for the First draws on the power of people like you to create a movement against book bans.' This section includes a testimonial from a user named 'Leticia' who signed a petition, and a call to action to 'LET IDAHO READ: NO ON HOTS!' with a link to a petition. The bottom of the page features a logo for 'LIBRARIES ARE FOR EVERYONE' and a 'Business Pledge' button.

Response - Legal

THE TEXAS TRIBUNE INVESTIGATIONS NEWSLETTERS EVENTS AUDIO DATA DONATE

episcopalhealth.org NEW Texas Statewide Health Policy Poll finds that 69% of Texans support Medicaid expansion.

Llano County officials must offer library books they'd removed, judge orders

Local officials are appealing the order in a lawsuit that drew national attention. Seven library patrons say the book removals infringed their First Amendment rights.

BY ALEJANDRO SERRANO MARCH 31, 2023 12 PM CENTRAL

f t e COPY LINK REPUBLISH

Cars pass by the the Llano County Courthouse in 2021. County officials were sued after removing books from the library system that were deemed offensive. © Sergio Flores for The Texas Tribune

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Metro Atlanta school's book bans may break civil rights law, federal officials warn

By Jeff Amy | Published May 23, 2023 6:48AM | Forsyth County | Associated Press

Advanced pediatric specialty care just got closer to home

dell children's Association

Latest News

- Woman wanted for allegedly not paying Barrow County Walmart
- Jury finds driver guilty in DUI crash that killed Smyrna police officer
- Man wanted for "quick change" thefts at Kruger stores in Gwinnett County
- Memorial Day 2023: Here's what's open and closed on the holiday
- Athens man dies after crash in early May on Danielville Road

FORSYTH COUNTY, Ga. - The U.S. Department of Education has found that a suburban Atlanta school district's decision to remove some books from its libraries may have created a hostile environment that violated federal laws against race and sex discrimination.

The legal intervention by the department's Office of Civil Rights could curb efforts to ban books in other public school districts nationwide, especially when bans are focused on books that include content about LGBTQ and nonwhite people.

Response - Understanding

The “Out Loud Part”

Parents rights

Religious liberty

Curriculum

Not banning - Just not in the library

Grooming/Indoctrination

The “Quiet Part”

Racism

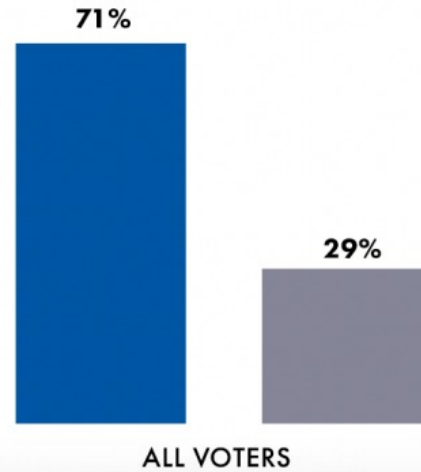
Anti-LGBTQ+

Social disconnection

Limiting democratic voices

The End of the Beginning

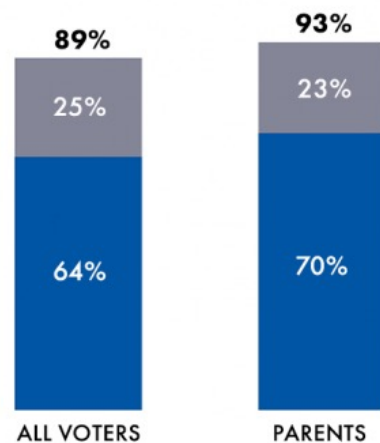
■ OPPOSE ■ SUPPORT



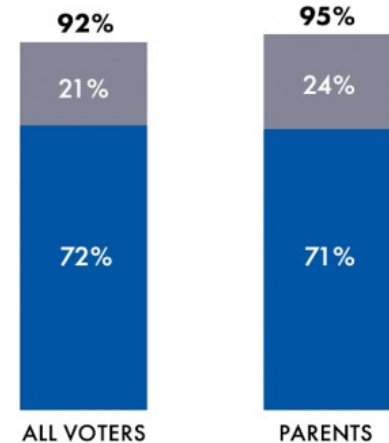
	Oppose	Support
Democrats	75%	25%
Independents	58%	42%
Republicans	70%	30%

Role local public libraries play in communities

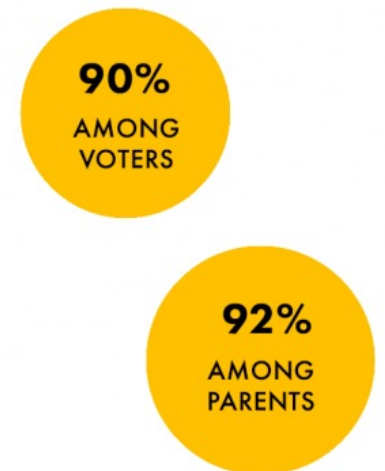
■ VERY IMPORTANT ■ FAIRLY IMPORTANT



Role local school libraries play in elementary, middle, and high schools



Favorability of local public and school librarians



The LochHal Dilemma

Someone who holds the
mission, means, and values of
librarianship

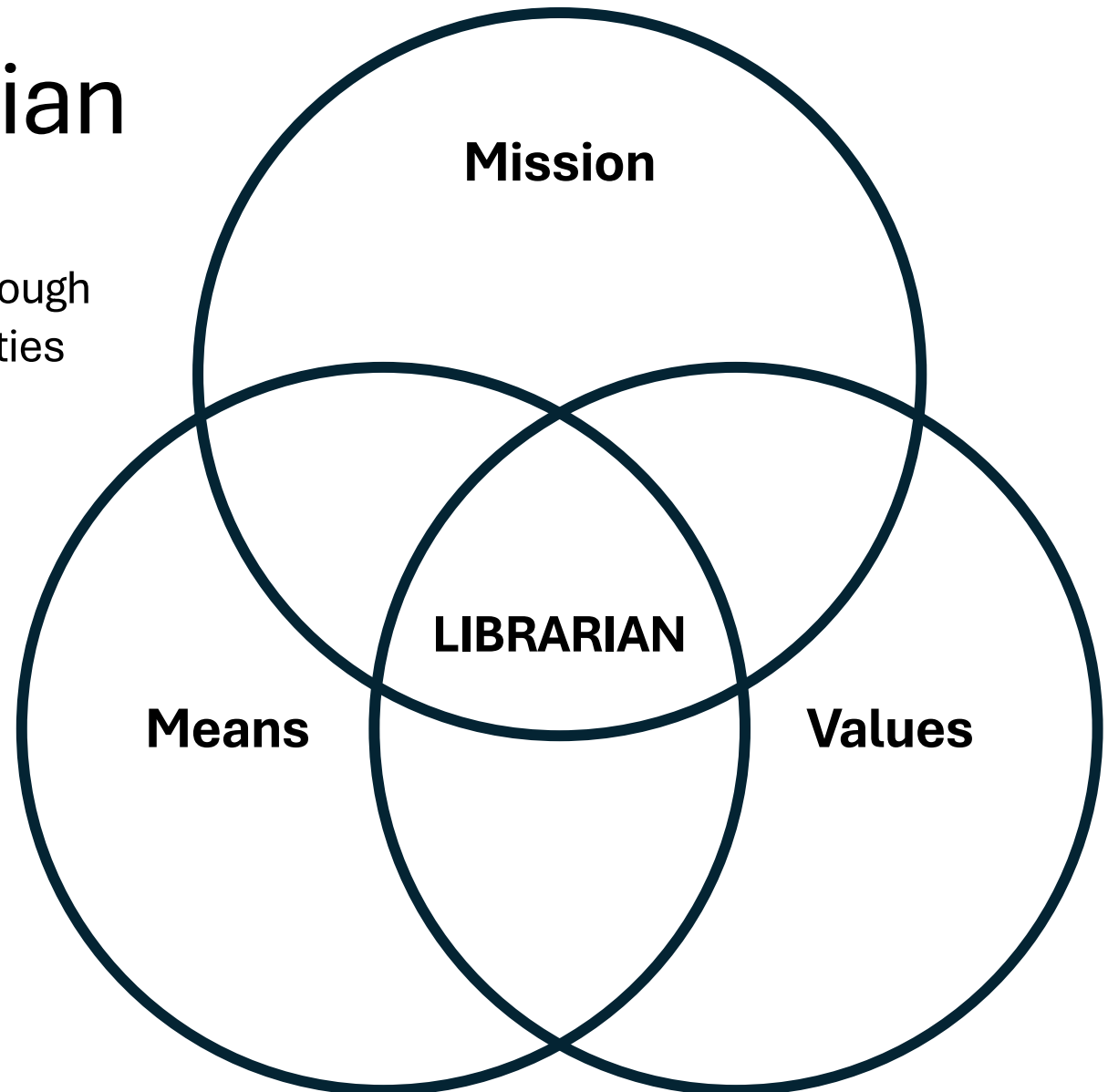


Definition of a Librarian

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 and Safety



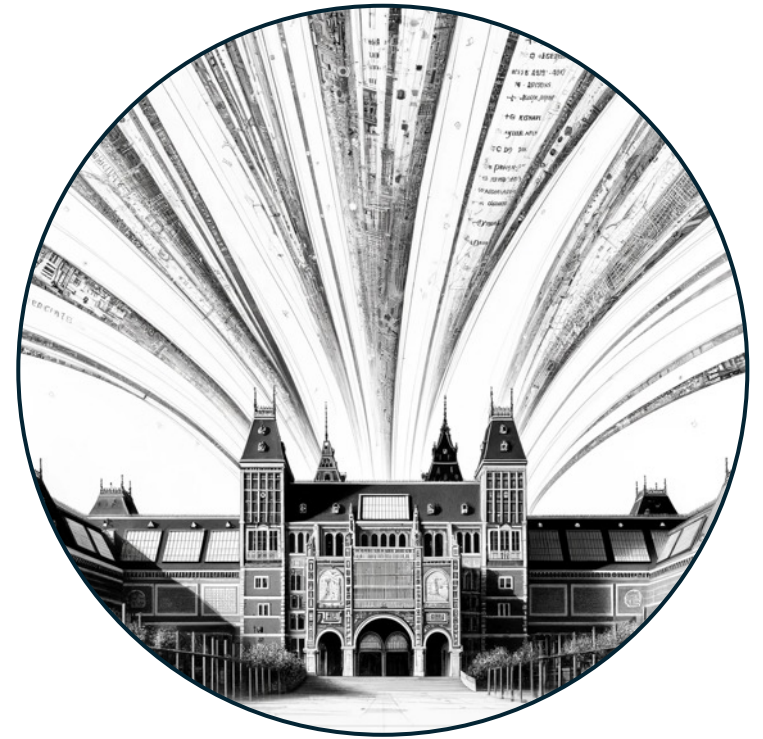
The Taylor Swift Question

- “It’s me, hi. I’m the problem it’s me”
- The role of library certification in innovation?
 - Core skills?
 - Core values?
 - Building a sense of legitimacy

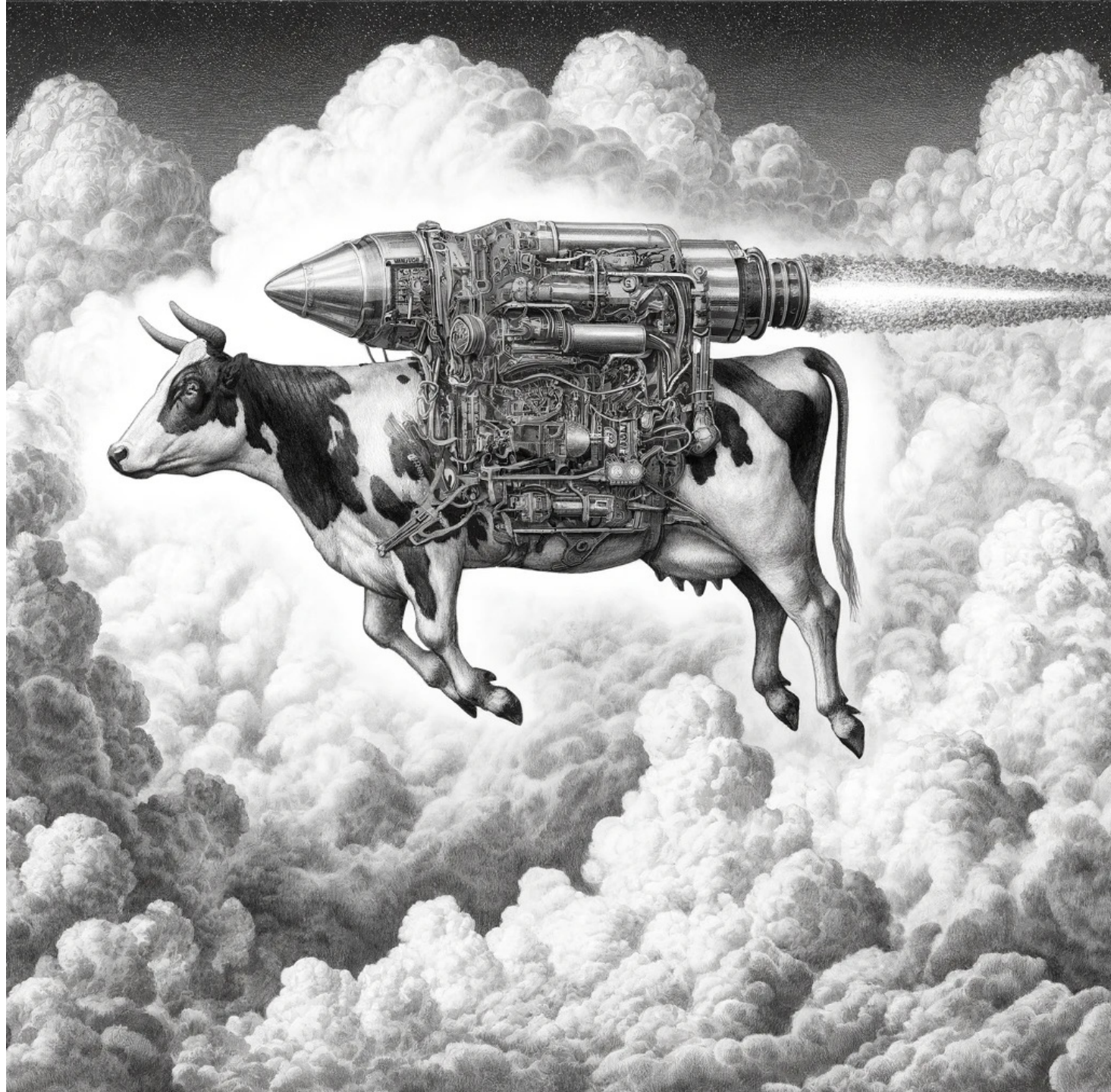


The Rijksmuseum Dilemma

a mandated facilitated space maintained
by the community, stewarded by librarians,
and dedicated to knowledge

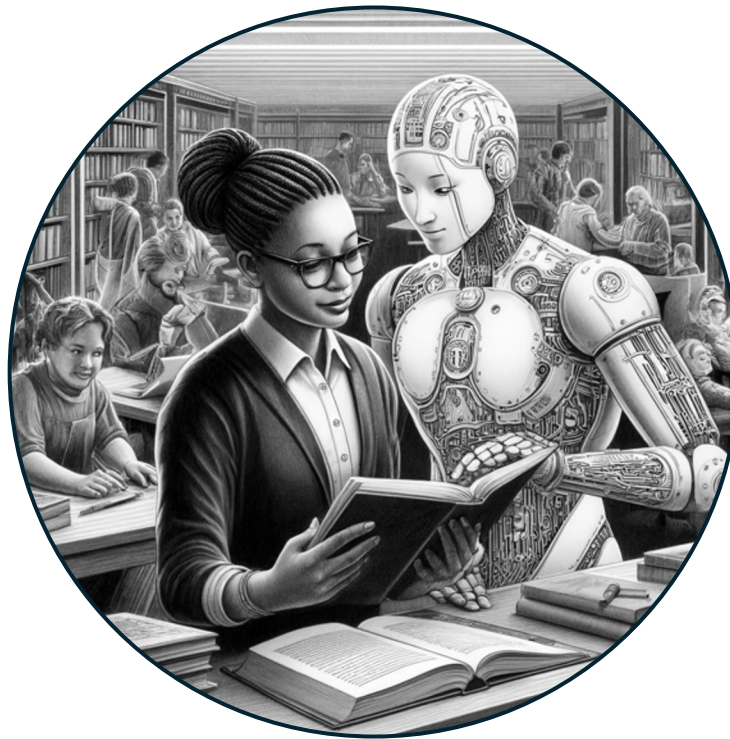


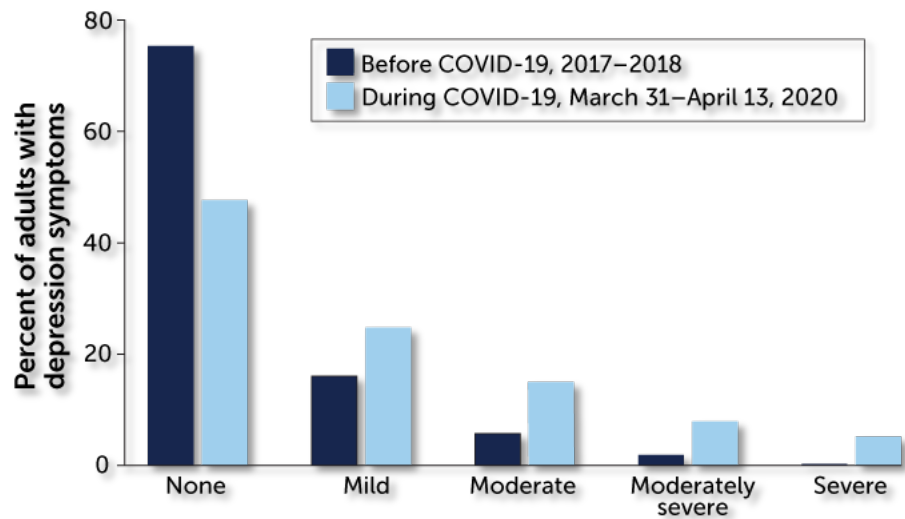
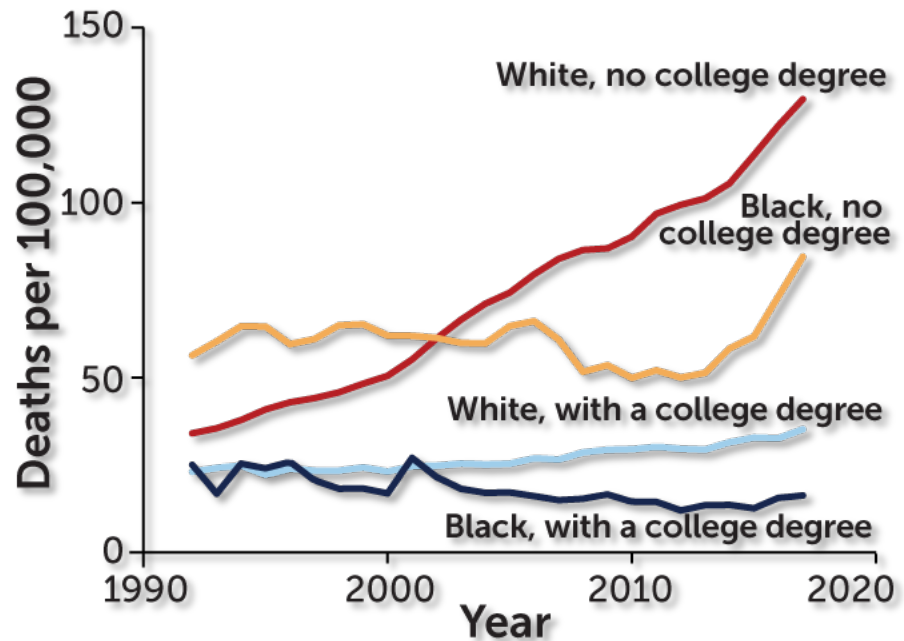
The Power of Stories to Shape the Future



AI

The hydra, Augmented Intelligence (a new narrative for libraries), Flattening the concept of the library





ScienceNews

<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/deaths-of-despair-depression-mental-health-covid-19-pandemic>

