

Future of Libraries

Brooks Memorial Library



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10/28/17

Agenda

- Assessing Community Needs/Engaging Your Community
- Future of Libraries
- VT Dept. of Libraries & YOU!

How do you assess your
community's needs?

What is the Purpose of Your Library?

- [Provide] access to the educational, cultural, recreational, informational, and research benefits of a free public library
- i.e. Serve the needs of your community



Source: Burnham Mem. Lib. Facebook Page

What is the Purpose of Your Library?

- How do you assess the current and future needs of your community?
- Which of these needs should be addressed by the library?
- Should the library partner with other organizations to meet certain needs? (Create library advocates!)

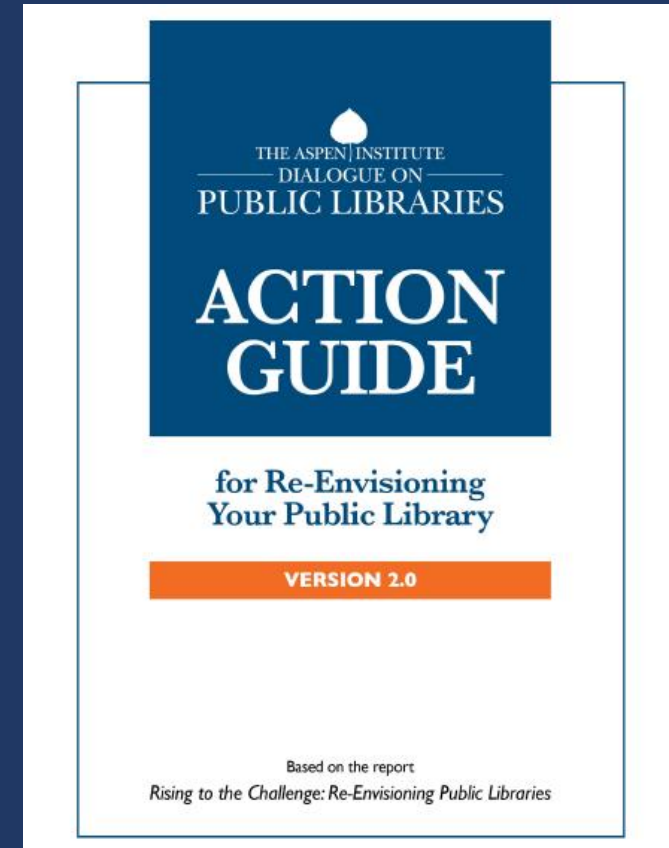
Strategic Planning

Community Needs & Strategic Planning

Aspen Institute Action Guide

V. 2.0:

[http://www.libraryvision.org/
download_action_guide](http://www.libraryvision.org/download_action_guide)



Community Needs & Strategic Planning



Harwood Institute Community Needs Assessment (Harwood in a Half Hour: Get Started in Turning Outward):
<http://theharwoodinstitute.org/tools>

Community Needs & Strategic Planning

Vermont Department of Libraries Professional Collection



What is the Future of
Public Libraries?

“Evolution” of Public Libraries

- Provide access to technology:
 - Books > Audiobooks/DVDs > Computers > Tools > ??
- Provide access to information:
 - Materials > Programs/Events > ??
- Provide access to services:
 - Answering Reference Q's > Answering Tech Q's

Future of Public Libraries

- “Community Hub”
- Access to New Types of:
 - Resources
 - Programs
 - Services
- Altering the “Look and Feel” of the Library

Future of Public Libraries: Community Hubs

Five Lessons: <https://knightfoundation.org/articles/five-lessons-for-libraries-looking-to-innovate-in-the-21st-century>

1. People need libraries to be more than information repositories
2. Libraries can play a key role in preserving & strengthening our democracy
3. The ways in which librarians perceive & interact with the public is a key determinant of a library's success
4. Embracing innovation & collaboration & admitting failures are key to a library's success
5. Libraries can play a leadership role in revitalizing & sustaining communities

Future of Public Libraries

- Access to New Types of **Resources**: What might your community need?



<https://torontotoollibrary.com/>



<http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2012/06/library-services/let-them-lend-cake-pans/>



<http://www.hinghamlibrary.org/335/Conversion-Equipment>



St. Albans Free Library, VT

Future of Public Libraries

- Access to New Types of **Resources**: What might your community need?

Cake Pans

Skeletons

Toys

Home Repair Equip.

Conversion Equip.

Musical Instruments

Bicycles

Fishing Rods

Gardening Equip.

Fine Art

Puppets

Phonographs

Computer Equip.

Seeds

Binoculars

Knitting Needles

Auto Repair Tools

Maker Tools

Slide Projectors

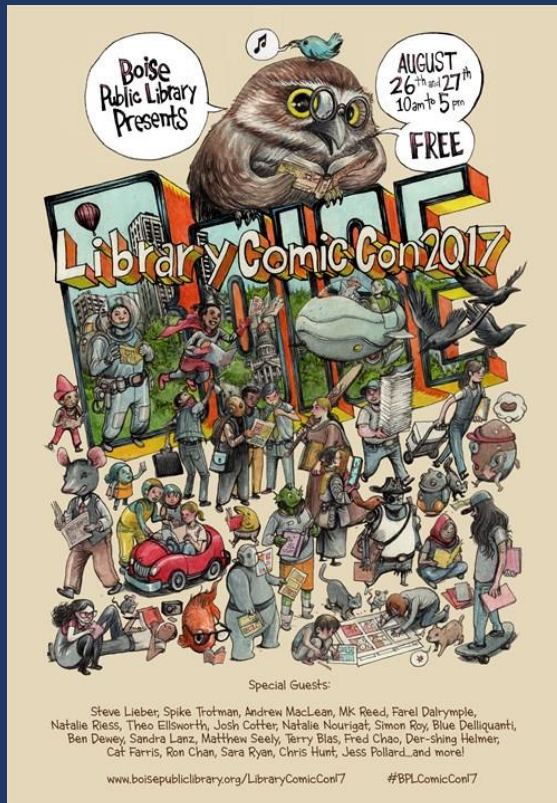
Typewriters

Telescopes

What Else?

Future of Public Libraries

- Access to New Types of **Programs**: What might your community need?



Comic Con at Boise Public Library



Source:

<http://www.webjunction.org/content/dam/WebJunction/Documents/webJunction/2016-12/slides-culinary-literacy.pdf>

Future of Public Libraries

- Access to New Types of **Programs**: What might your community need?

Cooking Classes

Father & Child Watercolor Classes

Artists in Residence

Computer Gaming Nights

Ethnic Fairs

Free Prom Dress Swap

Performances (theater, music, etc.)

Drag Queen Storytime

Non-English Book Clubs

Off-Site Programming

Coding Classes

Comic Cons

Maker Spaces

Prom Makeup Lessons

Comedy/Open Mic Nights

Cookbook Club

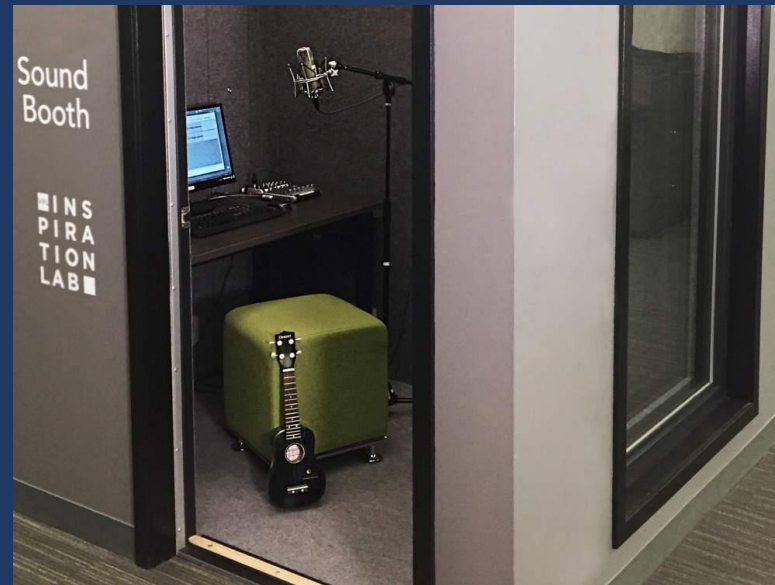
What Else?

Future of Public Libraries

- Access to New Types of **Services**: What might your community need?



Canaan Public Library, VT



<https://www.vpl.ca/inspirationlab>



<http://www.thomasryun.com/new-project-101/>

Future of Public Libraries

- Access to New Types of **Services**: What might your community need?

Hunting/Fishing Licenses

3D Printers & VR Equip.

Onsite Business Experts

Free Meals

Business Service Center

Vending Machines

Passes to Cultural Events

Free Dog Leashes/Biscuits

Welcome Center/Visitor Center

Onsite Social Workers

Recording Studios or Auditoriums

Community Gardens

Banks of Phone Chargers

Coffee Shops

Refugee Services

Support for the Deaf

What Else?

Future of Public Libraries

- Altering the “Look and Feel” of the Library
- <https://inews.co.uk/essentials/culture/books/future-uk-libraries-connection-not-collection/>
 - The future of public libraries is in **connection**, not the collection
 - Architects & Designers “will play a key role in the transformation of public libraries, from a warehouse for books into a **gathering space for people.**”



Dokk1
Library in
Aarhus,
Denmark

Source: <http://bringblingtotraveling.com/i-could-live-the-dokk1-library-in-aarhus-denmark/>



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Aarhus,
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Dokk1
Library in
Aarhus,
Denmark

Anythink Library in Colorado



Source: <https://www.anythinklibraries.org/news-item/anythink-wright-farms-named-one-10-new-landmark-libraries>

Anythink Library in Colorado



Source: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/193021534004486439>

Anythink Library in Colorado



Source: <http://www.wemberinc.com/portfolio-items/anythink-brighton-2/>

Sachem Public
Library,
Holbrook, NY



Source: <http://www.demcointeriors.com/blog/library-directors-favorite-features/>

“Evolution” of Public Libraries

- Provide access to community
- Provide access to community space
- Provide access to community creation
- Become community connector or hub

How will your Library address the evolving needs of your community?

VT Dept. of Libraries & You!

VT Dept. of Libraries

- Rebuilding the Department
- Rethinking our Purpose

Resources for Trustees

- Trustees & Friends Conference: 11/4 at Champlain College in Burlington
- Trainings and Consulting
 - Board Refresher Training
 - Best Practices for Trustees
 - Strategic Planning
 - and more!

Resources for Trustees

- Trustees and Friends List Serv: LibTRUSTFRIEND
- VTLIB Professional Resource Collection
- Phone and Email Q&A
- Trustee Manual
- The Law of Public Libraries
- VTLIB Website – Public Library Stats, etc.

Contact Me

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