Library of the Future: Learning with ALA's New Center for the Future of Libraries

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March 11, 2015
Reaching Across Illinois Library System
Why is right now an important time to think about the future?
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The 21st Century is a terrible time to be a control freak.
Ways to Think About the Future

• Scanning
• Trend analysis
• Trend monitoring
• Trend projection
• Scenarios

• Polling
• Brainstorming
• Modeling
• Gaming
• Historical analysis
• Visioning
The Center for the Future of Libraries will:

- *Identify emerging trends shaping libraries and the communities they serve*
- *Promote innovation techniques to help librarians and library professionals shape their future*
- *Build connections with experts and innovative thinkers to help libraries address emerging issues*

www.ala.org/libraryofthefuture
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Why are we thinking about trends?

“Trends help us to organize our thinking about changes, giving us a clearer picture of the really important things that are going on. From this awareness often emerges key insights to helping solve practical problems.”
“We are ‘consumer in’ instead of ‘silos out.’ Being fanatically focused on the changing consumer behaviors across all sectors, not just [libraries] – whether because of digital tools or globalization or other generational factors – rather than what silos are doing talking among themselves, and how that affects [libraries] and it’s future.

The future of [libraries] will be defined by leaders who understand the larger context in which [libraries] operate, not by navel gazing.”
Society
Technology
Economics
Education
Politics and Government
Environment
Demographics
CONNECTED LEARNING

- digital and social media
- connected culture
- interest-driven learning
- peer-supported
- focused on production

http://clalliance.org/
We can be part of a solution – we don’t need to be the whole of the solution.
New technologies have greatly improved the opportunities to collect, store, and analyze large amounts of data and information.

http://www.discovershadow.com
Anecdotes and data point to individuals taking longer to achieve the five milestones of adulthood – completing school, leaving home, becoming financially independent, marrying, and having a child.
Reflective of changing consumer values, including desires for more social and aspirational experiences.
- Bolster support for preparedness and response
- Enable better anticipation of disasters and their consequences
- Enhancing the ability to recover more quickly and strongly
“That’s why we had libraries”

Sharing + Technology Experience
Faced with overload, individuals may struggle to focus on what is important.
THE PRINCIPLES

- Resilience over strength
- Pull over push
- Risk over safety
- Systems over objects
- Compasses over maps
- Practice over theory
- Disobedience over compliance
- Emergence over authority
- Learning over education
"The only thing worth loving was what was to come, and since what was to come was unforeseeable-only a cretin or a liar would try to predict the future - the future had to be lived now, in the now, as intensity."

-The Flamethrowers
Let’s Hear From You

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- Badging/Credentialing
- Multiple Literacies
- 3D Printers
- Open Education
- Millennials
- Engaged Communities
- Autonomous Vehicles
- Wireless Power
- Blended Learning
- Voice Control
- Haptic Feedback
- Virtual Reality
- Digital Content
- Open Access
- Majority Minority
- Scholarly Communication
- Digital Literacies
- Global Citizenry
- Extended Parenting
- Creative Reuse
Manual for the Future of Librarianship

Beyond what we learned in library school, what are the other books, articles, reports, essays, videos, recordings, etc., that will help inform the future of our profession? Things we’ve read, seen or heard that inform our practice and that others would benefit from. Think inside and outside the library literature. Think bestsellers, obscure finds, and things that hurt your brain. These don’t have to be exclusively futuristic – we’ll also need timeless advice from all disciplines and perspectives.