Libraries of the Future

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The Retro Future Library
PHYSICAL   VIRTUAL
Independent bookstores are on the rise in the US

2,500 members of the American Booksellers Association

Data: American Booksellers Association
Sixty-five percent of respondents, according to Canon, prefer physical books over e-books and audiobooks; 29% prefer e-books, while 18% prefer audiobooks.
Gone are the days of serendipitous discovery, where a researcher could just walk down endless rows of stacks uncovering works they never knew existed. Today, if a scholar doesn’t know to look for a particular work, for all intents and purposes it simply doesn’t exist.
Greenland or right-whale, he is the best existing authority. But Screeshy knew nothing and says nothing of the great sperm whale, compared with which the Greenland whale is almost unworthy mentioning. And here be it said, that the Greenland whale is an usurper upon the throne of the seas. He is not even by any means the largest of the whales. Yet, owing to the long priority of his claims, and the profound ignorance which, till some seventy years back, invested the then fabulous or utterly unknown sperm whale, and which ignorance to this present day still reigns in all but some few scientific retreats and whale-ports; this usurpation has been every way complete. Reference to nearly all the leviathanic allusions in the great poets of past days, will satisfy you that the Greenland whale, without one rival, was to them the monarch of the seas. But the time has at last come for a new proclamation. This is Charing Cross; hear ye! good people all,—the Greenland whale is deposed,—the great sperm whale now reigns!

There are only two books in being which at all pretend to put the living sperm whale before you, and at the same time, in the remotest degree succeed in the attempt. Those books are Beale’s and Bennett’s; both in their time surmises to English South-Sea whale-ships, and both exact and reliable men. The original matter touching the sperm whale to be found in their volumes is necessarily small; but so far as it goes, it is of excellent quality, though...
MILLENIALS MAY PREFER READING PAPER BOOKS OVER E-BOOKS

MAY 24TH, 2018
POSTED BY ALEXIS BLUE-U. ARIZONA

Young people may still prefer curling up with an actual paper book instead of an e-book—even more so than their older counterparts, a new study shows.
TECH & SCIENCE

PARENTS AND TODDLERS INTERACT MORE WHEN READING PAPER BOOKS VERSUS E-BOOKS

BY KASHMIRA GANDER ON 3/25/19 AT 12:00 AM EDT
“Both physical and digital books have their place, Helm says. There are just really different values or benefits that we get out of them.”

-Sabrina Helm
Zombie Apocalypse Test

“When the zombie apocalypse knocks out the electricity in town and the internet is down, your books will still work just fine. You might even be able to fight off a zombie or two by swinging a sizable Oxford Dictionary.”

David Ferrer

50 Reasons Real Books are Vastly Superior to Ebooks, 2018
https://thebestschools.org/magazine/real-books-superior-ebooks/
Thank you

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OCLC Americas Regional Council Conference
#OCLCLibraryFutures
IF

- WHAT would you create
- WHO would you serve
- HOW would you deliver these services
- WHERE would you deliver these services
- WHO would work for you
- WHAT would be your mission
Marcellus Turner
Executive Director and Chief Librarian
at The Seattle Public Library
Over the last two decades, libraries have effectively reacted to a variety of changes.

The goal of this project is to be proactive in anticipating the changes to come.

I am excited about the future because I believe libraries will be more relevant than ever if we prepare and respond.
SPL: Strategic Direction

Our Vision for Seattle
A city where imagination and opportunity thrive.

Our Mission
The Seattle Public Library brings people, information and ideas together to enrich lives and build community.

Guiding Principles
Support intellectual freedom
Promote literacy and the love of reading
Protect confidentiality of patron records
Respect and embrace the entire community
Foster a healthy democracy
Support children, youth and families
Form strong partnerships
Adapt and innovate

Business Model
Workforce
Capacity and Development
Data and Metrics
Long Term Sustainability
Race and Social Justice
Strategic Communications

Program of Service
Access
Civic Engagement
Cultural Enrichment
Literacy, Learning, and Achievement

Individual
Deliver core library services to support individual needs

Community
Target service priorities to achieve lasting community impacts

Areas of Impact
Youth and Family Learning
Technology and Access
Re-imagined Spaces
Seattle Culture and History
Community Engagement

Institution
Build the internal infrastructure necessary for institutional success
Future Disruptors Impacting Libraries

- Emerging Technologies
- Future of Work & Education
- Changing Demographics
- Financial Sustainability
- Corporate Influence & Consumer Expectations
- Climate Change
- Growing Inequality & Inequity
- Urbanization & Density
- Institutional Trust, Privacy & Big Data
So what is it we are doing at SPL?

1. Trying to understand what the future will look like
2. Looking for influencers and disruptors of the future and our traditional work
3. Learning all we can about these influencers and disruptors
4. Taking our best guess as to which influencers we can manage and plan for to build our program of service around it / them
5. Trying to figure out how much these influencers and disruptors will cost in order for us to incorporate them into our services and operations
How are we doing this?

1. Taking 18 months to study and gather information in order to make some big decisions
2. Learning about this through symposium, tours, talks with others and other industry, etc.
3. Hopefully working with a consultant / futurist to help us think this through
4. Devoting some money to the work to understand it
5. Looking for partners to join us on this journey
6. Giving ourselves 10 years to know this future and build an organization that can respond to this changing environment quickly and nimbly in 3 year increments leading up to those 10 years
7. Still delivering great library service along the way
Are you Future-Ready?

- Mission and values (Not role)
- Policies
- Operations
- Spaces
- Technology
- Staff, training and recruitment
- Patron needs – training and instruction
- Programs, services, collections
- Financial sustainability
As a result:

*Key Management Imperatives*

Library as a Concept: Are your staff and community prepared emotionally for changes to the traditional ideas of a library?

Librarianship & Staffing: Do staff have the skills to respond and adapt to changes in traditional library services and operations?

Customer Service & Engagement: Is your staff ready to engage and connect with patrons on the digital platforms that are convenient to them?
How can you help? (Because we don’t have the answers)

• Know any influencers we haven’t thought of?
• Know a good consultant?
• Wanna give us some money?
• Wanna join us in this effort?
• Know someone we should talk to?
• We are looking for partners…
  - Libraries
  - Library Schools
  - Corporations
  - Vendors
Thank you for your time and interest -

Your questions, thoughts and comments will help us in our planning

Thanks, mt