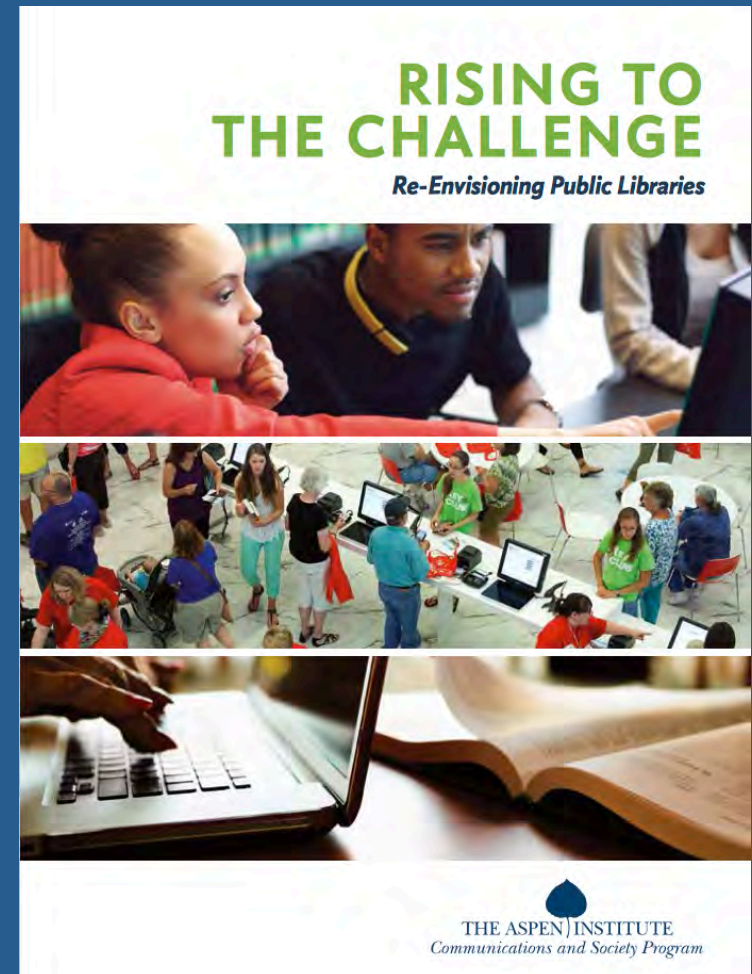



# Aspen Institute's Rising to the Challenge: Re-envisioning Public Libraries

An Infopeople Webinar  
with  
Susan Hildreth, Aspen Fellow  
January 26, 2016





**With support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Aspen Institute Dialogue on Public Libraries working group came together to craft and articulate a shared vision for the future of public libraries.**

**The working group included:**

- **leaders from the library field,**
- **executives from businesses,**
- **officials from various levels of government,**
- **community development organizations,**
- **and education experts.**

# A networked world



# Gateway to lifelong learning

“Persistent education and learning are the reality ... the library as people, place and platform is the new knowledge institution that can serve all those needs.”

-LEE RAINIE





People



Place



Platform




## LIBRARY AS PEOPLE

“Take away my people, but leave my factories, and soon grass will grow on the factory floors. Take away my factories, but leave my people, and soon we will have a new and better factory.”

Andrew Carnegie





CALGARY  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

# Growing READERS

Talk, sing, read, write and play every day to  
develop your child's early literacy skills.

*(Note: The 'READERS' text is contained within colorful, blocky letters.)*



## LIBRARY AS PLACE

“The public library is first and foremost a place...that promotes development in society. It is the family room of a community.”

*Akhtar Badshah*



Cedar Rapids Public Library





Ron Robinson Theater,  
Central Arkansas Library System



Philadelphia Free Library Virtual Branch at Airport



Humboldt County Main Library

# LIBRARY AS PLATFORM



THE MIX at San Francisco Public Library



Nashville Public Library Makerspace



Library computers at community centers



Friends gather to play Mahjong at the Broadmoor Library in New Orleans.



In the teen room, where kids come daily after school.



A lot of community supporters stepped forward for a video shoot.

 **Amber Lee** @ambersplace · Oct 13  
A night @TopekaLibrary with my kiddos makes the heart happy. Raising great little #readers is one #parenting move I got right.

🔄 1   ★ 7   ⋮





# Library as platform



**R. David Lankes**

# Biblio TECH



Why Libraries Matter More  
Than Ever in the Age of Google

JOHN PALFREY

# STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS





# 1. Aligning with community goals



STRATEGIES

“The public library has moved from being an institution that primarily services individuals to one that navigates community.”

—TESSIE GUILLERMO





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*The future is in your hands, make it limitless.*



**Volunteer**

*at the Library*

*What are you waiting for?*

[LEARN MORE](#)

Question of the Week:

Which tv show based on a book is your favorite?

- [Pretty Little Liars](#)
- [The 100](#)
- [Vampire Diaries](#)
- [Sleepy Hollow](#)

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Keyword / Title / Author



## 2. Provide access to content in *all* formats



STRATEGIES

All Formats

[Library of Congress](#) > Collections

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## Digital Collections 1 - 40 of 253

Access online collections: view maps & photographs; read letters, diaries & newspapers; hear personal accounts of events; listen to sound recordings & watch historic films.

Sort By

View



### Aaron Copland Collection

The first release of the online collection contains approximately 1,000 items that yield a total of about 5,000 images. These items date from 1899 to 1981, with most from the 1920s through ...

[View 982 Items](#)



### Abdul Hamid II Collection

This collection contains 1,819 photographs in 51 large-format albums date from about 1880 to 1893. They portray the Ottoman Empire during the reign of one of its last sultans, Abdul-Hamid II and ...

[View 1,825 Items](#)



### Abraham Lincoln Papers at the Library of Congress

Items in the collection date from 1833 through 1916, but most of the approximately 20,000 items are from the 1850s through Lincoln's presidential years, 1860-65. Treasures in this collection include Lincoln's draft ...

[View 20,157 Items](#)



### African American Perspectives: Pamphlets from the Daniel A. P. Murray Collection, 1818-1907

A panoramic and eclectic review of African-American history and culture, spanning almost one hundred years from the early nineteenth through the early twentieth centuries, with the bulk of the material published between ...

[View 353 Items](#)



### African American Photographs Assembled for 1900 Paris Exposition

The Paris Exposition of 1900 (Exposition universelle internationale de 1900) devoted a building to matters of "social economy." The United States section of the building featured an exhibit that, according to W. ...

[View 556 Items](#)

# ACCESS IS NOT ENOUGH!

Chattanooga

Public Library



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*Need or want something we don't have? [Request it!](#)*

Catalog

Resources

Services

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Local History

4th Floor

## GigLab Launches on the 4th Floor

The Chattanooga Public Library has been a part of the city's gigabit ecosystem and infrastructure since 2012, when the 4th Floor became the first public library space in the United States to offer access to a full gig of speed. Now in partnership with the Mozilla Foundation, The National Science Foundation and others, the Chattanooga Public Library is launching the newest layer to the city's gigabit offerings: GigLab.

GigLab will be located downtown in the library's community beta space, The

4th Floor, and will be the first public-access space of its kind. GigLab builds on top of the city's bandwidth ubiquity in a way that provides a separate but inclusive gig-connected space designed specifically for gigabit-related experimentation and learning, application testing and workforce development.

# GIGLAB

### 3. Ensuring long-term sustainability



STRATEGIES

# Toward a national digital platform

“With a nationally networked platform, library and other leaders will also have more capacity to think about the work they can do at the national level that so many libraries have been so effective doing at the state and local levels.”

-MAUREEN SULLIVAN







europæana  
exhibitions



Cake? Cake!



We know this war by heart

English Portuguese



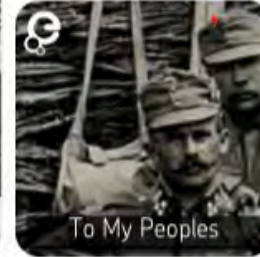
Record and Playing Machines



Photography on a Silver Plate



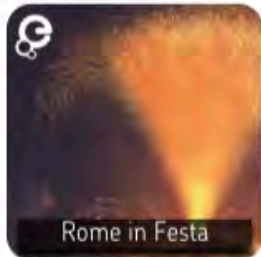
1514. Book. 2014



To My Peoples



Darwinism: Reception in Spain and Catalonia



Rome in Festa

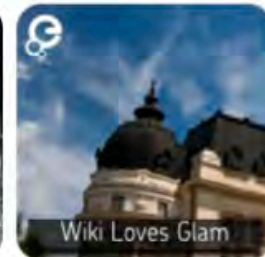


The Past But Not As You Know It

English



The First World War - Places of Transit



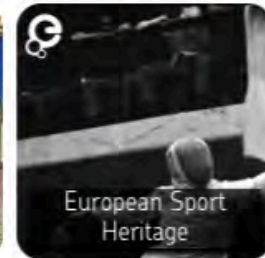
Wiki Loves Glam



Leaving Europe: A new life in America



Royal Book Collections



European Sport Heritage

# Digital Public Library of America



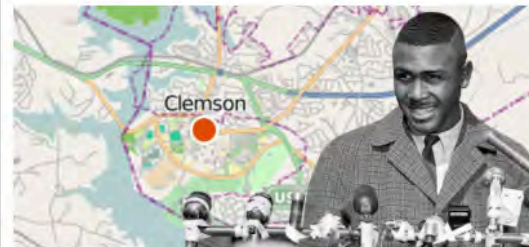
## A Wealth of Knowledge

explore 10,001,078 items from libraries, archives, and museums



## Exhibitions

[View all »](#)



## Explore by Place

[Map »](#)

## Explore by Date

[Timeline »](#)



1946 1947 1948 **1949** 1950 1951 1952

# 4. Cultivating leadership



# GETTING STARTED

Action Steps For  
Library Leaders,  
Policymakers &  
The Community



# Library Leaders

- Define the scope of the library's programs, services and offerings around community priorities
- Develop partnerships and collaborations
- Measure outcomes and impacts to communicate the library's value to the community
- Engage the community in planning and decision making

# Policymakers

- Define libraries as part of the community's priority infrastructure
- Develop strategic alliances and partnerships with local library leaders to advance educational, economic and social goals
- Leverage the economic development potential of the public library as a community platform
- Support and accelerate deployment of high-speed broadband & wi-fi to all libraries

# Community Partners

- Connect the community's knowledge resources to the library's networks & platform
- Volunteer organizational and technical expertise to mentor and support learning that takes place in library spaces and on its platform
- Develop strategic partnerships and alliances with public libraries

# ACTION GUIDE

for Re-Envisioning  
Your Public Library

Based on the report *Rising to the Challenge: Re-Envisioning Public Libraries*



  
THE ASPEN INSTITUTE  
*Communications and Society Program*



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12. Taking Action: Next Steps

Appendix

## To learn more:

<http://as.pn/libraries>  
[www.LibraryVision.org](http://www.LibraryVision.org)

Susan Hildreth, Aspen Fellow

[hildreth@plsinfo.org](mailto:hildreth@plsinfo.org)

or

Amy Garmer, Director

[amy.garmer@aspeninstitute.org](mailto:amy.garmer@aspeninstitute.org)





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