


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

1/26/2016

**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



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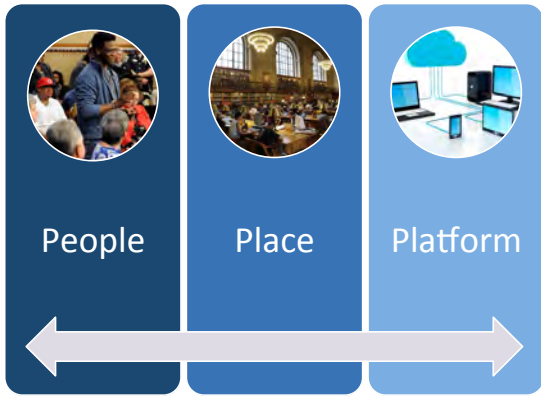
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Gateway to lifelong learning

"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





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."

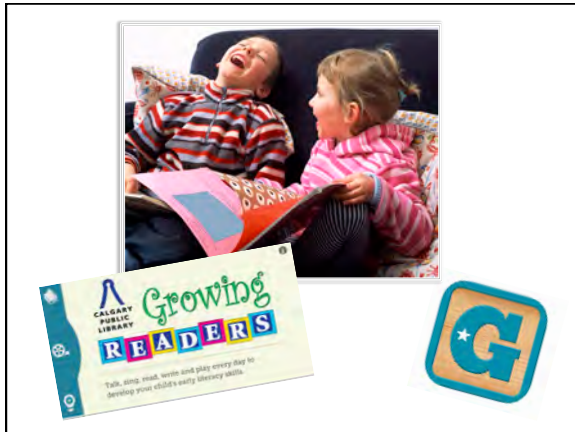
Andrew Carnegie



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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




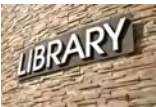
Cedar Rapids Public Library



Ron Robinson Theater,
Central Arkansas Library System



Philadelphia Free Library Virtual Branch at Airport



Humboldt County Main Library

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LIBRARY AS PLATFORM

THE MIX at San Francisco Public Library

Nashville Public Library Makerspace

Library computers at community centers

Friends gather to play Majong 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 [@AmberLee](#) · 12/18
A night @TopkatLibrary with my kiddos makes the heart happy. Raising great little #readers is one #parenting move I got right.

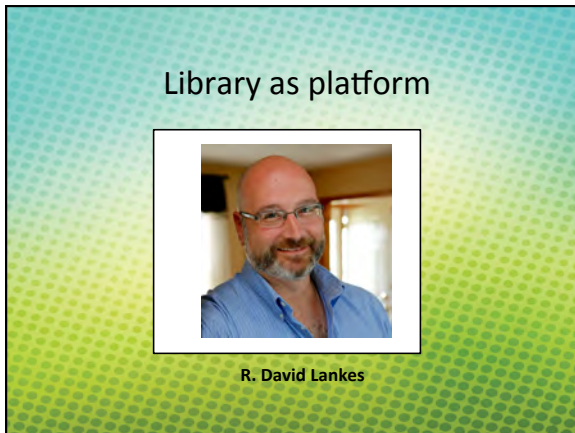


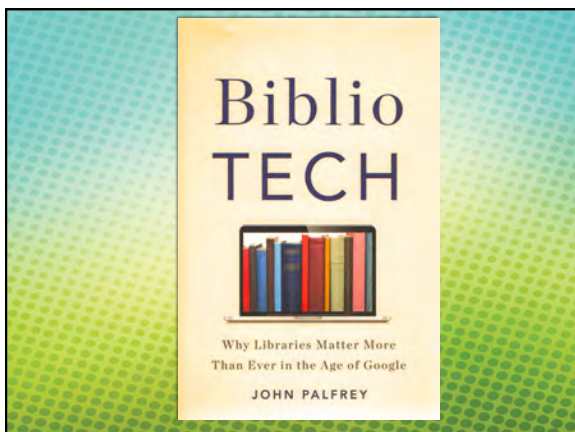
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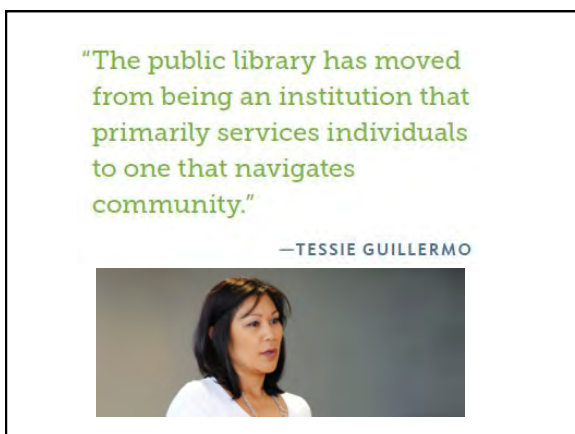




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2. Provide access to content in all formats



STRATEGIES



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ACCESS IS NOT ENOUGH!



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 secure but inclusive gig-connected space designed specifically for gigabit-related experimentation and learning, application testing and workforce development.

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



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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

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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

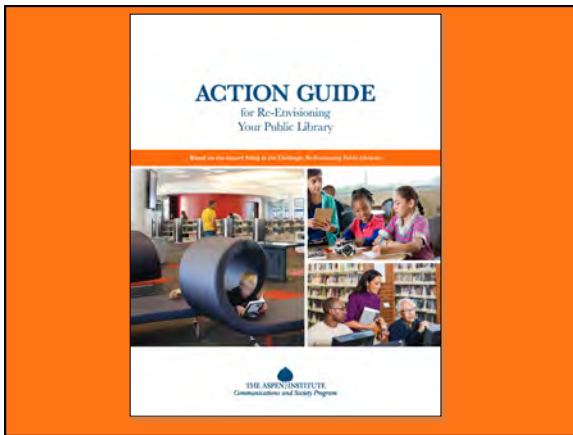


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www.LibraryVision.org THE ASPEN INSTITUTE
DIALOGUE ON
PUBLIC LIBRARIES #LibraryVision

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To learn more:

<http://as.in/libraries>
www.LibraryVision.org

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