Libraries and innovation: 21st century themes

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Lending

Lending, a traditional library function, has grown to allow libraries to fit into their own communities by being able to offer unique services targeted toward the needs and desires of the specific location. If, in addition to book lending, a library also lends unusual items, objects or services - such as musical instruments - over time, the branch often follows through with additional support like music teachers, concerts, etc.

Here are some examples:
Tools

Berkeley's Tool Lending Library
Berkeley, California
Seeds

Seed lending library

Richmond Public Library | Richmond, California
Musical instruments

Ukulele lending library

Portland Public Library
Portland, ME

Musical instruments

Lopez Island Library
Lopez Island, WA
Internet

Check out the internet at New York Public Library

New York, New York
Humans

Ottawa Public Library
Ontario, Canada
Cake pans

New Gloucester Public Library
New Gloucester, Maine
Outdoor equipment

Topsham Public Library
Topsham, Maine
Outdoor exploration

York Public Library | York, Maine
Makerspaces

The nature of knowledge is changing. With technology becoming increasingly accessible, more and more people are transitioning from simple consumers of information to creators and inventors of knowledge. Anyone with a smart phone has, in their pocket, a sound studio, a video production system, an artist's palette and more.

The library “makerspaces” movement is a response to this change in knowledge. These unique library spaces provide an environment where people collaborate, create, learn skills and share creations with others.
Fabulous Laboratory (FabLab)

Fayetteville Free Library | Fayetteville, New York
Createch Studio

Arlington Hills Community Center
St. Paul, Minnesota
Gateshead Library Eday
Demonstrating a 3D printing program

Gateshead, United Kingdom
HYPE Makerspace
Demonstrating a MakerBot Replicator 3D printer
Detroit Public Library
Detroit, Michigan
Best Buy Teen Tech. Center
The Hack Factory

Minneapolis, Minnesota
Like the makerspace movement, libraries are now at the forefront of local art movements, providing space for people to create, tinker, team-up and share inspiration in a neighborhood-friendly atmosphere. Local residents and artists also use the space to display a variety of creations.

The arts are a key way to advance learning and support the growth of community residents.
Hidden stories

The Bubbler
Madison Public Library | Madison, Wisconsin
Playbods

Dance, sensory play and storytelling experiences in unusual places

Leeds Libraries | United Kingdom
“Homespun”
Library-as-a-gallery idea

Albany Public Library | New York
Art installations

The Reading Nest
Cleveland Public Library | Ohio

Book benches
London | England
Mobile libraries dramatically increase the ability for libraries to connect with people and communities who are not currently using library resources. It is also a way to increase contact with new audiences, and connect to underserved communities.

Mobile libraries and pop-up libraries can also deliver creativity and library support to just about any part of a community, making it easy to partner with other community programs and institutions.
Bookmobile

Mount Vernon Public Library
VROOM!
Valero Roaming Online Outreach Mobile Library

San Antonio Public Library | San Antonio, New Mexico
Library in the Tram —> Tram to the Library

Brno, Czech Republic
FryskLab

Europe’s First Mobile Library FabLab
sPARKit

St. Paul, Minnesota
The Sketchbook Project

Brooklyn, New York
Streetbooks

Portland, Oregon
Hospital bookmobile

The Los Angeles Public Library, 1928
Digital Bookmobile

Driven throughout the United States
Little free libraries

Stereotank: the little free library | New York City, New York
Pop-up beach library

La Romaniquette | France
The Future of Library Services for and with Teens: A Call to Action,” (2014) holds this telling quote: “Libraries used to be grocery stores. Now we need (them) to be kitchens.”

This quote refers to the need for teen programming and interactions to be creative, messy and not passive. For libraries to connect to teens - a large percentage of library users - we will need librarians who understand and enjoy teens. Many libraries are meeting the challenge.
“The Circle”
Teen only library space
Breakdancing classes

Washington County Cooperative Library Services
Washington State
Open-air library

Magdeburg, East Germany
Teen space

Delft Public Library, Holland
Library After Dark

Rice Street Library | St. Paul, Minnesota
Teen Central

Hennepin County Library Central Library
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Author Cat Johnson argues: “It is the vitality of the mix: of intergenerational activities, of cultural events, that makes a home for new immigrants, that honors teens with their own spaces, that out of these diverse commitments emerges a beloved public place”.

Here are a few of many possible examples:
Contemporary dance workshop
Niños Conarte

Conarte Children's Library | Monterrey, Mexico
Reading net

Family library
Game night
Graphic Novel Symposium
Moraine Valley Community College
Palos Hills, Illinois

Exploring comic books, gaming, and pop culture.
Thursday, Sept. 18, and Friday, Sept. 19
morainevalley.edu/comicculture

Sponsored by the Moraine Valley Community College
lib.morainevalley.edu
Shared working space
Interactive installations & swapping services

“I have/I need…”

Melbourne, Australia
Converting An Abandoned Walmart Into A Public Library

McAllen, Texas
Homework help
Cultural and historical engagement

Santa Fe Springs library | Santa Fe Springs, California
The Hubbard School of Living

Frankfort Community Public Library
Frankfort, Indiana
The shifting roles of librarians

Librarians' roles are changing. While still reference and information specialists, some librarians have now become connectors, facilitators, curators of learning, community liaisons, and outreach specialists. To capture the evolving roles of librarians, what follows are a few selected signs, posters, and messages recently used by libraries.
I AM A {SOCIAL} LIBRARIAN

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CURATOR, CREATOR, AND PROMOTER
- From my desktop or mobile device to my patrons' platform of choice
- Providing a library into the social content ecosystem
- With URLs, social streams, videos, and subscription content
- A human of information produced by the growing Internet of Things
- Of interconnected smart objects

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EDUCATOR
- Using social tools to empower library users
- With information skills for the social age
- Underpinned by a knowledge of effective and ethical use
- Populating our library's social web with information and resources
- And meaningful conversations throughout the ecosystem

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FILTER AND CONNECTOR
- Isolating and pointing streams for specific users
- Enabling their discovery of timely subject-specific information
- Connecting with apps, tools, and services
- In person, at fairs, in social media
- In a complete information landscape intertwined with the cloud

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FACILITATOR AND EXPERIMENTER
- My scars and successes extend the library's value
- In real time to the social screens of library patrons
- In creating the future: library/I create and facilitate
- With makerspace, digital media lab, hackspaces, or creation spaces
- Embracing the DIY culture and its collaborative tools

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BEACON
- Attracting library users to our physical location
- With social mapping, traffic, and reviews
- Mapping and engaging our library's spaces
- Tapping into the financial and friend resources of the crowd
- Continuously sharing sights on new social media platforms

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I AM {READY} NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF THE (SOCIAL) LIBRARIAN

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Subscribe to the Library Connect Newsletter:
https://libraryconnect.ebsco.com/subscribe

Social media:
@library_connect
LibraryConnect
Content by Joe Murphy
@libraryfuture
Changing roles

Free Library of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Changing roles

London Public Library
Ontario, Canada
City of Melbourne Docklands Library

Melbourne, Australia
The MISSION of LIBRARIANS is to IMPROVE SOCIETY through FACILITATING KNOWLEDGE CREATION in their COMMUNITIES
WHAT IF I TOLD YOU
THAT YOU CAN EAT IN THE
LIBRARY?

Thunder Bay
Public Library
Library collaborations and partnerships

Libraries are working with organizations, businesses, neighborhoods, social services, non-profits, and other branches of government to share space, save money, increase access to new audiences, and create and deliver new kinds of programming. Sometimes these new partnerships take place at the library, sometimes at other sites in the community, like schools, senior centers, community centers, retail outlets, and many more. It is a swiftly growing strategy based on the idea that libraries are partners in the wider social effort to support learning.
St. Paul Public Library & Metropolitan State University
Library + Dunn Bros Coffee

Roseville Public Library
Roseville, Minnesota
Financial literacy training
Partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank

American Library Association
Chicago, Illinois
The ImaginOn children’s library and theater has become a magnet drawing people to downtown Charlotte, North Carolina, with strong programs and special events.
The Escalante Community Center houses the Tempe Community Action Program, the Escalante Senior Center, the Youth Assistance Program, summer camp programs, health services, adult employment services, and recreational activities as well as the local branch of the Tempe Public Library in Arizona.
Library + senior center

Dr. James Carlson
Library and Clapp
Park Senior Center
collaboration

Fargo, North Dakota
Botanical paintings

Botanical paintings created by students of the Minnesota School of Botanical Art.

Presented by Hennepin County Library in collaboration with the Minnesota School of Botanical Art and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

Minneapolis Central Library
Minneapolis, Minnesota
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