Library as Platform: Unlocking the Potential of Our Communities

R. David Lankes
Professor and Dean’s Scholar for the New Librarianship
Syracuse University’s iSchool
Screencast and Slides at:
@rdlankes • http://www.DavidLankes.org
“I have long contended that a room full of books is simply a closet, but that an empty room with a librarian in it is a library.”
• From Quiet Buildings with Loud Rooms to Loud Buildings with Quiet Rooms

• Places of Knowledge Access to Knowledge Creation

• Territory of the Librarian to Territory of the Community
Where To & Why?

- Commons or Community Center?
- Are Digital Services Transforming In the Same Way?
- Is There Some Deeper Reason for the Shift?
A Platform

- Technology And Content Assets Organized In An Architecture To Achieve Some Goal
- Normally Broad
- The Question Is The Goal
- Right Now Mostly It Is Distribution Of Content
- Programming? Who Runs Them?
A New Platform Goal
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- The Mission Of Librarians Is To Improve Society Through Facilitating Knowledge Creation In Their Communities
A New Platform Goal

- The Mission Of Librarians Is To Improve Society Through Facilitating Knowledge Creation In Their Communities
- A Platform For Community Learning And Innovation
Examples

- Polaris Community Portal
- Community Garden
- Chef Katie
- Fab Lab
- Dallas Public Library
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Catalog As Platform
Catalog As Platform

Content
Bib Data
Community Calendar

Catalog As Platform

Events | Profiles | Content | Bib Data | Links
Community Calendar

Simple Web Presence

Events | Profiles | Content | Bib Data | Links

Catalog As Platform
Course

Events Profiles Content Bib Data Links

PAC As Platform
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Library or Community Center?

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Implications

- Scholarly Publishing
- Not Institutional Repositories, Networked Repositories
- Role of Librarian: Acquisition to Curation
- Collection Development Becomes Connection Development
- Size Doesn’t Matter
- Rural Libraries Well Positioned
Build a Platform for Innovation

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