



## Anchorage 21<sup>st</sup> Century Libraries Summit Notes :: May 19, 2009

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### Reactor Panel 2

Visibility – needed

? Equipment – shortage of computers

- 1 per 1K - 330 – not here / bandwidth
- Maybe levy is the answer
- Build the libraries as energy efficient

#3 Group – creating social environments - + ? or the library's goal

- George Neeham's talk
- Library as sanctuary and defender of boundaries

No signage on 36<sup>th</sup> – direct communication

- Cost consciousness community

Marketing – what you can't do on Google, library as community school

- Government structure needs to drive

Park Access / Library connections reading room (2)

Need forum fro information sharing/forum

Design micro environments – how do we transform space? – common sense entrances (8 )

The “embedded librarian” all over, roaming

Things we didn't like/reacted

- Discussion groups – is it a need?
- How to spread and manage collection with out deadlines or due dates
- Wondered about bond failure – time for more TV ads?
- What space does the library occupy in the library? Loussac – opportunity
- Library as bookstore – not! Inventory
- Loussac – assembly meetings – disconnect (2 )
- Library can be daunting to some people – the Loussac building is like a fortress (2 )
- Card holders define their relationship to library
- Branch libraries should provide convenience and welcome new patrons

Consensus

Support for library as a place for:

- Social interactions both formal and informal (2 )
- Facilities for collaborative work
- Place for all ages
- Need to define library mission
- Identify community priorities
- Speak to community's diversity
- Not enough computers or space for computers
- Define library's mission/role in the community (6 )
- ID a community-wide goal that library can work on
- Outreach to youth/students (1 )
- Collaborate with business sector
- Social gatherings/interactions = sense of community

## Likes – great

- Embracing wireless tech phones PDA (3)
- One size doesn't fit all – but watch \$ (1)
- Library as catalyst for collaboration, sharing – instead of individual, physical plant not designed (7)
- Exciting need for space, learning, convener (4)
- Unorthodox partnerships – voting, others (3)
- Opportunity to reach out to new populations in new ways – lending physical tools, mechanics (8)
- Browsability “pick up” factor
- Partnerships – civic opportunity (5)

## Needs?

- Market what we already have – improve website to make it easy to find
- Areas for collaboration – especially kids – computers, libraries
- Different configurations for furniture, rooms (1)
- Library does online match making for book groups
- Need more teens, generation X
- Volunteer facilitator – can be from university/retirees
- Bus parked outside use as meeting room
- Reading salons – bring communities together
- Library sponsors book of the month (informal)
- Need for social interaction – how to use library to bridge technology and community (6)
- If we see limits of library now, create vision to overcome
- Join rotary, chamber, AEDC, etc.
- Focus on things that will make a difference, not just do more(3)
- Don't reinvent the wheel – know what is going on in the community (1)
- Membership, invited privileges, not just cushion – NUKA model at the native hospital (1)
- Need community rooms, formal spaces
- Need informal spaces for casual meetings/relationships
- WI-FI = huge success
- WI-FI stations outside of library = extra branches
- Quality of information resources
- Specialized information – journals, databases, etc.
- Collaborative workshop synergy can't happen without resources
- Groups could join to pay for specialized information – house at the library

## Innovation in Programs

- Audio books
- Vancouver – space organized by topic (1)
- Education workshops (1)
  - How to use library, data bases
  - Research for beginners, for professionals
- More partnerships cross cultural (4)
  - Reach out to more diverse
- More better public spaces (6)
  - Lectures, Socrates club
- Information fluency – how to evaluate google information; ways to use/interpret internet data(2)
- Focused education sessions – topics of interest (genealogy)
- Topical information, e.g. swine flu

- Marketing strategy – explain what the library can do that can't be done online (today offer an online data base) (1 )
- Focus branches on specific topics e.g. drop children's services at downtown
- Address role of branches
  - “mini major branches” vs. speciality (1 )
- Big sign (5 )
- Open door to public (1 )
- Reutilize space at front of library
- New ways to reach out to transient more diverse population
- Seek out specific options to engage in issues of importance to community (2 )
- Build partnerships with diverse array of community organizations (3 )
- Pick topics with broad support; steer away from political e.g. literacy
- Coordinate programs and lectures e.g. cancer survivor lecture at hospital, hospital as partner, but based at library (link to library information resources)
- How to take library out of city politics (museum model) (2 )
- Think about new ideas of “branch” libraries – great access (2 )
- How to develop core of support for library comparable to votes for roads, drainage (one )
- Why not notify library users of meeting using existing library email list
- Tech- use twitter, other (1 )
- Existing internet social networks (1 )
- But – what about many people who don't use, don't have access to internet
- Tap into users more effectively e.g. support for bond measures (1)
- Create companion/use business and political leaders to explain the value of investing in literacy (link to economic health)
- Connection between library and economic health not widely seen (job search training)
- Need a library lab with low risk to innovators (2)

#### **Need a school connection university program**

- Example – state of Oregon gives grants to counties, local libraries
- Encourage, don't punish experiment, allow for failure (1)
- State has some short term grants, AK lacks old money that other states have
- Recent innovations – self checkout, Muldoon branch checks out laptop (1)
- Grocery store vs. kitchen
- Old downtown library (great place, access to the world)
- Challenge is good ideas only partially done

#### **Big Ideas**

“C & C” cost and convenience

Libraries as conveyers

Centers of community gathering places

#### **Closing comments**

- Excited about new stage
- Reaching immigrants to take advantage
- Input is critical (opportunities in the future)