Creating the Future Now

Miguel Figueroa
American Library Association
Center for the Future of Libraries
There are many futures, not just one.
How do we think about the future?

The future is many, not one.

Source: Bishop (2007)
We can learn a great deal about the future by looking at what is happening now.
Foresight is fundamentally about the study of change.
“Foresight is thinking ahead to how trends, issues, and developments that can be observed in the present are likely to shape alternative futures.

- What are the key forces that are shaping the future?
- What might be their possible outcomes?
- What implications could they have for the learning and actions that must happen in the present?”
While we cannot know the future, we can influence the future.
CONSIDERING VALUES

ACCESS
CIVIC COMMONS
CREATION & EXPRESSION
DEMOCRACY
DISCOVERY

DIVERSITY
EDUCATION
INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM
LITERACY

PLACE
PRESERVATION
PRIVACY
PUBLIC DISCOURSE
SERVICE
CREATIVE PLACEMAKING
EMERGING ADULTHOOD
SMART CITIES
SHORT READING
From futuring & foresight to innovation
creativity / innovation

the process of coming up with new ideas

the process of implementing new ideas into useful solutions
curiosity

the process of exploration, investigation, and learning by observation
The Anthropologist
brings new learning and insights into the organization by observing human behavior and developing a deep understanding of how people interact physically and emotionally with products, services, and spaces.

The Experimenter
prototypes new ideas continuously, learning by a process of enlightened trial and error. The experimenter takes calculated risks to achieve success through a state of “experimentation as implementation.”

The Cross-Pollinator
explores other industries and cultures, then translates those findings and revelations to fit the unique needs of their enterprise.

The Hurdler knows the path to innovation is strewn with obstacles and develops a knack for overcoming or outsmarting those roadblocks.

The Collaborator helps bring eclectic groups together and often leads from the middle of the pack to create new combinations and multidisciplinary solutions.

The Director not only gathers together a talented cast and crew but also helps to spark their creative talents.

the organizing personas

The Experience Architect designs compelling experiences that go beyond mere functionality to connect at a deeper level with customers’ latent or expressed needs.

The Set Designer creates a stage on which innovation team members can do their best work, transforming physical environments into powerful tools to influence behavior and attitude.

The Caregiver delivers customer care in a manner that goes beyond mere service to anticipate customer needs be ready to look after them.

The Storyteller builds both internal morale and external awareness through compelling narratives that communicate a fundamental human value or reinforce a specific cultural trait.

TRENDS
VALUES
ENVISION
LEAD
TRENDS
Focus in on 1 – 3 positive trends that you feel are important for the future of libraries. Write them down.
TRENDS

AGING ADVANCES
ANONYMITY
BADGING
COLLECTIVE IMPACT
CONNECTED LEARNING
DATA EVERYWHERE

DIGITAL NATIVES
DRONES
EMERGING ADULTHOOD
FANDOM
FAST CASUAL

FLIPPED LEARNING
GAMIFICATION
HAPTIC TECHNOLOGY
INCOME INEQUALITY
INTERNET OF THINGS
MAKER MOVEMENT

PRIVACY SHIFTING
RESILIENCE
ROBOTS
SHARING ECONOMY
UNPLUGGED
URBANIZATION
VALUES

What implications might these trends have for our professional values or the values we provide to communities? How might they advance these values? Write down the values and a short description of the implications.
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ENVISION

Provide a vivid description of a positive future! Bring together your trends and values to describe a world 5 - 10 years in the future. Write it. Draw it. Sketch it, Outline it. Get it down on paper!
Now, think about how libraries will lead in this future - professional roles, spaces, services, partnerships. List some of the important and even unexpected ways libraries will lead in this positive future.
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mfigueroa@ala.org