

June 13, 2013

To: Library Planning Committee
From: Jessica Sullivan
Re: "Library Use Trends"
for the June 28, 2013 agenda

Dear Committee Members,

In doing some research for this topic I found that our concerns about future technology needs for the Thomas Memorial Library should remain paramount, and that concern includes a new physical plant providing maximum flexibility. In addition, there were some other interesting discoveries of thought. I am providing a list of my opinions for future Cape Elizabeth library services, garnered from several articles that I cite below. Of course Jay, his staff and the Board of Trustees will have additional input on the subject. These articles and slide shows include recently published national research on library trends and future predictions.

- Municipal libraries will play an increasingly important role in servicing the public's demand for access to digital information, and library patronage will continue to grow as a result. Technology will continue to evolve and although the future direction for academic libraries, according to John Carlo Bertot, University of Maryland (see citation below) will trend more to "knowledge management vs. collection management", that concept may apply to municipal libraries, though to a lesser degree.
- The desire to browse books and periodicals in a comfortable and welcoming environment will remain.
- The desire for strong preschool literacy programs held in a comfortable and appropriate environment will remain. A general desire for closer collaboration with local schools may grow.
- The desire for e-book acquisition (library acquisition) will increase. Over time, print collection acquisition may decrease or remain static, non-print collections may increase.
- The desire for expanded internet, digital information, and media access will increase.
- The desire for faster and easier connections to digital information sources, via mobile devices and apps will increase.
- The desire for comfortable space in which to search digital information and media, to collaborate on the process and the results, will increase.

- The desire for community meeting space in the library environment will remain.
- The changing environment of higher education with respect to the growing number of online courses and digital scholarship, will cause a new demand for access to academic and specialty databases: this will likely increase the patronage of public libraries.
- Continual review of library use patterns, with ongoing application of appropriate metrics and resulting service adaptations, will be critical for timely and effective monitoring of the public's needs and expectations.
(? keep physical collection static ? grow non-physical collection ?
purchase more licensing agreements for e-books ? hold more training sessions for ipads or whatever is the latest gadget ? bigger space for preschool literacy ?)
- Librarians will experience a greater professional transition to role of facilitator in the search for digital information, and also as a trainer/educator / navigator of varieties of devices available, and how to use them. The role of librarians in formal device training and especially point-of-use training will likely increase.
- Municipal libraries as important community centers for information access and exchange, social interaction, and community programming will grow.
- Something fun to read at the end from the NY Times.... See you in July !!!

References:

[Public Library Use | American Library Association](http://www.ala.org/tools/libfactsheets/alalibraryfactsheet06)

www.ala.org/tools/libfactsheets/alalibraryfactsheet06

It contains information from recent studies that document public **library use** and opinions ... Key **trends** detailed in the 2013 State of America's **Libraries Report**:

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[Tech trends and library services in the digital age | Pew Research](http://www.pewinternet.org/Presentations/2013/May/WLA.aspx)

...

www.pewinternet.org/Presentations/2013/May/WLA.aspx

May 10, 2013 – ... key findings from the Pew Research Center's multi-year study of public **libraries**, as well as larger **trends** in how Americans **use** technology.

*** this is an interesting power point

[2012 top ten trends in academic libraries](#)

crln.acrl.org/content/73/6/311.full

A review of the **trends** and issues affecting academic **libraries** in higher education ... point averages, the impact of liaison librarians, how low **library use** is related

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Public Libraries: Current Trends and Future Perspectives

John Carlo Bertot, University of Maryland

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[http://terpconnect.umd.edu/~jbortot/Presentations/MACL_MLABertot10May201](http://terpconnect.umd.edu/~jbortot/Presentations/MACL_MLABertot10May2012.pdf)

[2.pdf](http://terpconnect.umd.edu/~jbortot/Presentations/MACL_MLABertot10May2012.pdf)

PPT]

[Library Metrics: Users, Use Trends and New Service Models](http://www.libqual.org/documents/admin/HillerLAFDenver.ppt)

www.libqual.org/documents/admin/HillerLAFDenver.ppt

Library Metrics: Users, Use Trends and New Service Models. Prepared by Steve Hiller. Director, Assessment and Planning. University of Washington **Libraries**.

[Service Trends in U.S. Public Libraries, 1997-2007 - Institute of](#)

...

www.ims.gov/pdf/Brief2010_01.pdf

by E Henderson - [Cited by 1](#) - [Related articles](#)

picture of recent public **library** circulation and **use trends** than has previously been available. Literature Review. The issue of how the Internet will affect people's ...



The Conscience of a Liberal

PAUL KRUGMAN

May 9, 2013, 7:38 pm 182 Comments

In Praise of Public Libraries (Personal and Trivial)

Nothing professional or deep here, just an interesting (to me) discovery I've made. For complicated reasons, mainly family-duty-related, I've lately had to do a lot of hopscotching around central New Jersey, with various appointments and tasks here and there but often with gaps of several hours in between. And, as always, lots of work to get done in the cracks. What to do?

Well, there are coffee shops — and the proliferation of vaguely cute coffee shops is actually one of the ways America has improved from the percolator-and-corn-muffin hell I grew up in. But you can only drink so much coffee, and anyway I find myself wanting a bit more peace.

And the answer is, libraries! Many of the towns near here have very nice libraries, some big and fancy, some modest, but all with quiet corners where you can sit and either access their wifi (if they have it) or use your phone as a hotspot.

Oh, and I even end up looking at a few books — you know, those things made out of dead trees.

It's a small thing, but it's amazing how much it has improved the past few weeks.