Library as Platform:
Unlocking the Potential of Our Communities

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“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
A New Platform Goal

• The Mission Of Librarians Is To Improve Society Through Facilitating Knowledge Creation In Their Communities
A New Platform Goal

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• 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
Catalog As Platform
Catalog As Platform
Community Calendar

Events          Profiles | Content | Bib Data | Links

Catalog As Platform
Community Calendar

Simple Web Presence

Catalog As Platform

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

Simple Web Presence

Course

Events Profiles Content Bib Data Links

Catalog As Platform

Virtual Branch
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Profiles</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Bib Data</th>
<th>Links</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Catalog As Platform
Course

- Events
- Profiles
- Content
- Bib Data
- Links

Catalog As Platform
Course

Events
Profiles
Content
Bib Data
Links

Catalog As Platform
Open Courses  

Academic LMS  

Course  

Events  Profiles  Content  Bib Data  Links  

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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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