

Libraries and the Information Revolution: Whither the Public Library?

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Public library roles (1997)

- Delivery of community information
- Delivery of government information
- Community promotion
- Recreation support
- Education support
- General information support

Strengths (1997)

- Infrastructure of service points
- Level of cooperation between libraries
- High level of usage/support
- Staff skills
- Public identification

Some key questions

- What are the roles of the public library, and how can new technologies support those roles?
- How can we use new technologies to engage our target communities in the continuing use of our services?

What are the roles of the Public Library (2006)?

- Information object provider?
- Information gateway?
- Information adviser?
- Community information organiser?
- Government shopfront?
- Community builder?
- Social service?

National objective?

“To strengthen the social cohesion of communities through better access to online services leading to enhanced communication between people.”

Australia’s National Broadband Strategy, 2004

“In order to improve the use of ICT, an holistic view of technology and the environment within which it is applied, that recognises both the technical and social elements, was shown to be critical to achieving increased and effective ICT use in all contexts.”

DCITA. Community ICT Transformations: Next Steps 2005
http://www.dcita.gov.au/ie/community_connectivity

ICT in communities/non-profit organisations

- Access to ICT infrastructure, hardware and appropriate software
 - Skills/techno-literacy
 - Costs/funding/sustainability
 - Strategic awareness of ICT
 - Leadership and coordination
 - Government reporting requirements (ICT plans)
 - Trust in ICT use and in online communities
- DCITA, 2005

Old technologies needing
implementation?

or

New technologies changing
possibilities?

Some old technologies

- 'Broadband' networks
- Local library management systems
- Web search engines
- Databases

WebJunction - Mozilla Firefox

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http://www.webjunction.org/do/Navigation?category=12296

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TechAtlas
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Policies and Practices > Technology Resources > Learning Center > Community Center

Buying and Funding to Libraries

Technology Watch for Small Libraries - December 2005

1. E-Books and Audio E-Books
2. Application Service Providers (ASPs)
3. Sharing Local Information Digitally
4. Blog Your Library Website
5. Thin-Client Technology

...and don't forget Technology Planning ...

1. E-Books & Audio E-Books

2. Application Service Providers (ASPs)

What Is This?
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List Archive
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What: Digital versions of printed books and audio books.
Why: E-books are growing steadily in popularity, and an increasing number of libraries are making use of them. E-books can save you storage space and staff time, they never get lost or stolen, and can be made available to patrons 24/7.
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More: Take a look at this article on e-books and audio e-books by WebJunction's Technology Watch committee, with links to more resources on our wiki.

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Where minds meet.

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Policies

Public Access Computing

Technology Planning

Creating a Technology Strategy

Professional Development Strategy

Technology Needs Assessment

Technology Budgeting

Evaluating Your Technology Plan

Consultants

Technology Watch List

Marketing

Research and

INFOSTUFF

Information and thoughts relating to public libraries, technology, and the ongoing quest for finding information in a newer, better, faster way

FRIDAY, MARCH 03, 2006

Public WiFi access - Security Tips

Like many public libraries, the Waterloo Public Library offers free wireless access as a service available to customers. I've had a few questions about WiFi and security issues from customers and not really known how to respond (other than to encourage them to call Atria Networks).

Recently, I found a great list of security tips for public hotspots on JiWire's [Complete Guide to Wi-Fi Security](#). The article is easy to understand even for low-tech people.

Top 10 Security Tips for Public Hotspots:

- (1) Make sure you're connected to a legitimate access point.
- (2) Encrypt files before transferring or emailing them.
- (3) Use a virtual private network (VPN).
- (4) Use a personal firewall.
- (5) Use anti-virus software.
- (6) Update your operating system regularly.
- (7) Be aware of people around you.

About Me



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View my [complete profile](#)

WebLinks

- [Ontario Library Association](#)
- [Tech Soup](#)
- [Resource Shelf](#)
- [Canadian Library Assoc.](#)
- [Search Engine Watch](#)
- [Sitelines](#)

Blogs I Read

Keeping updated

http://www.masternewmedia.org/new_media_tools/new_media_picks/new_media_picks_of_the_week_20060226.htm

People do not want information

They want to use their time effectively to improve their relationships, interests, economic situation and general
'joie de vivre'

Life and learning are social activities

The technologies that will be used will be those that support those activities

Some key developing technologies (1)

- Personal publishing/syndication/aggregations – blogs, podcasts, reading lists, etc.
- Social networking/Market-making services
- Streaming video/audio
- Open sources/digitisation
- Vertical search options

- Today
- Yesterday
- toledoblade.com -
- "around the world in a day" ...
- "around the world in a day" ...
- "free tv" - Google Search
- "internet tv services" - Goo...
- "libraries building communiti...
- "public libraries" blogs - Goo...
- /#
- /?page_id=94#internal
- /?page_id=94#public
- [404] Document Not Found
- 30 Boxes | It's your life
- 30boxes - Google Search
- 37signals - Google Search
- 404 Not Found
- 705-10061-5969-5
- 705-10061-5969-5
- Abebooks Search Results - ...
- About Eventful
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- About Shop for the Library
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- ABS Library Extension Progr...
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Marin County Free Library Blog

* Stay up to date on what's happening at the Library, best-selling books, great websites, book clubs, author appearances, and more!

FRIDAY, MARCH 03, 2006

1906 Earthquake Centennial

It's getting close to the hundred year anniversary of the April 18, 1906 San Francisco Earthquake & Fire! The [Anne T. Kent California Room Digital Archive](#) features a collection of photographs taken shortly after the disaster, including images of [West Marin](#). The Archive also includes first hand accounts of the Earthquake, a list of recommended reading, and links to related websites. Check it out!

posted by Librarian @ 3:29 PM

THURSDAY, MARCH 02, 2006

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The Library offers a number of different eBooks collections, but our most popular collection is [Digital Books](#).

[Digital Books](#) offers a huge selection of downloadable audiobooks, mostly bestselling fiction, as well as downloadable eBooks in Adobe and Mobipocket format. The collection also includes romance,

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Internet Sky TV

<http://www.internetskytv.net/header1.htm>

Library search

Link to own home page

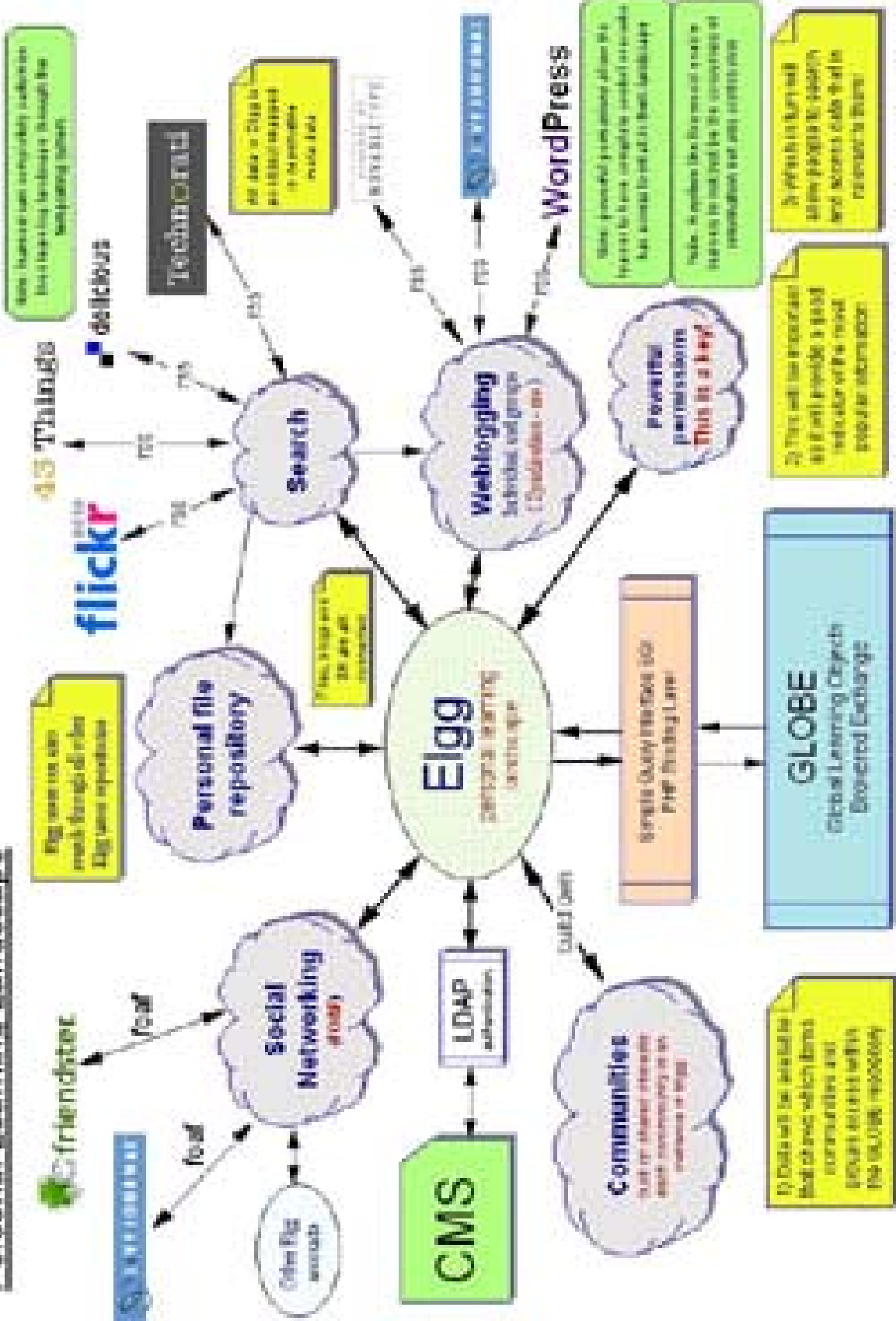
<http://librariesaustralia.nla.gov.au/apps/kss>

Personal Portal

Link to MyOptusNet

<http://www.excite.com.au/>

Personal Learning Landscape



Some key developing technologies (2)

- Nomadicity
- Data mining
- Personalised connection gateways
- Public/private integrations
- Language interchange services

What is happening?

- New economy built over 'free' infrastructure
- Information glut
- Economy of attention/ "satisficing"
- Information deluge
- Content monopoly to content duplication
- Separation of content from channel
- Self service/provider efficiency
- Web 2.0

Web 2.0

Web 2.0 is the network as platform, spanning all connected devices;

Web 2.0 applications are those that make the most of the intrinsic advantages of that platform.

Tim O'Reilly, 2005

- Freeing of data
- Virtual applications
- Participative
- User-driven
- Modular
- Shared
- Facilitating communication
- Remixing
- Smart
- Opening the 'Long tail'

Key objectives

- Gain attention
- Provide engagement
- Increase convenience/time-value
- Aggregate demand/supply
- Incorporate user feedback/data