LIBRARIES AND THE COMMUNITY: TRANSFORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Bongiwe Shongwe
TRADITIONAL LIBRARY

Space whose sole purpose is to house knowledge to be consumed by the public for a moment in time then returned.

All about getting information.

Intimidating.

Massive wooden space.

Order, rules and policies.

Does not encourage conversation.
COMMUNITY LIBRARY

All about active groups

Interactive social space

Place for sharing of ideas

Relaxed conversational space

vibrant hub that facilitates community engagement

Addresses community needs

Space that aids in the transformation and development of communities

Separate, Interactive Teen Spaces
“PEOPLE MAY GO TO THE LIBRARY LOOKING MAINLY FOR INFORMATION, BUT THEY FIND EACH OTHER THERE.”

ROBERT PUTNAM
California (Santa Fe Springs Public Library) – First Fridays

On every first Friday of the month the library turns into a performing art space where audiences are thrilled every month with dancing, storytelling, and other entertainment—often with a social or historical emphasis.
Guatemala (Chiché Community Library)

In the quest to help eradicate poverty and hunger, the library offers an early childhood literacy and nutrition class to teach new parents child care and nutrition, including hands-on preparation of nutritional, appropriate, affordable foods for babies and young children.
Library in Manukau located in Botany Downs has a liquor license to sell glasses of wine. Eligible library visitors sit around and discuss books and engage in debates over a good glass of wine.
New Zealand - Richmond (Tasman District Library)

Library has dedicated a space to a creativity studio of content creation.

The studio, called Imaginarium, contains specialised electronic equipment (scanner, video and sound recording gear) used which the community uses to digitise existing content and to create new works in a digital format (putting together music tracks, digitising photos, making recordings of anything including oral history etc.).
Venezuela (Zulia Public Library)

The library is equipped with computers and the internet and people from the community are trained on the use of this technology. The library also offers a variety of outreach and cultural programs for children and adults, including concerts, storytelling, book events and a school partnership for HIV/AIDS prevention.
CASE STUDIES: COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT INITIATIVES

South Africa (Mzansi Libraries On-Line)

Libraries provide this free access to the information technology. The technology is supposed to expose communities to things outside their immediate environment resulting in well informed communities.

Through this project, libraries have been transformed into community hubs and staff have been trained to educate the community on the use of the technology within the library.
SA LIBRARIES AND THE FUTURE

- Fostering entrepreneurship
- Part of communities’ political life
- Extensions of schools
- Ambassadors for disability
- Youth support
- Teaching South African history
When one talks about libraries and communities, this MUST not be a picture that comes to mind!!!!!!!

Thank you
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