

Supporting learners in the workplace – new roles for libraries and librarians

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Dreaming the future

What are the needs for

- Managing learning in the workplace
- New developments
- New opportunities

Core values

- Equity of access to evidence –based knowledge
- Support individual learning of all
- Social inclusion
- Participation and involvement
- Free at the point of use

Traditional concepts

- Physical space
- Print-based collection- books and other media
- Staff of helpful librarians
- Users seeking knowledge /culture (public/community;academic; special)

Challenges

- mid 20century; developments in electronic and digital technology
- Technological determinism; Computer programmes handle information
- Unhindered flow between producer and consumer
- mid 1990's internet breakthrough

challenges

- Internet as a virtual library replacing the physical library; why do we need it?
- Significant decrease in use of physical media and increase in use of net-based media

Collections to connections

Key task for 21st century

- Develop the virtual internet based library
- Contribute to a healthy society through knowledge
- Innovation , values and ideas
- Open, neutral and friendly
- Support communities of practice

Why go to the physical library of the future ?

- Individualised quality information provision
- Inclusion/sense of community
- Learning and sharing knowledge
- High-quality physical media
- ICT skills
- Added value

Library building

Physical spaces must consider human issues

- Be inclusive; catering for all from consultants and researchers to those with low/no literacy and numeracy skills
- Be a friendly meeting space between work and home
- What skills/qualities will the specialist staff need?

Library Building

Physical space must consider technical issues
and potential

- Bandwidth
- Pervasive computing
- Ubiquitous computing
- Tangible interfaces

The Virtual Library

- Internet penetration
- Total and wireless access
- Content is king
- Personalising ‘my library’
- Vertical portals
- Pay-per-view/delivery on demand

Delivering the future

‘ Moving into the future is like learning to ride a bicycle. You have to take your eyes off the front wheel, and you cannot go too slowly or you lose your balance.’

Nina Matheson