

The Public Library & the 21st Century *People's University*

NAG Conference September 2014

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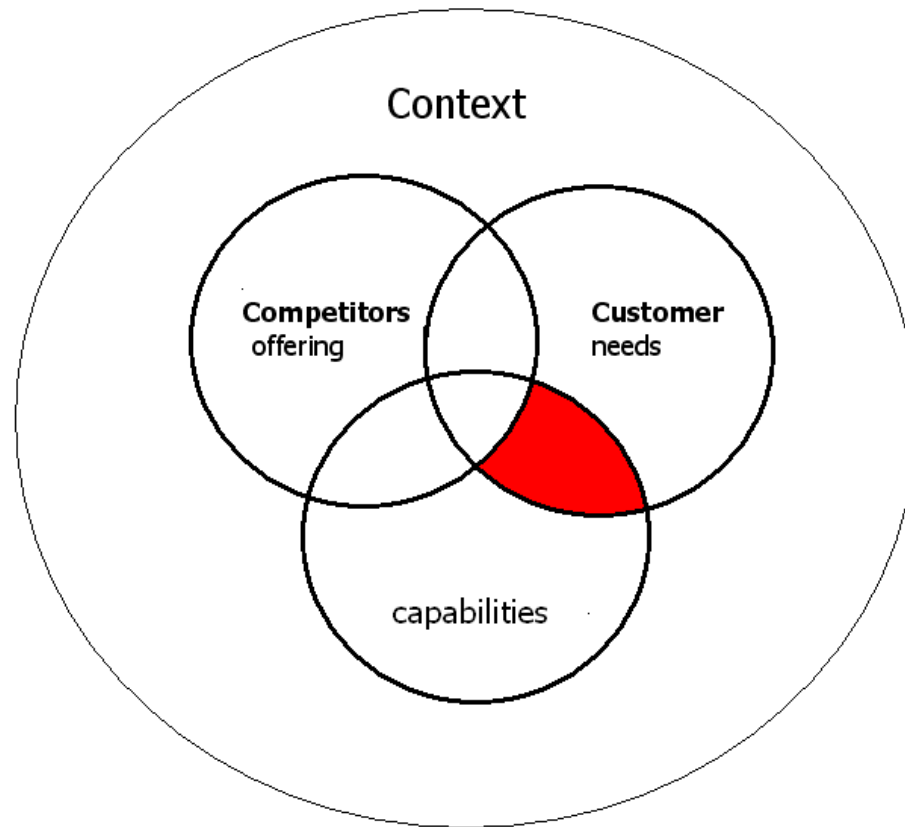
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an opportunity to....

-
- Increase human flourishing
 - Promote the public good
 - Increase the relevance, value & impact of (esp. public) libraries
 - Keep (esp. public) libraries open
 - Increase the esteem, value and pay of librarians

why now? some context....



changes to

ways of learning & technology
content

“Universities represent declining value for money to their students.

universities are clinging to a medieval concept of education in an age of mass enrolment. In a recent book, “Reinventing Higher Education”, Ben Wildavsky and his colleagues at the Kauffman Foundation, which focuses on entrepreneurship, add that **there has been a failure to innovate.**”

[Higher education] Not what it used to be. American universities represent declining value for money to their students. Economist 1st Dec 2012 <http://www.economist.com/news/united-states/21567373-american-universities-represent-declining-value-money-their-students-not-what-it>



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Ken Robinson:

Bring on the learning revolution!

TED2010 · 16:48 · Filmed Feb 2010
Subtitles available in 55 languages

 View interactive transcript



In this poignant, funny follow-up to his fabled 2006 talk, Sir Ken Robinson makes the case for a radical shift from standardized schools to personalized learning — creating conditions where kids' natural talents can flourish.

http://www.ted.com/talks/sir_ken_robinson_bring_on_the_revolution?language=en



NMC

Horizon Project

Education paradigms are shifting to include online learning, hybrid learning, and collaborative models.
Budget cuts have forced institutions to re-evaluate their education strategies

The NMC Horizon Report 2014 Higher Education Edition

<http://www.nmc.org/news/its-here-horizon-report-2014-higher-education-edition>

The logo for the NMC Horizon Project. It features the letters 'NMC' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, centered within a white square. This square is set against a larger, light blue square background. To the right of this graphic is the text 'Horizon Project' in a blue, sans-serif font.

NMC

Horizon Project

Both formal and informal learning experiences are becoming increasingly important as college graduates continue to face a highly competitive workforce.

Informal learning --learning that is self-directed and aligns with the student's own personal learning goals.

Online or other modern environments are trying to leverage both formal and informal learning experiences ...allowing for more open-ended, unstructured time where they are encouraged to experiment, play, and explore topics based on their own motivations. This type of learning will become increasingly important in learning environments of all kinds.



NMC

Horizon Project

Universities signed up to offer courses on Futurelearn

University of Birmingham
University of Bristol
Cardiff University
University of East Anglia
University of Exeter
King's College, University of London
Lancaster University
University of Leeds
The Open University
University of Southampton
University of St Andrews
University of Warwick

Massively open online courses are proliferating. MOOCs have captured the imagination of senior administrators and trustees like few other educational innovations have....As the ideas evolve, MOOCs are increasingly seen as a very intriguing alternative to credit-based instruction. The prospect of a single course **achieving enrollments in the tens of thousands** is bringing serious conversations

92 courses available

By start date

Recently started or starting soon (13)

Just Announced (4)

Courses in Progress (11)

Future courses (46)

Finished courses (35)

By subject

By languages



Add	Course Name	Start Date	Rating
+	Heart health: a beginner's guide to cardiovascular disease <i>University of Reading</i>	8th Sep, 2014	★★★★★
+	Psychology and Mental Health: Beyond Nature and Nurture <i>University of Liverpool</i>	8th Sep, 2014	★★★★★
+	Discovering business in society <i>University of Exeter</i>	8th Sep, 2014	★★★★★
+	Innovation: the key to business success <i>University of Leeds</i>	15th Sep, 2014	★★★★★
+	Getting a grip on mathematical symbolism <i>Loughborough University</i>	15th Sep, 2014	★★★★★
+	Decision Making in a Complex and Uncertain World <i>University of Groningen</i>	15th Sep, 2014	★★★★★
+	Developing your research project <i>University of Southampton</i>	15th Sep, 2014	★★★★★
+	Electrify: An Introduction to Electrical and Electronic Engineering <i>University of Liverpool</i>	22nd Sep, 2014	★★★★★
+	Hadrian's Wall: Life on the Roman Frontier <i>Newcastle University</i>	22nd Sep, 2014	★★★★★
+	Teaching computing: part 1 <i>University of East Anglia</i>	22nd Sep, 2014	★★★★★
+	Basic Science: Understanding Experiments <i>The Open University</i>	22nd Sep, 2014	★★★★★



MOOCs and Libraries: Massive Opportunity or Overwhelming Challenge?



This meeting featured thoughtful and provocative presentations about how libraries are already getting involved with MOOCs, and engaged attendees in discussions about strategic opportunities and challenges going forward. **Tweet: #mooclib**

'where is the library? Encouragingly, some libraries are part of the core teams being formed on campus which are planning and executing on MOOCs — these partnerships are vital, especially if MOOCs are seen as important to the campus. **To be blunt, if it's politically important, libraries need to be there.'**

MOOCs and Libraries: Introduction. by Merrilee. Hangingtogether.org [OCLC Research blog].
9th April 2013. <http://hangingtogether.org/?p=2666>

The logo for the NMC Horizon Project. It features a green square frame with a white inner square. The letters 'NMC' are written in blue inside the white square. To the right of the frame, the words 'Horizon Project' are written in blue. The background has light blue and grey geometric shapes.

NMC

Horizon Project

Open is a key trend in future education and publication, specifically in terms of open content, open educational resources, massively open online courses, and open access.

The Telegraph

“To get the most out of the benefits that technology can bring to education, the entire publishing system needs to be replaced by organisations able to provide high-quality educational material free for all to access. The thinking behind making academic texts available online, otherwise known as Open Access, is crucial to the entire philosophy of learning”.

The revolution in online learning

The astronomic growth of cheap technology presents a huge opportunity for learners worldwide and Open Access can tap into this, says Alessandra Tosi



According to UNESCO, 6 billion people around the world now have access to mobile phones Photo: OJO Images Ltd / Alamy

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationopinion/10924788/The-revolution-in-online-learning.html>



Search 20,145,486 open access articles

CORE (COncecting REpositories) aims to facilitate free access to scholarly publications distributed across many systems. As of today, CORE gives you access to millions of scholarly articles aggregated from many Open Access repositories.

<http://core.kmi.open.ac.uk/search>



BASE is one of the world's most voluminous search engines especially for academic open access web resources. BASE is operated by Bielefeld University Library.

<http://www.base-search.net/about/en/>

Access to Research

Discover a world of published academic research at your local library

From February 2014, over 10 million academic articles are available, free of charge, in participating public libraries across the UK. Students, independent researchers and small businesses can now access many of the world's best academic papers through their local libraries, a result of a unique collaboration between librarians and publishers, who have made their journal content available for free.

Share: [#AccessToResearch](#) Follow: [@A2R_4libraries](#)

**so given all this....is it time
to reinvent the 'People's
University?'**

over 70 years ago (1938)

The screenshot displays the HathiTrust Digital Library interface. At the top left is the HathiTrust logo and the text "HATHI TRUST Digital Library". To the right are tabs for "FULL-TEXT" and "CATALOG". A search bar contains the text "Search words about or within the items" and a magnifying glass icon. A yellow "LOG IN" button is on the far right. Below the search bar are links for "Advanced full-text search" and "Search tips", and a checkbox for "Full view only".

The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column has a section titled "About this Book" with the text: "The public library--a people's university, . Johnson, Alvin Saunders, 1874-1971." Below this are links for "View full catalog record" and "Copyright: Public Domain, Google-digitized". A "Get this Book" section contains links for "Download this page (PDF)" and "Download whole book (PDF)", with a note "Partner login required". An "Add to Collection" section has a link for "Login to make your personal collections permanent".

The right column features a navigation toolbar with icons for home, back, forward, and search, along with "Jump to" and "Go" buttons. Below the toolbar is a large image of a book cover with the text "THE PUBLIC LIBRARY— A PEOPLE'S UNIVERSITY".

Alvin Saunders Johnson. The public library -- a people's university. Studies in the social significance of adult education in the United States. American Association for adult education, 1938. <http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.b3389062;view=1up;seq=1>

1938... but sounds familiar...?

“In the long period of depression the libraries have suffered more severely from reduced appropriations than any other public service. Book purchases have been held to a distressing and, in many instances, a disastrous minimum. Employees have been dismissed and the salaries of other employees have been mercilessly cut. Some branches have been closed down and other branches that should be open continuously have been closed”

1938....still true...?

“The Public Library in a Democracy

No library has come anywhere near developing the possibilities within its easy reach. No library, indeed, has even worked out a clear program. Most librarians exhibit decided reluctance to throw themselves wholeheartedly into the adult educational movement.”

1938....still true...?

“the increasing need of supplementing by adult educational opportunities the technical training of the youth. The swift changes in the techniques of industry are constantly rendering old skills obsolete and demanding new skills.

..... For this type of practical adult education no institution is so favorably placed as the public library”

.

still true...?

“The public library has built up its scheme of behavior in relation to a public which, unlike the school population, refuses to submit to compulsion. Adult education can deal only with volunteers.”

what do we have in place already?

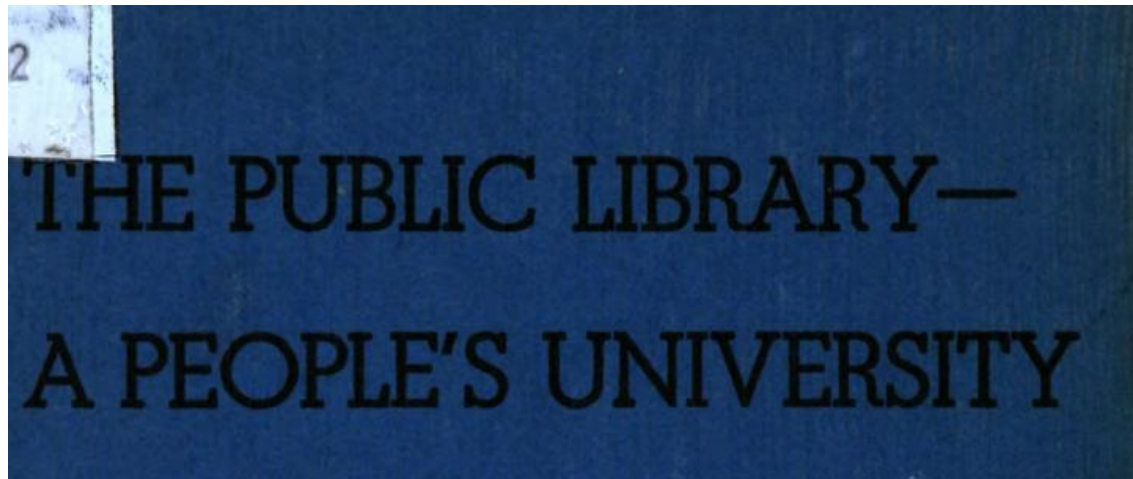
Public libraries represent around 4,000 learning spaces *open to all*

Public libraries have collections of print material to help learning (some, as we have seen from the Manchester presentation yesterday, are truly impressive collections)

Public libraries can provide free access (and no subscription or tech' infrastructure costs) to huge amounts of electronic academic learning resources (predominantly millions of journal articles)

so what might we do? ...

**“A People's University
develop the public library into a permanent center of
adult education, informally, a people's university”.**



towards a solution (in 1938) ...

“If the libraries are to play their proper part in adult education, **they will probably have to get out books of their own, prepared for their own needs.** Readable books, and also sound ones. Small and inexpensive books, so that when a forum is organized with four hundred members, it will not be necessary to try to enlighten them through access to just four copies of the best book and a miscellaneous quantity of books "just as good," or not so good.”

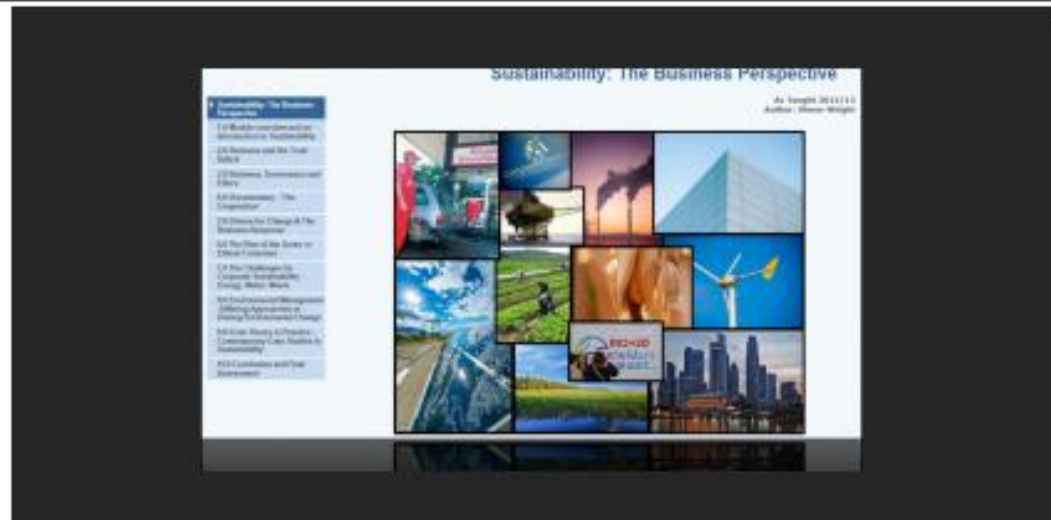
like this.....(in 2013)

November 30, 2013, by [Helen Whitehead](#)

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eBook versions (viewable on most eBook readers and some versions suitable for reading on a PC)



<http://blogs.nottingham.ac.uk/uniofnottsmoocs/2013/11/30/get-ahead-read-the-free-books-on-sustainability/>

some challenges (in 1938) ...

“As matters stand today there are many obstacles, none of them, I believe, insuperable, to the occupation by the library of its rightful place as leader in the movement for adult education.

The first of these obstacles is the rather touching modesty of the librarians themselves”

some challenges (in 1938) ...

“Under present conditions, however, few libraries are so well equipped for the work as they should be. Collections are inadequate, and there is a shortage of trained personnel. The knowledge that such service is available is by no means so widely diffused in the community as it should be, and one often suspects that library boards are not always aware of the value of the service they officially sponsor.

These are weaknesses that will no doubt be repaired in the library of the future.....”

some challenges (in 1938) ...

Perhaps the greatest obstacle to the development of the library as a real adult educational institution is the **inadequacy of personnel**.

By and large, men and women require the stimulus of group activity if they are to enter seriously upon educational activity. They can not be dragooned into education, but they can be led. This function of leadership needs to be undertaken by the public library, as the one permanent organ of adult education in most communities.

This means that members of the library staff must be active in organizing groups within the library premises, in so far as these will accommodate such activity, and outside the library in so far as this is practicable. The staff will need to enlist in the common cause whatever volunteer leadership there may be in the community—and usually there is much more potential leadership than one supposes.

some challenges (in 1938) ...

“....to do a real adult educational job the library would need not only a larger personnel, but **a personnel much better paid**, in order that those now in the profession may be stimulated to more eager activity, and in order that more of the promising material of the generation may be drawn into the profession.”

so can we do it in the 21st Century?



can we.....?

more at this CILIP event in November 2014

Re-imagining learning: a new opportunity for libraries

Date & Time:

Thursday, 13 November 2014 - 9:15am to 4:15pm

This brand new event looks at the new opportunity that have emerged for libraries within the changing learning landscape. An expert panel of speakers have been brought together to share their views and experience in this changing environment.



<http://www.cilip.org.uk/cilip/events/re-imagining-learning-new-opportunity-libraries>

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