

Libraries: technology and digital initiatives

some background for local authority IT Directors & Managers

SOCITM East
April 2015

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Ken Chad Consulting Ltd: "More effective libraries through the better and more imaginative use of technology"



More effective libraries - making sense of a confusing landscape....

Change, innovation and strategy....digital content and ebooks, social media, open source, open access, open data, the cloud, 'library services platforms', research data, shared services, hard economic times, and new business models

[Read More](#)


Context

Local Government Library Technology

<https://lglibtech.wikispaces.com/>

The screenshot shows the Wikispaces interface for the 'Local Government Library Technology' page. On the left is a navigation menu with options like 'Wiki Home', 'Recent Changes', 'Pages and Files', 'Members', 'Settings', and a search bar. Below that are sections for 'Home', 'Market Overview', 'Systems used', 'Vendor profiles', 'Procurements', and 'Issues'. The main content area features a 'home' heading, a star icon, and a '120' view count. A featured image shows an open book on a laptop. The main title is 'LOCAL GOVERNMENT LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY (PUBLIC LIBRARIES)' with a subtitle 'LGLibTech is a free community resource open to all'. A paragraph explains the site's purpose: 'Please feel free to make contributions. As the Cluetrain Manifesto says, 'A powerful global conversation has begun. Through the Internet, people are discovering and inventing new ways to share relevant knowledge with blinding speed. As a direct result, markets are getting smarter.''. Below this is a paragraph stating that access to all content is free to all and that users must join to be able to add/edit content. A table lists various market overview topics: 'Market overview' (overview of the public library systems market), 'Systems used' (A-Z list of all UK public library authorities with the systems used), 'Business cases' (Examples of how local authorities justify replacing their existing LMS), and 'Issues' (Shared services, open source, ebooks, social media/Web 2.0, 'modernisation of public libraries', RFID..and more....). A section titled 'Whose site is this?' explains that the site is a free and open community resource hosted by Wikispaces, set up by Ken Chad Consulting to encourage contributions and protect the site from malicious activity, though they are not responsible for the content.

☆ home Edit 0 120

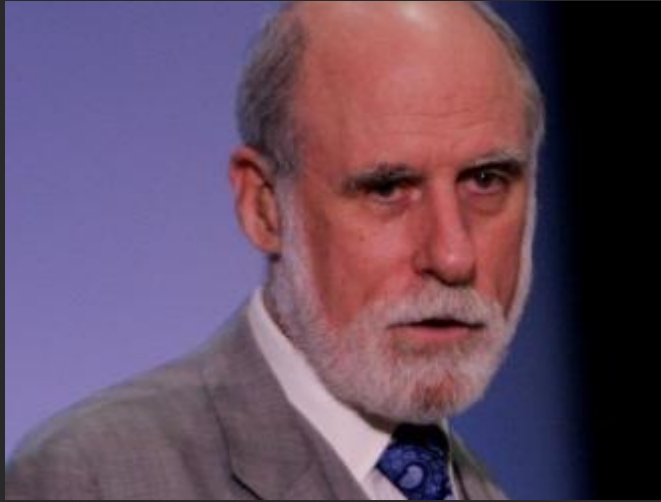
 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY (PUBLIC LIBRARIES)**
LGLibTech is a free community resource open to all
Please feel free to make contributions. As the [Cluetrain Manifesto](#) says, 'A powerful global conversation has begun. Through the Internet, people are discovering and inventing new ways to share relevant knowledge with blinding speed. As a direct result, markets are getting smarter.'

Access to (and download of) all content is **free to all**. Please **'join' (menu bar) to be able to add/edit content**. Once your request to join is approved you can sign in and edit content

Market overview	overview of the public library systems market
Systems used	A-Z list of all UK public library authorities with the systems used
Business cases	Examples of how local authorities justify replacing their existing LMS
Issues	Shared services, open source, ebooks, social media/Web 2.0, 'modernisation of public libraries', RFID..and more....

Whose site is this?
This is a resource for anyone interested in public libraries and the technologies they use. It is a free and open community resource. Anyone can sign up and make contributions. These can take the form of new articles or changes (correction, additions etc.) to existing content. There is also a discussion feature. The site is hosted by Wikispaces and uses their software. [Ken Chad Consulting](#) set up the site and has taken on the role of 'WikiMaster' to encourage contributions, help contributors and protect the site from any malicious activity. *However Ken Chad Consulting is not responsible for the content*

A free community resource that is open to all



Context

“You have no idea how eager I am to ensure that the notion of library does not disappear – it’s too important. But the thing is, it’s going to have to **curate an extremely broad range of materials, and increasingly digital content.**” Vint Cerf. (Vice president and Chief Internet Evangelist for Google)

‘Internet pioneer Vint Cerf talks online privacy, Google Glass and the future of libraries’. Paul Sawyers. TNW [The Next Web blog]. 12 July 2013
<http://thenextweb.com/insider/2013/07/12/vint-cerf/>

Context

in terms of technology what are
public libraries doing?

Improving operational efficiency: Shared services- a library success story

Library authorities (c.200): Over a quarter (representing a higher share of councils) are in regional shared services for their library management system (LMS).

The UK has some of the largest and busiest public library authorities in the world

<https://lglibtech.wikispaces.com/Shared+Services>



12 partners, over 300 libraries giving 10% of the UK population access to more than 6 million items from the shared database. Savings of 15% in capital costs and a 35% saving in revenue costs as a result of the joint working have been identified.

Brighton and Hove City Libraries
Buckinghamshire Libraries
Camden Libraries
Hertfordshire Libraries
Kent Libraries
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham
Medway Libraries
Milton Keynes Libraries
Slough Libraries
West Berkshire Libraries
Windsor and Maidenhead Libraries

<https://selms.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/OPAC/about-selms>

Library shared services

National shared services

UK national library catalogue

Inter Library Loan (ILL)

Enquiry service (inc, Web chat)

Discovery and free access to academic journals

International shared services

WorldCat (the default find in a library link from Google)

Directory of libraries

VIAF (Virtual International Authority File-links to Wikipedia)

**Online services provided by
councils for electronic & digital
content**

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.

Encyclopaedias and general reference collections

Encyclopaedias are available at levels to suit various age groups. General reference collections include the contents of many individual reference books on all sorts of subjects. These can be searched as individual titles or across the whole collection.

Title	
Oxford Premium Reference Collection	The world's best academic papers
Encyclopaedia Britannica Library	Encyclopaedia Britannica
Britannica Junior	Suitable for children

(Almost) all Local Authorities provide free online access to

Britannica
 Oxford English Dictionary
 Expensive subscription journals
 Etc. etc.....

**but some publishers don't trust
you.....(local authorities)**

Shelf Free

Borrowing e-books from your library is great – and we want to make it even better.



[Home](#) [About](#)

Did you know that 85% of e-books aren't available to public libraries?

10

Posted on [February 19, 2013](#) by [helenleech](#)

Shelf Free is an independent group set up and led by librarians (but open to all) to raise awareness of the opportunities and issues around e-books in public libraries.

Library members often complain that their library is not offering the ebooks that are available on the market. This is because publishers, especially the big ones, have a variety of concerns about the impact of public lending on the market place and are therefore reluctant to license their books for libraries.



The digital shift

markthompson1 7:33am via Twitter for iPhone@Socitm today: #digital = business model that exploits shared web-based infrastructure. The rest is just tech. Digital leaders or IT mgrs?

Keynote speaker and SOCITM 2015 spring conference

Digital:

A 'shared web-based infrastructure' has changed the game and redefined 'library' services which can now operate at a global 'web scale'

So local authorities (and other 'conventional' library providers) have competition

".....organise the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful."

30m scanned books

'We're good now at cataloguing and indexing stuff.' Eric Schmidt, Google



'Inside Google. The Man with all the answers'. By David Rowan. Wired [UK edition] August 2009

Start-Ups Take Library Jobs | Reinventing Libraries

By Eric Hellman on  September 4, 2013  [9 Comments](#)

"Libraries are so valuable that they attract voracious new competition with every technological advance"

<http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2013/09/future-of-libraries/start-ups-take-library-jobs-reinventing-libraries/#>



how are you competing with this (digital web scale) library?

EPIC!

Download on the
App Store

Get Started!

Sign In



Instant access to an unlimited
library of amazing children's
books.

Get Started!



2015 Parents' Choice
Award Winner

are library authorities too small?

**Are libraries part of your council's
digital agenda?**



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport

Independent Library Report for England

18 December 2014

“Government, big and little government, wants to deliver services digitally in the future and **the library is the safe and most obvious place to do that.”**

“Libraries are already facilitating access to a wide range of government services including education, welfare reform, business and economic growth and health care and this will dramatically grow as more services go online”

The Bookseller 18 December 2014 <http://www.thebookseller.com/news/government-must-fund-digital-resource-libraries-says-sieghart>



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport

Independent Library Report for England

18 December 2014

“The Sieghart review into public libraries..calls on central government to give local authorities the **funding to create a national digital resource for libraries**, with free Wi-Fi as standard”

The Bookseller 18 December 2014 <http://www.thebookseller.com/news/government-must-fund-digital-resource-libraries-says-sieghart>



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport

Independent Library Report for England

18 December 2014

“Compared to five years ago across the UK there are 337 fewer libraries and nearly 5,500 fewer staff. Library opening hours and visits to libraries have also declined. The financial outlook for libraries is equally, if not more, grim. The Sieghart report rightly recognises the **power of libraries to transform lives and communities, and how this only increases in the digital age.**”

The Bookseller 18 December 2014 <http://www.thebookseller.com/news/government-must-fund-digital-resource-libraries-says-sieghart>

Unified Digital Platform for All Libraries in England

"The Society of Chief Librarians (SCL) has begun work to envision a **unified digital platform for all public libraries in England**. This new digital platform for public libraries will improve how library customers can access, understand, and use the information and resources that libraries provide, including book catalogues, digital resources, IT training, events calendars, and library locations and opening hours. This web platform will help bring new users into public libraries, both virtually and physically, and enrich the library experience for existing customers

<https://lglibtech.wikispaces.com/National+Catalogue>



Some themes

Scale

National systems for 'Library management' (LMS) & Discovery in...
Northern Ireland
(Republic Ireland)
Wales (in procurement stage)
Scotland?

Learning Agenda

SCL 'National offer' –online learning (e.g. MOOCs)
Digital 'fluency'
'Peoples university'? links with community learning?

Health & well being

'bibliotherapy'

Data

International library metadata standard (MARC) since 1960s
Libraries (esp. national) generating open & linked data, schema.org

Some themes

Mobile

Apps-many libraries offer App based services

Open source

Sedar consortium/shared service

Cheshire consortium/shared service

'Open libraries'

Unstaffed –extended opening hours based around RFID self serve

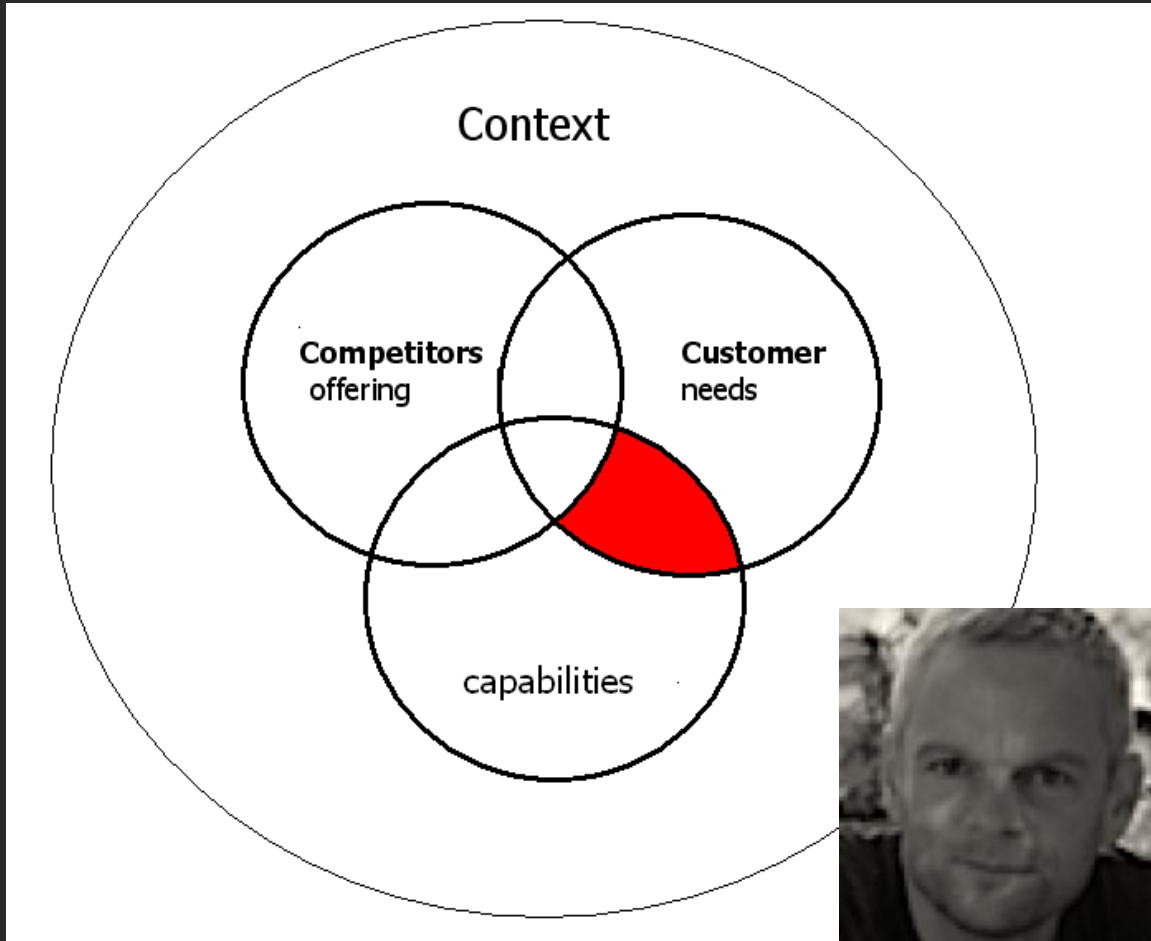
Libraries as publishers

E-books (esp. local history)

Open specification for library management system

Simplifying procurement

But it's just tech without.....Strategy



leaders or managers...?? Where is the library in ***your*** council's digital strategy?

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