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"

Context

Local Government Library Technology

A free community resource that is open to all
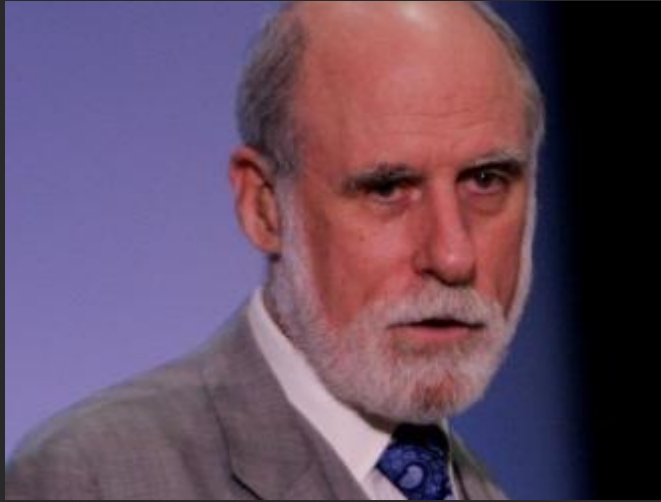
Context

"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

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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

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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

(Almost) all Local Authorities provide free online access to

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

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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.

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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

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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

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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/#_

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

are library authorities too small?

Are libraries part of your council's digital agenda?

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

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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

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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

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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

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Some themes

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

Leaning 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

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Some themes

Mobile
Apps-many libraries offer App based services

Open source
Sedar consortium/shared service
Cheshire consortium/shared service

'Open libraries'
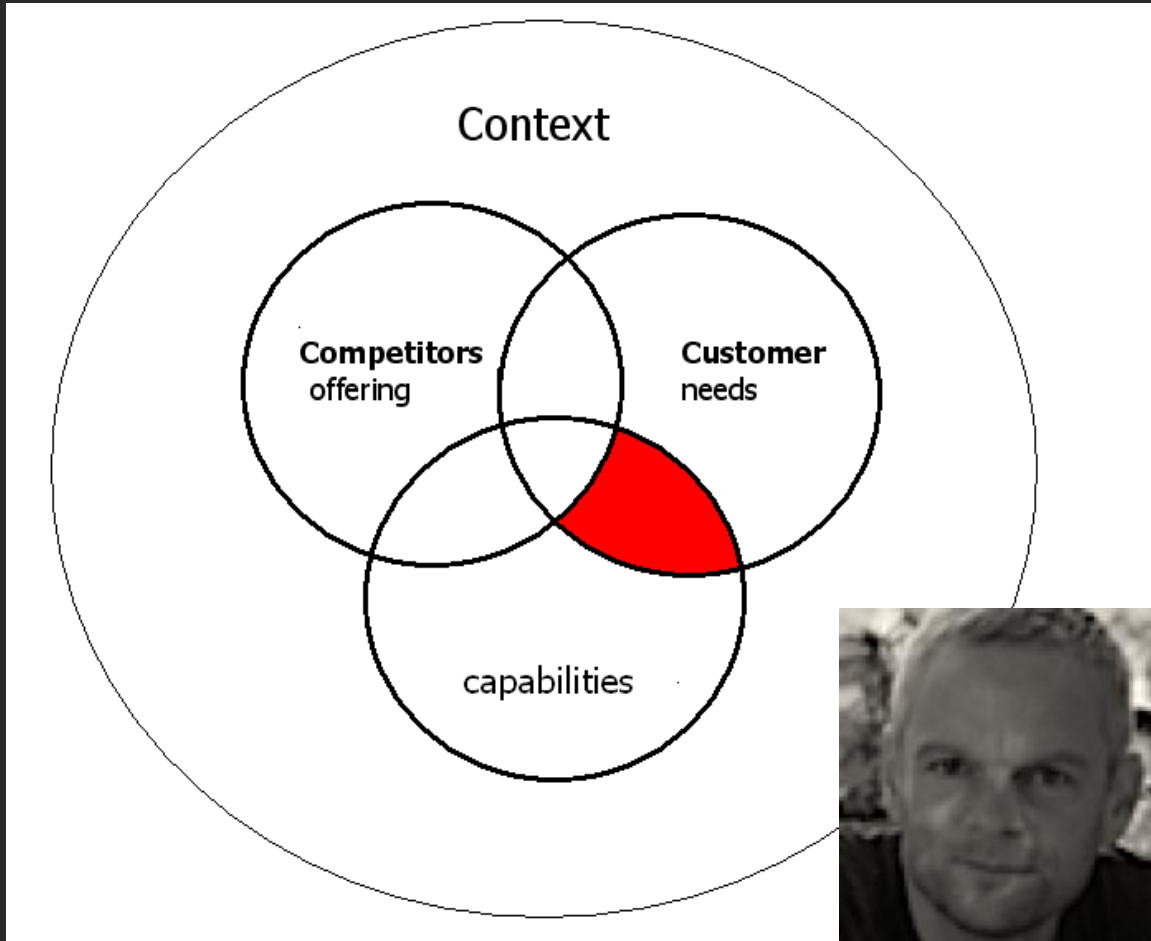Unstaffed –extended opening hours based around RFID self serve

Libraries as publishers
E-books (esp. local history)

Open specification for library management system
Simplifying procurement

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But it's just tech without………Strategy

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

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