The Future Together: Trends, Signals, and Collaboration for the Future of Libraries

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Thinking About the Future

1. Studying change
2. Opening to possibilities
3. Accepting the unknowable
4. Understanding users
5. Searching, organizing, prioritizing
Foresight is fundamentally about the study of change.

We can learn a great deal about the future by looking at what is happening now.
The future is many, not one

Source: Bishop (2007)
There are many futures, not just one.

The objective is not to know the future, but to be ready for whatever might happen.
The **user** in the life of the library.

The **library** in the life of the **user**.
“Being fanatically focused on the changing consumer behaviors across all sectors, not just libraries – whether because of digital tools or globalization or other generational factors…

The future of [libraries] will be defined by leaders who understand the larger context in which [libraries] operate, not by navel gazing.”
Connected Toys
Creative Placemaking
Emerging Adulthood

Fast Casual
Homeless Resilience

Media
Collaborative Economy Honeycomb Version 3.0

The Collaborative Economy enables people to get what they need from their community. Similarly, in nature, honeycombs are resilient structures that enable many individuals to access, share, and grow resources among a common group.

In the original Honeycomb graphic, six distinct families of startup types were represented by the inner track of hexes. In a very short period of time, this movement has expanded, as reflected in the six additional hexes on the outer perimeter.

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Sharing Economy

Short Reading
1. Framing and acting
2. Thinking like our users
3. Putting change to work
4. Staying true to values
5. Collaborating for the future
Clarity for what the problem to be studied really is.

Not studying for the sake of studying – studying for action.
curiosity  /  creativity  /  innovation

explore, investigate and learn

come up with new ideas

implement new ideas into useful solutions
Inbound Change
change that happens to people

Outbound Change
change that we produce ourselves.
We have to become collaborators for the future:

• Respect and integrate knowledge and practice across multiple disciplines into greater understanding and performance
• Generate new thinking that leaps over present problems and limitations
• Unify individual perspectives and strengths into collective intelligence
Thank You!!

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