

T E C H N O L O G Y

Future of Libraries Interest Group, January 2019

January 7, 2019

Queen Anne's Library System, Kent Island Branch

10 am - 12 noon

Ella Alonso, Prince George's County Memorial Library System, and Maddie Hines, Montgomery County Public Libraries, facilitated today's discussion using these articles as a springboard for conversation.

The two central discussion questions were:

1. Were there any technologies that stood out to you?
2. Should we be providing access to new technology, such as 3D printing, or should we be incorporating it into our programming?

Several of articles had the group's "privacy senses tingling," as Michael Blackwell described. For example, under the topic of *Society: AlterEgo is a headset that can read that little voice in your head* and under *A.I.: The smartphone app that can tell you're depressed before you know it yourself*. Apparently China is monitoring people's behavior with new technology and judging what is "good" and "bad" behavior. The results can be whether a person is permitted to travel abroad, for example.

The group discussed

- 23andMe which was granted authorization by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to market the first direct-to-consumer genetic
- Large companies like Google can risk legal ramifications of collecting and sharing data to a third party because a lawsuit may not be brought for several years after the fact.
- What do mental health professionals say about the app that tells you when you are "depressed?"

What are we as public librarians doing to inform the public about these types of apps, new and emerging digital media and technologies?

- Professional development for library staff to learn, gain confidence, and increase skills around new and emerging technologies
- Libraries are increasingly creating tech competencies. MD Tech Connect is currently reviewing tech competencies. Their 2019 conference will include not only academic, public, school, specialty libraries, but also participation from entities outside the library field including potential companies to explore what more libraries can do with technologies. Contact Nini Beegan nini.beegan@maryland.gov

- An upcoming MSL training on tech and digital media mentorship (February 12, Laurel Library); although focused on youth services, is applicable for all age customers. Contact Carrie Sanders carrie.sanders@maryland.gov
- Programming for the public, from “fake” news to “petting zoos” for new and emerging technologies
- Creating teams to play with technologies in order to determine which to invest in for library staff and public programming.
- Carroll County has an “applied technologies” team and now a “tech programming” team; contact Jen Bishop jbishop@carr.org; through an LSTA grant, in coming months, Carroll will purchase Pepper the robot, train staff, engage the public in how a robot can be useful in a library setting. Contact Bob Kuntz rkuntz@carr.org
- Baltimore County Public Library has a pop-up exhibit called the Glass Room at their Owings Mills Branch <https://theglassroom.org/>
- Maryland State Library LSTA grant-funded project on digital media mentorship in 2018 included focus groups of parents. The discussion revealed that when a librarian includes digital media in a children’s storytimes among books, puppets, fingerplays - and talks positively about it that families will ask questions and view the librarian as a helpful resource for new technology. For storytimes without any inclusion or mention of digital media, parents don’t ask questions. Contact Conni Strittmatter cstrittmatter@bcpl.net
- Privacy is a central focus for MLA’s Intellectual Freedom Committee. Bill Marden at NYPL is a national leader on libraries and privacy issues. <https://chooseprivacyeveryday.org/brooklyn-queens-new-york-public-libraries-launch-new-privacy-initiative/> Contact Julie Ranelli ulie@qaclibrary.org

Society

[AlterEgo is a headset that can read that little voice in your head](#)

Researchers at MIT built a device that can read your mind. Enter AlterEgo, a device that hooks onto half of your face, with some electrodes stuck to your chin, that can transcribe what you’re thinking inside your brain, and feed it back to you.

[The ‘Brain-Controlled Factory’ Literally Turns You Into a Cog in the Machine](#)

Workers clock in by donning an electroencephalogram (EEG) headset, which uses small nodes attached to their scalps to measure electrical activity in their brains. "The factory's brain-computer interfaces will detect neural signals through workers' skulls," EPFL neuroscientist José Millan explained in a statement. "Algorithmic analysis of these signals will transform cognitive activity into physical action."

[Inside The Hatchery, the AARP’s startup incubator](#)

The organization known for lobbying on behalf of senior citizens is now building its own startups.

[How to Survive the Next Era of Tech \(Slow Down and Be Mindful\)](#)

[In Memoriam: The Tech That Died in 2018](#)

A.I.

[Amazon wants Alexa to figure out how to fulfill users' without help from Skills](#)

Under the new system, instead of asking Alexa to, “get me an Uber” in order to activate the individual Uber skill, you’ll just say, “get me a car to the airport” and Alexa will use context clues to figure out what you mean. The voice assistant will draw upon your location, subscriptions, services, and history to determine what app it is you want to use.

[The smartphone app that can tell you're depressed before you know it yourself](#)

Mindstrong Health is using a smartphone app to collect measures of people’s cognition and emotional health as indicated by how they use their phones. Once a patient installs Mindstrong’s app, it monitors things like the way the person types, taps, and scrolls while using other apps. This data is encrypted and analyzed remotely using machine learning, and the results are shared with the patient and the patient’s medical provider.

Insel also believes Mindstrong may lead to more precise diagnoses than today’s often broadly defined mental health disorders.

Data

[Future of the internet could depend on submarine datacenters](#)

What was just a crazy idea four years ago is now being tested in real life. Microsoft's underwater datacenter is designed to cool and power itself underwater.

[The Gig Economy Gets a Boost Thanks to Public Library Tech Upgrades](#)

A new generation of gig workers and entrepreneurs heads to the local library to keep overhead low and opportunity high.

[The U.S. push to boost “quantum computing” and attract engineers](#)

[Blockchain: Recommendations for the Information Professions](#)

[Blockchain arrives on college campuses](#)

AR/VR

[Playing pool with this trusty augmented reality projector should be the only way it's done from now on](#)

AR-enhanced pool table: A projector creates trajectories that help the player in real time. Potting the ball from there is solely about the satisfaction.

3D Printing

[Americans can legally download 3-D printed guns starting next month](#)

Gun-rights activists have reached a settlement with the government that will allow them to post 3-D printable gun plans online starting August 1 [2018].

"It's still out of reach for them. We'll get to watch it all develop," Wilson said. "The plans will be here when that moment comes."

[A Patron Wants to Print a Gun: Now What?](#)

The American Library Association (ALA) has drafted a resource for libraries to develop policies and best practices regarding the use of their 3D printers. MFPL's board had the foresight in 2015 to prevent, among other things, the printing of "objects that are unsafe, harmful, dangerous, or pose an immediate threat to the safety and well-being of others."

The Web

[This town is running an experiment that could help bring internet to millions of people](#)

"Broadband is the electricity of the 21st Century,"

[First House Republican moves to restore net neutrality](#)

In fact, [recent polling](#) finds Americans from red and blue states alike agree that equal access to the internet is a right, including 79 percent of Colorado residents.

[My A.I. Help You?](#)

Intelligent chatbots may automate nearly all of our online commercial interactions.

[Rise of the Machines: Who is the Internet of Things Good For?](#)

DISCUSSION

1. Were there any technologies that stood out to you?
2. Should we simply be providing access to new technology, such as 3D printing, or should we be incorporating it into our programming?