Future of Libraries Interest Group
September 10th, 2019 Meeting
Mt. Airy Library, Carroll County, MD

MLA Updates

MLA Annual has chosen it's theme – Into the Roaring 20's. There will be a lot of social event fun around this theme!

We're hoping to have Carla Hayden and Eric Kleinenberg reprise their presentation from ALA Annual as one of the keynotes. Other speakers are still being decided!

We are planning two sessions – a series of lightning talks about the topics discussed this year as well as a workshop on futuring. Be sure to email Conni if you have interest in being a part of either presentation by September 30th.

Other Group Business

Sara Arnold shared the slide deck she has started to create to replace our document about how to scan and share. Everyone agreed the format she started will work well. We'll see the end product shortly.

Articles for Discussion

Technology and Youth

[Schools Pushed for Tech in Every Classroom. Now Parents Are Pushing Back.](#)

[E-Reading, Screen Time for Young Children Draw Scrutiny](#)

[The Scientific Debate Over Teens, Screens, and Mental Health](#)

Parenting Trends

[How to Teach a Child to Reset After a Bad Day](#)

Funding

Discussion:

1. **How do we respond to the back and forth between parents, education, and technology?**

   We know that many needs exist regarding technology. We can be the place where people access tech who don't have access to it anywhere else. We can be the place where people get away from tech because they already have access in other contexts and need a "refuge." We can be the place where people get training on technology. The key will be figuring out how to navigate our image. This is similar to the conversation we have about books when someone complains about content, but staff need to become well versed in how to say translate "every person their book, every book its reader" into programming and technology use.

2. **How do we directly respond to trends in use of technology in the schools?**

   One trend we read about was the potential for secondary schools to move to a flipped classroom model – lectures are watched at home and projects and papers are worked on in the classroom. Libraries could become a place for communal viewing of these lectures, which could see parents and others in the community attending as well. This would make for a more academic library feel in some ways as well.

   As schools continue to use technology at any level, libraries need to focus on how to keep parents in the know about how to use that technology. Public and school libraries could partner to offer programs for families where kids could teach their parents how to use basic coding language or how to 3D print – whatever they're working on in their schools!

3. **How do parenting trends effect the way libraries serve families?**

   Especially for children's librarians and schools, parenting trends should be something we continue to follow. These should not necessarily be things we directly follow because our line of work is not directly related to parenting. However, as we work with families and see varieties of behaviors in the children we serve, understanding why can help us serve them better.

4. **What role can libraries play in the mental and social health of teens related to technology?**

   Some schools are creating "phone free zones." They use phone check in systems at lunch or in classrooms to ensure more time for students to talk face to face and reduce overall time on phones in general. Libraries could be a space like this, however public libraries can also be a place where teens learn responsible use of technology through programming.

   The library could more officially serve as a safe meet up space for people who interact online and need a place to engage face to face as well.