

MLA: Future of Libraries Interest Group (November 2018)

Meeting Date & Location

11/5/2018 @ Laurel Branch of Prince Georges County Memorial Library System

In Attendance

Alli Jessing, Tracy Miller, Ella Alonso, Pam Taylor, Michelle Harris, Cindy Pol, Sara Arnold, Olivia Horvath, Dorothy Stoltz, Jennifer Hopwood, Annie Kovach, Conni Strittmatter

MLA Business Updates

Pam will represent FoLIG at the conference planning committee & Exec Board Meeting

FoLIG is not listed on the MLA renewal/sign up form – Conni will mention to Kate Monagan

General Trends in Lifelong Learning

- STEM continues to be an important topic
- Parents are learning how to learn again because the way we teach/learn is different - the way they support their child's learning needs to adapt
- Trends toward micro credentialing (badges or certificates for specific skills rather than a degree representing many broad topics).
 - o Can we add a new standard for what it is to be a librarian through what we're certified to do? You have a "badge" for being certified in story time, reader's advisory, etc.
 - o Trouble is with valuation and credibility
 - o How does accreditation work with these changes
 - o Can libraries be an organization that offers micro-credentialing?
 - o Libraries can provide the space for classes in certification. Do we facilitate opportunities? Do we present these opportunities?
 - o Alli is experimenting with doing curriculum tracks on beanstack - Choose Civility track
- Businesses offering cheap classes and training to prospective employees

- Might create an issue of equity - people will take classes through Amazon because it's what they can afford, then they become and "indentured" servant to Amazon. Amazon then holds a monopoly on those skills
- Formal education continues to be hierarchical, expensive, elitist, inaccessible
 - See article from the Atlantic
 - How can libraries help break this down? Through microcredentialing?
 - JHU charges \$60,000/year for a bachelor's degree, but only pays entry level BA job \$32,000/year
- BUT, some schools are experimenting with changes, like Michigan offering lifelong scholarships for people to return whenever they want to take a new class.
- Are we taking risks with our budgets to redefine libraries? Alli gave an example of a man who asked "why don't libraries just put a projector and screen in every room, it's only \$4,000-\$5,000 each." we see that as a HUGE amount of money, but should we be considering taking those kinds of risks to help libraries shift toward the changes of learning
- Some states are offering a lifelong learning account (kind of like an FSA/HSA or retirement)
- Training for staff – we need more people willing to work with broad age range in a program.

Link to notes from all articles discussed - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1e9WtjZs1up-4DZ5tPE5fC8hp_eekdQdvchkxjzZBGh0/edit?usp=sharing