

FoLIG meeting notes – Nov. 4, 2019 – Kent Island Library

Attendance: Conni Strittmatter, Kelsey Hughes, Julie Ranelli, Kate Sigler

Online: Tracy Miller, Anna White, Pam Taylor, Sara Arnold, Ashley Biggs, Allison Jessing, Marianne Cowles

1. MLA Executive Board updates – Conni
2. MLA Conference Committee update – Conni
 - a. Anna and Kate volunteered to work on a basket for the silent auction
3. Science/Technology articles
 - a. Article: Transhumanists who want to live forever – people testing out techniques to live forever (non-doctors and non-scientists)
 - b. Article: What if aging weren't inevitable, but a curable disease?
 - i. General Discussion: definition of "aging" and "senior", how we would perceive these requests at the library, how we treat people in libraries based on their age, death cafes in Arlington
 - ii. Death conversations in libraries: Allison talked about Harford partnering with a hospital group to create advance directive and plan last moments, end of life doula (low attendance), commonpractice.com/products/hello-game; Anne Arundel had partnered with AAMC with some attendance; Anna White talked about caregivers and lawyers in the library offering conversation and resources about end of life planning; --- free programs to develop a will; book discussions about death (From Here to Eternity, funeral and death traditions around the world)
 - c. Article: Americans and Digital Knowledge – tested adult Americans' knowledge of digital topics, gaps by age and education
 - i. Discussion: can't assume younger people know all because they grew up with tech—teens good at phone but maybe not computer, such as formatting resumes; 30-49 may know more about privacy, cookies, and ad revenue than 18-29 (which was the group that scored highest overall), collect ages for adult programs as we do youth events? (scan library card?)/privacy
 - ii. If we say you can trust the library and try to teach people about technology and privacy but then we don't follow those same rules, what does that say about libraries?
 - iii. Secret consumer score – article in NY Times today, compare to credit scores but different
 - iv. How do we help share this information? Include in other one-on-one session, computer classes, etc. instead of marketing as its own class/series? Also making sure library staff know so we are informed. Use teachable moments.
4. Economy/Workforce articles
 - a. The next recession will destroy Millennials (now ages 22-38) – lower wages, student debt, not buying homes, investing/saving later (will be worse for Gen Z)
 - i. People need libraries in a recession, funding challenges, Millennials already use libraries more than other ages, effects on mental health and how libraries can help (Gen Z anticipating things will be bad)

- b. The Middle-Class Crunch: A Look at 4 Family Budgets – financial insecurity and desynchronized schedules increase stress (less quality time), employers providing fewer benefits, student debt + child care and rent = hard for young families to save \$
 - i. Libraries focus on quality of events rather than quantity because people have changed their schedules and committed their time, importance of escapism – relaxation may be more important than learning goals for some events; family events; develop partnerships to provide child care during adult events (liability?)
 - ii. Universal basic income story on NPR today, \$500 per month allows parent more time with children; easy to judge people based on budgeting priorities but there are stories to them; chart showing how middle class wealth has declined over 20 years (able to save less)
 - c. Maryland approves three new apprenticeship programs, adds eight youth apprenticeship employers – build skilled labor force – could libraries make this happen? How to fund?
 - d. Little support for reductions in federal spending – positive for libraries when people support government spending, public trust low for government and public’s political wisdom—how libraries can encourage civic engagement/how government works rather than day to day politics, people forget we are government funded; how Gen Z will affect 2020 elections; information about local elections where a lot of library funding decisions are made; local partnerships on voter rights in 2020/college student access to voting, how the electoral college works, what elected officials do and how it affects citizens’ daily lives; speed dating with local politicians (not in an election year), how to run for office
5. Society articles
- a. A parking garage had 6 suicides in 4 years. Signs on the walls are trying to prevent more.
 - i. Help people get help, \$6.50 per sign, quote: how African Americans deal with suicide, depression, and mental health
 - ii. What can we do in our library spaces to help people who are not going to approach library staff for help? Bookmarks, call numbers with sensitive topics, film series of movies that matter to the community and ties in with MPT indie film series (Bedlam), open door for info
 - b. A broken bingo machine left this D.C. veterans’ retirement home mourning. A 16-year-old decided to help.
 - i. Dignity of seniors, government funding (Go Fund Me) – does the library become a charitable need in the future?
 - c. Public Libraries may turn the page for Colorado City’s News Desert – access to local news diminishing, libraries a place to create content: libraries host staff of local journalists and citizen reporters, minimize corruption in local government by having local papers – what effect does the reporting have on library funding? Who follows principles of journalism?
 - d. Instagram, Facebook, and the Perils of “Sharenting” – no control/consent, grow up online, 2030 identity fraud—2/3 will be kids shared on social media
 - i. Do parents purposely create a online persona for kids to get a job, be an influencer, etc? Children don’t have agency and parents make decisions all the

time—is the real issue the data and privacy policies? Caution about demonizing families. NY Times requires email login, libraries enforce COPPA (must be 13 to make account)

- e. Why You Never See Your Friends Anymore – busy, social isolation, people can't opt out economically, "fair workweek" and "right to disconnect"
 - i. Libraries as employers, will employers choose people with more flexible schedules, example of retail managers being demoted due to school schedules?
- f. Collection Development: Reference Resource Roundup #15 – workforce trends, age group trends, etc.

December meeting: Woodlawn (BCPL)