



# Libraries of the Future

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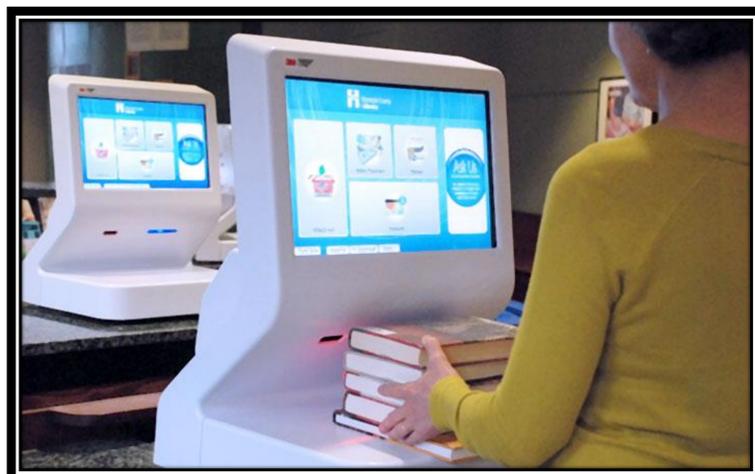


## Introduction

Since 2600 BCE, libraries have catalogued resources and served as a locus of knowledge. However, in recent years, the future of libraries has begun to dimmer. With technological advances replacing the traditional form of knowledge---books---the need for an updated library is pressing. We, the Guardians of Knowledge General Studies, have addressed the dilemma of future libraries and developed a solution: the Library of the Future. The Library of the Future is a beacon of modernization, providing the community with learning commons, technological resources, and developmental support. With tomorrow in mind, the reality of the Library of the Future is bright.

## Abstract

Libraries have been the source of innovation throughout human history. People today do not understand the importance of libraries and the resources they can provide to a community or society. This causes libraries to not receive the appropriate funding to support both their programs and new literary materials. The inspiration for libraries of the future is derived from the trends that will attract the citizens of tomorrow. Libraries will be more involved in the community and provide the public with accessible technology. Our ideas to improve libraries will gain the public's interest and keep the fire of knowledge alive. Some of these ideas include creating a more relaxed area to draw in a larger audience, bringing in new and developing technologies that the public can access, and providing new educational opportunities that widen the purpose of libraries.

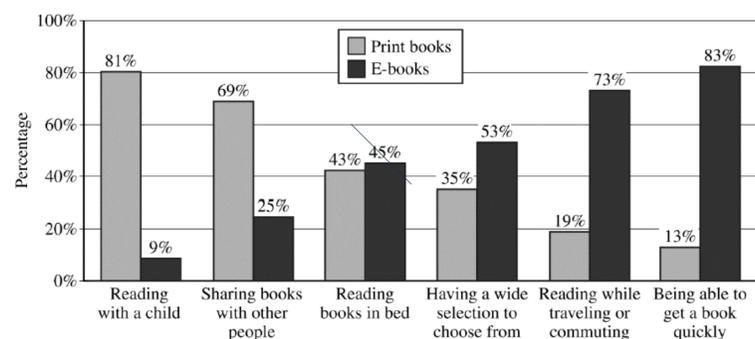


## Issues with Modern Libraries

- Budget Cuts
  - Libraries don't have enough funding to provide the resources they need for the public.
- Infrastructure
  - Most libraries were built decades ago at the wrong location and with inadequate architecture.
- Societal Change
  - People are less interested in the reading material offered and use libraries for other resources.
  - Certain age groups either don't have easy access to them or do not have interest in them.
- Outdated Aesthetics
- Lack of Marketing and Advertising
  - Libraries don't advertise events/resources that are available, like book drives, reading programs, and other activities.



PERCENTAGE OF AMERICANS AGE 16 AND OVER WHO HAVE READ BOTH E-BOOKS AND PRINT BOOKS IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS



## Proposed Ideas and Features

- Refreshment Area featuring cafe/juice bar
- Board Games/E-Books/Kindles
- Virtual reality station/3-D Printer
  - With today's increase in technology, the public will gain access to the expensive technology.
- Opportunistic educational opportunities
  - Includes tutoring, mock interviews, and essay editing
- Flexible Space/Open Concept
  - People will be able to gather and share ideas.
- Outdoor Courtyard with relaxed feel
- Kid area and childcare
- Self checkout

## Trends Impacting Library Development

- Technological Age
  - E-book lending for the digital readers of the twenty-first century
  - Virtual reality: the entertainment of tomorrow
- Community Emphasis
  - In-library childcare for young parents
  - Volunteerism opportunities to promote civic engagement
- Collective Impact
  - Collaboration centers to support group projects
  - Tutoring for educational, economic, and career purposes
- Societal Advances
  - Self-checkout to keep up with a fast-paced society
  - In-library cafe/juice bar to provide convenient refreshments

## Conclusion

We recommend continuing to support libraries, and emphasizing how important they are, especially to the younger generations. Without proper funds and political endorsement, libraries are at risk of becoming obsolete 20 years from now. To combat this, we encourage you to express your support of libraries to political officials in your area. To continue the betterment of libraries, we offer possible areas for future research including the involvement of modern technology as it is invented. Another area for continued research is investigating new ways to appeal to people of all ages, as we want libraries to remain an open space for our community.

## References

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