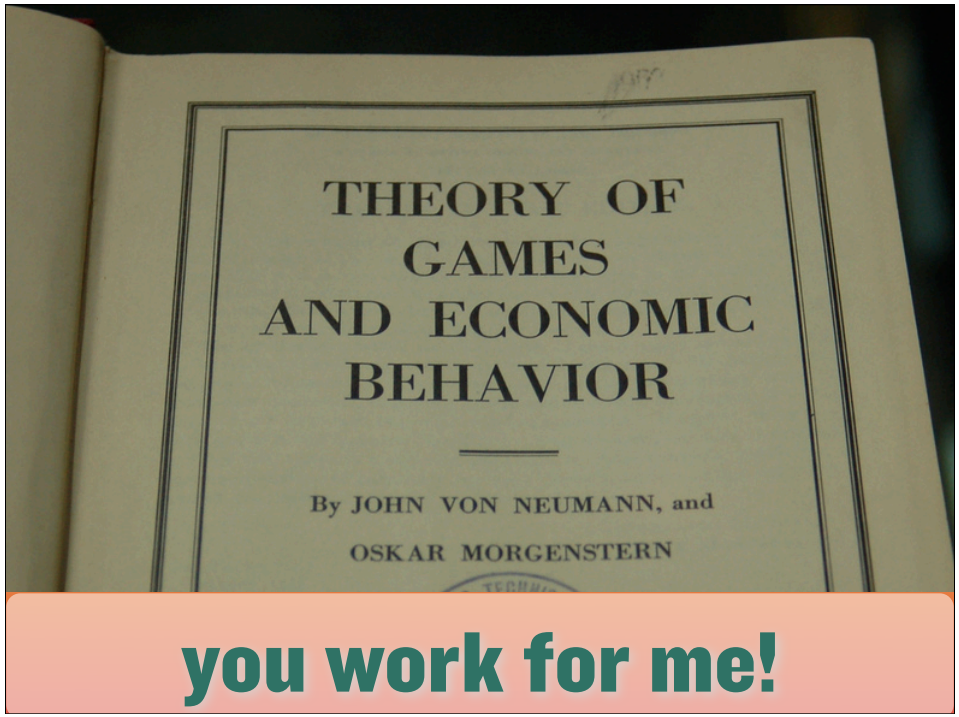
http://flickr.com/photos/jmarty/128010935/

Libraries are for the public, mostly, but they are not run by the public, directly.



Oh sure the public hassles us about paying our salaries

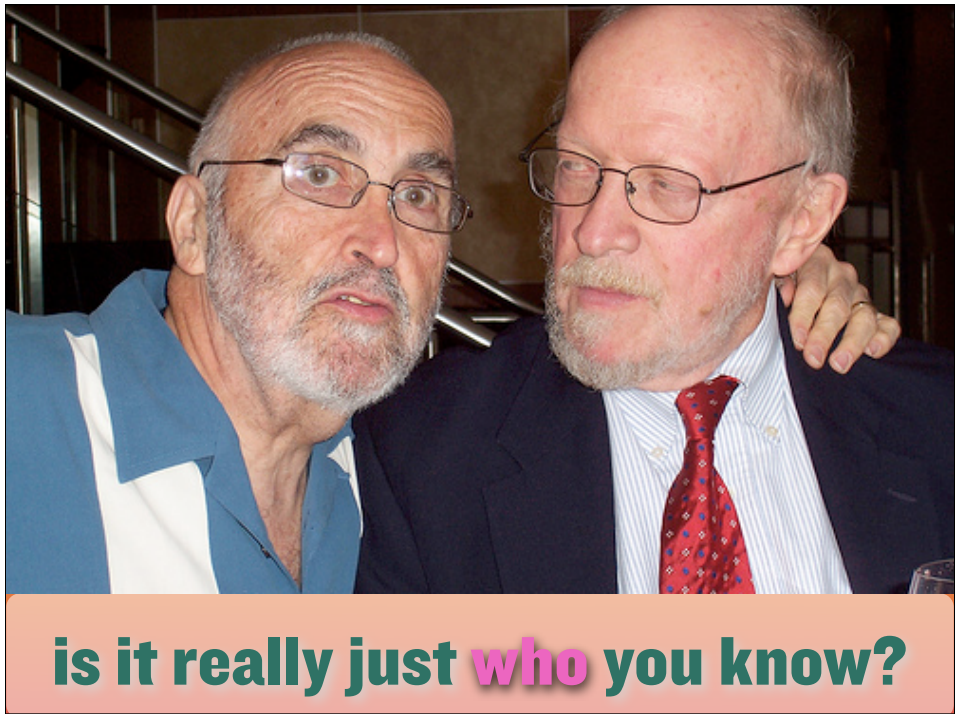
and they sure do donate enough books and computers to fill our basements and attics until the end of time [aside: firestarters]

http://flickr.com/photos/kjarrett/34491499/

At the end of the day, however, someone has the keys and some people get paid and it's pretty tough not to see those people as IN CHARGE

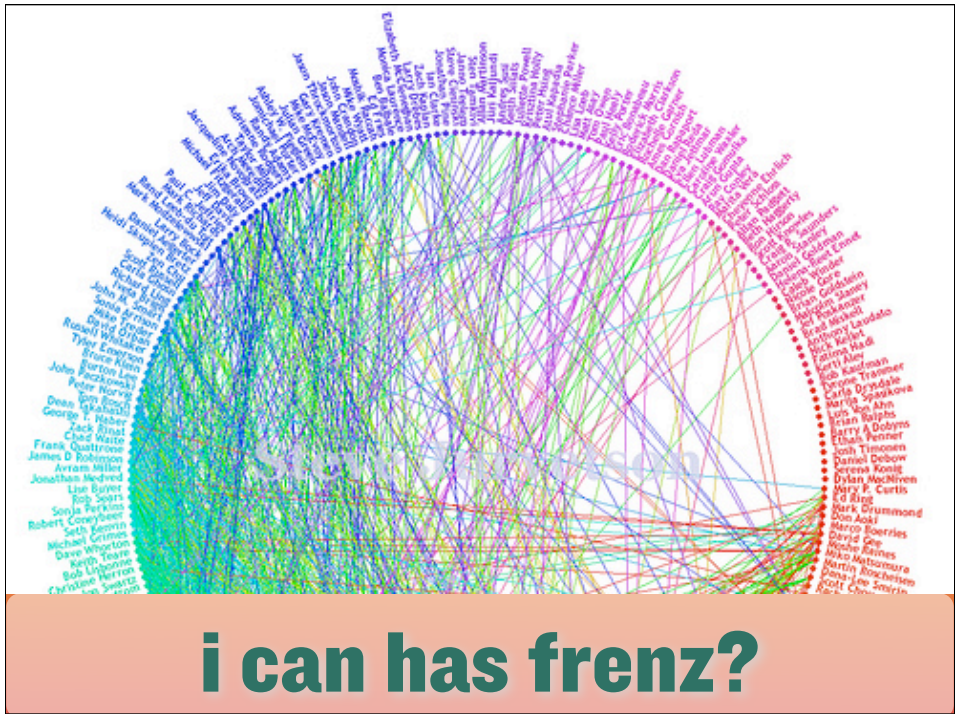
which means it's pretty hard not to see what's inside the library as THEIRS

which is just another way of saying NOT YOURS [well not you all, but you get the idea...].

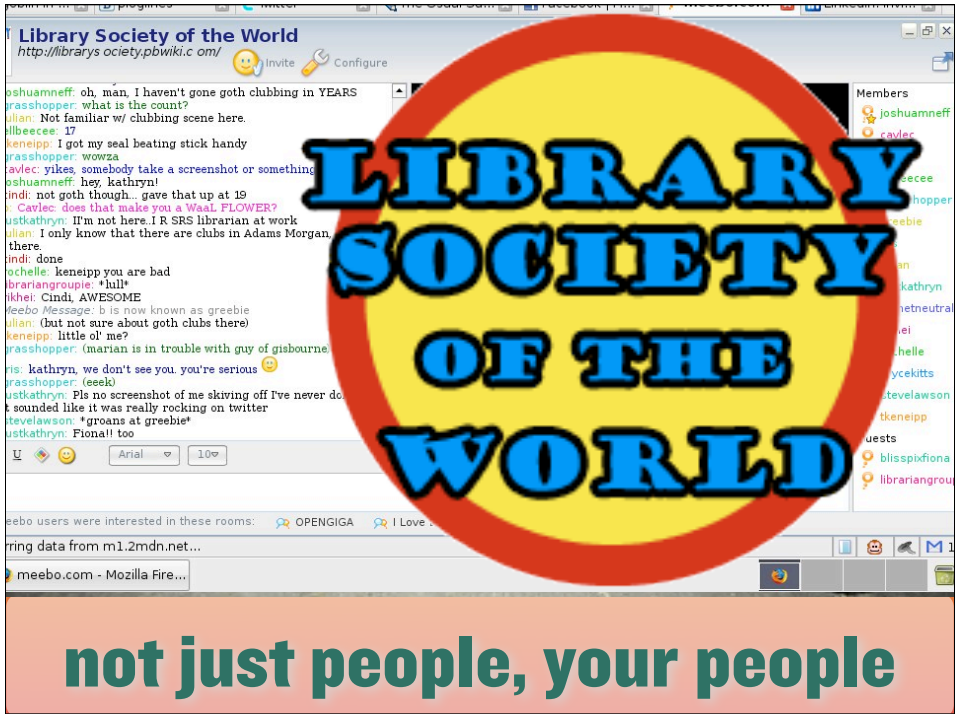


We've always known how to network, we're doing it right now. [sort of]

But the effects of network, The Network, The Internetwork, when you can do it online, all the time and not just at conferences, bi-yearly, is starting to change things rapidly.



Information goes more places, more quickly, than ever before.



And it's not just the random hive-mind effects you hear about where everyone takes their pants off on the subway, it's people you know, in places you've heard of.

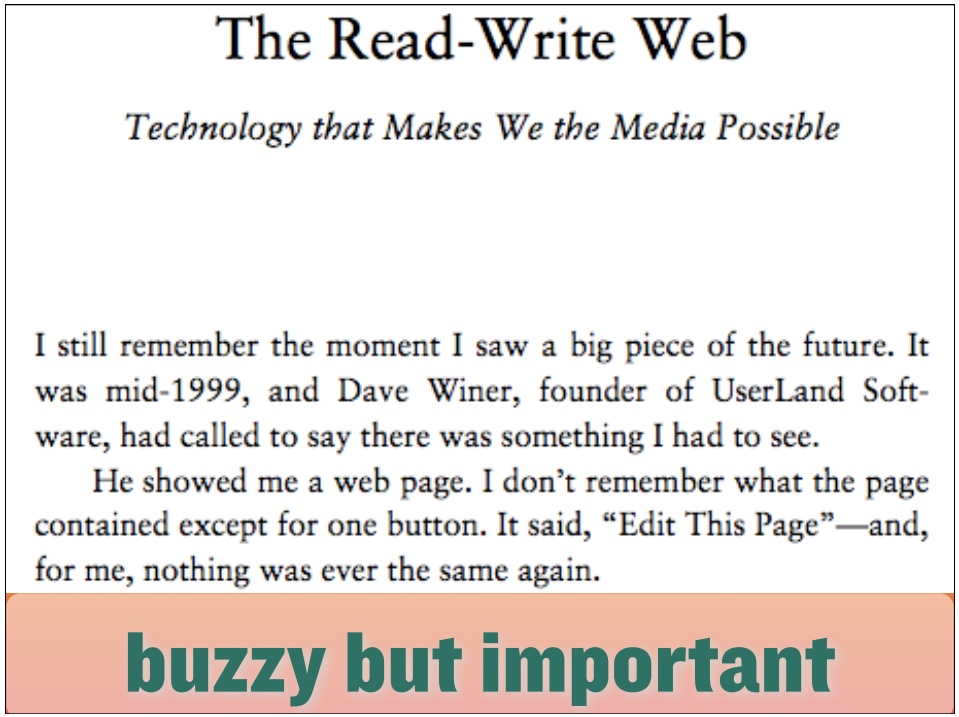
So now you're getting news headlines fast, and not just from the big media companies.

You're seeing news, hearing news, creating news, defining news.

You can interact with your information in ways you couldn't just five or ten years before, you can apply feedback directly to the system.

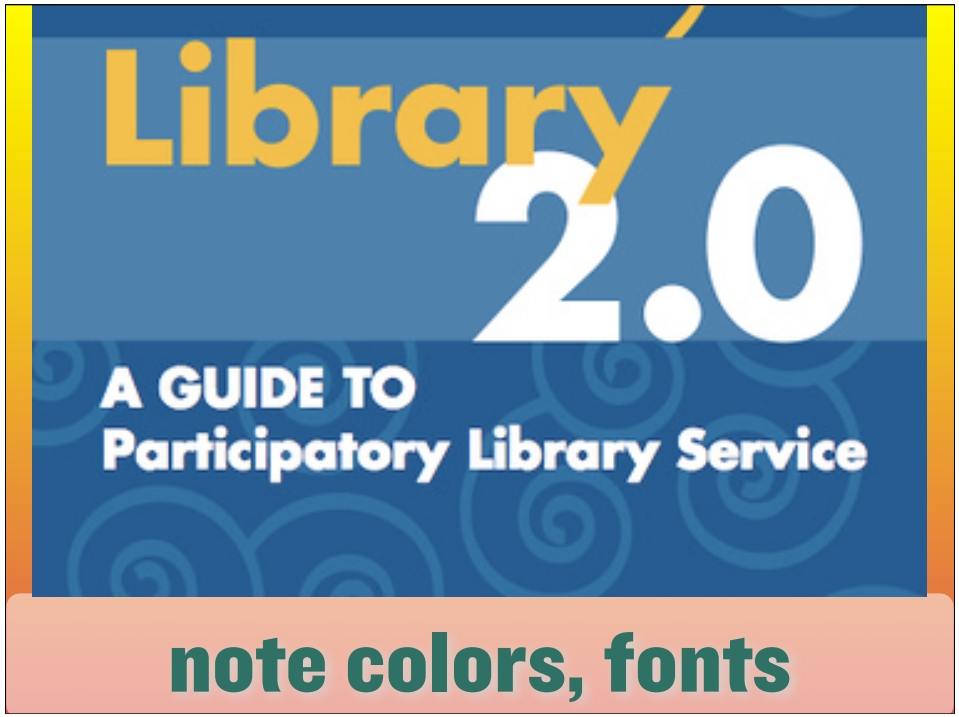
Didn't like a newspaper article in 1999? Write a letter to the editor, or maybe an email. Good luck with that.

Don't like a newspaper article in 2008? Comment directly on the blog, write a post for your own blog, heck Googlebomb them....



The buzzy way to explain this is "the Read/Write web" and it's a fundamental part of this whole 2.0 thing we talk about.

Web 2.0 was a marketing term designed by techies to sell a conference.



Library 2.0 was a term designed by librarians to try to explain how using technology in libraries can solve problems, create opportunities, create economies of scale and maybe teach everyone a few good jokes.

So what do you do? What does it mean?

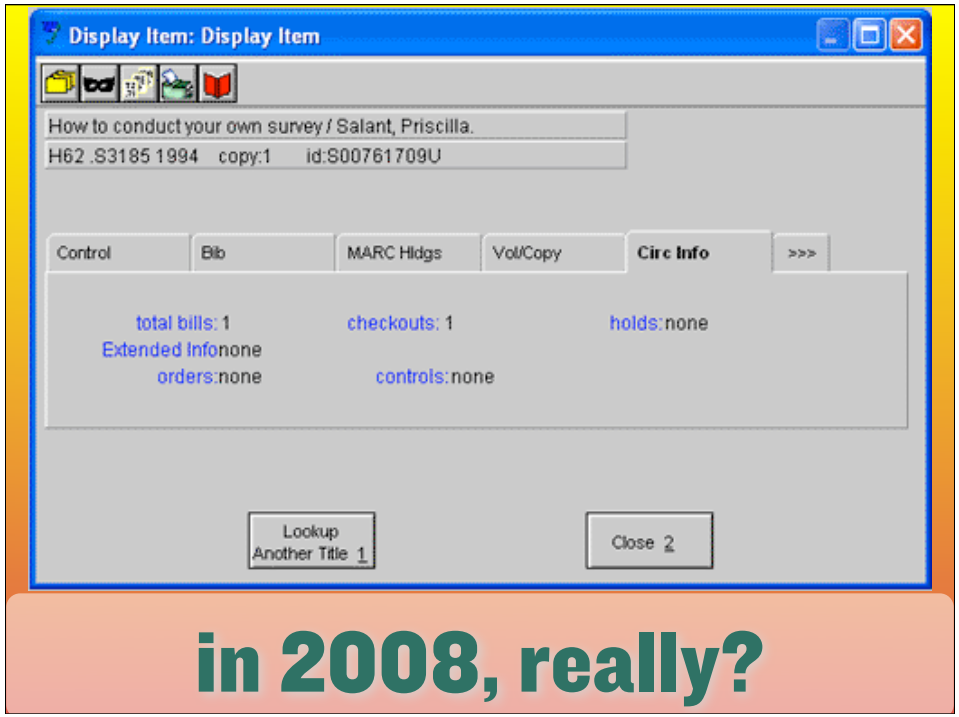
- You trust people to contribute to your organization (volunteers, blog posts, book reviews, staffing the book sale).
- You're more transparent about how you do things (iceberg metaphor).
- You evaluate how things are working as you're doing them and let everyone be part of the process.
- You think about how it works and how it feels, not just what the numbers say.

That's it.

So, yay, we're all connected all the time, to everything, hurray! This fixes everything, right?

http://www.shirky.com/herecomeseverybody/2008/04/looking-for-the-mouse.html Here comes everybody

Well... while information swarms all around us, we still have patrons who read the newspaper once a day and want it to be in the library for them. We still serve people who check their email a few times a week, if they even HAVE email.



We still use software that isn't gracious about emailing even if our patrons DID have email.

And I have a cell phone that only works when I'm on the road. There just aren't any towers where I live. Verizon -- our big telco -- responded to the requests for more infrastructure by selling ALL THEIR LINES in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine to a small telco that just sent me my first bill this month. I wish them luck.

So, we're dealing with some hurdles.

First, we need to connect people. In places like mine where libraries are THE wired place in town, libraries are leading rather than following in technological innovation. People get email accounts so they can get email from the library, the library doesn't start emailing in response to patron demand.

I'm totally fine with saying "oh hey you can go your whole life without learning to use a computer if you want" except [katrina] [irs]

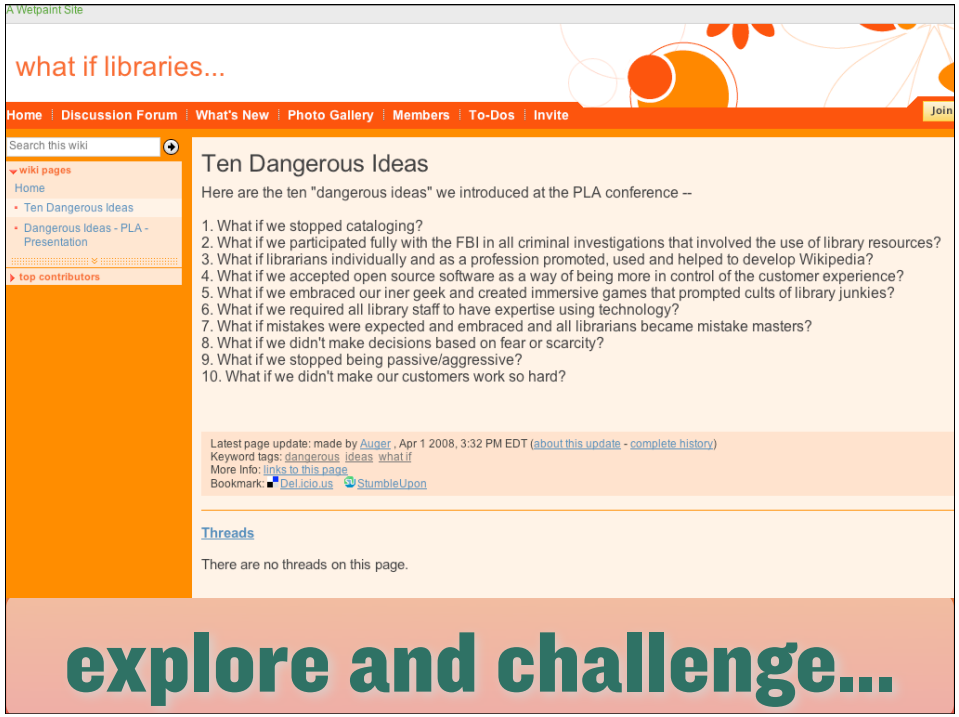
Next, we need to find ways to make what we know into what they know. [iceberg]

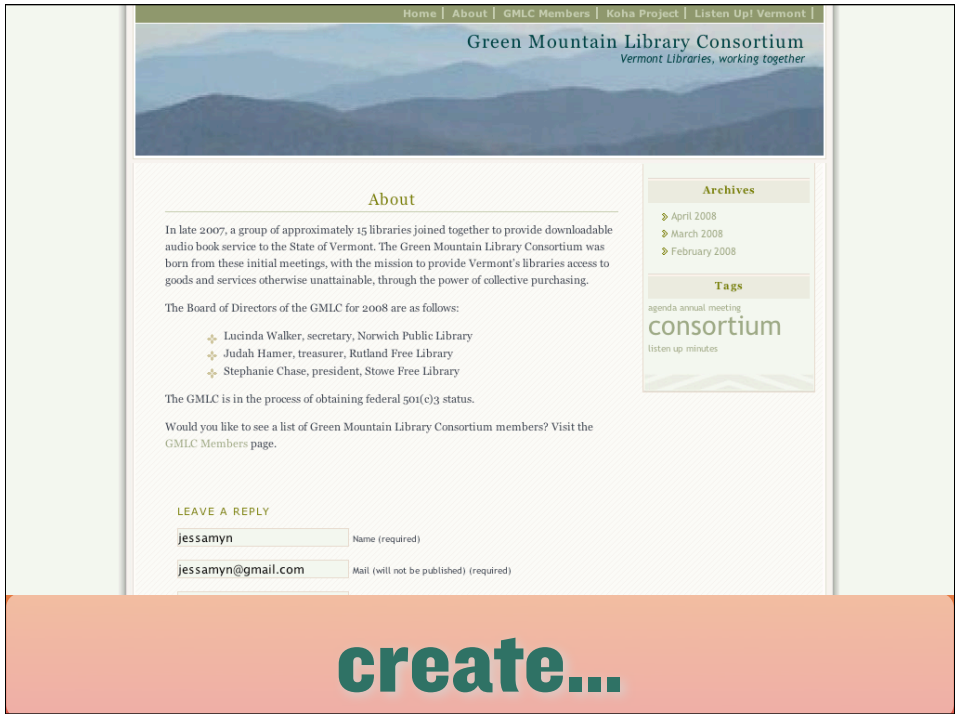
This can be making ourselves and our activities more transparent -- how do we ILL, how do we order books, what DO our library workers do when they're not at the ref/circ desk, how can patrons help? -- as well as helping our patrons go beyond us, beyond our walls, beyond our network, beyond our expertise.

go outside...

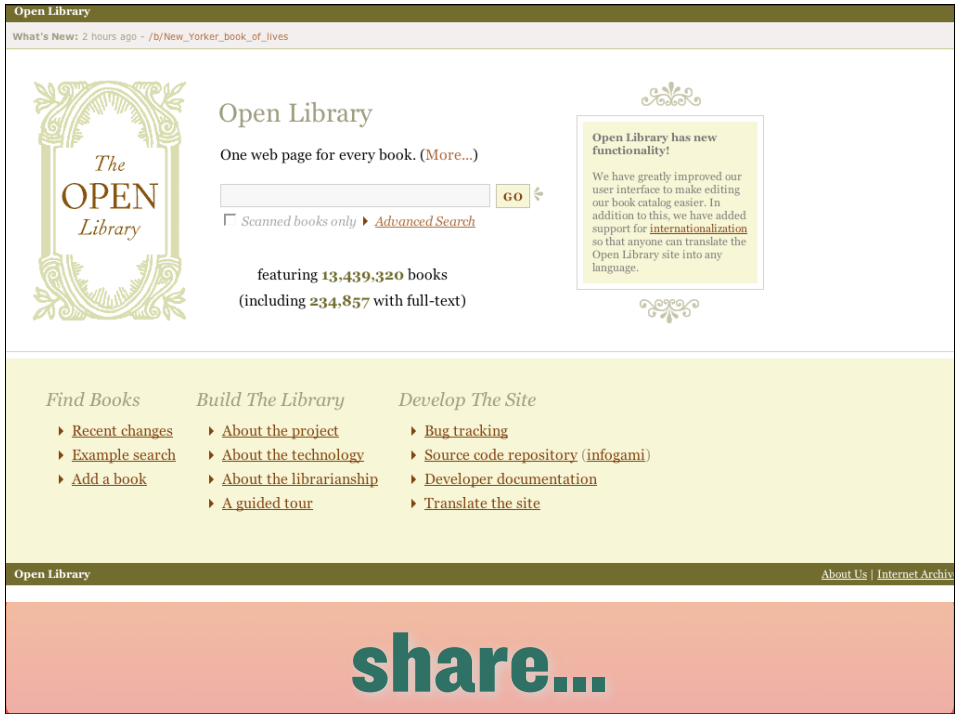
And to do that, we must be prepared to go outside, out into the open.....

and play...


A Wetpaint Site
what if libraries...
Home | Discussion Forum | What's New | Photo Gallery | Members | To-Dos | Invite
Join
Search this wiki
wiki pages
Home
Ten Dangerous Ideas
Dangerous Ideas - PLA - Presentation
top contributors
Ten Dangerous Ideas
Here are the ten "dangerous ideas" we introduced at the PLA conference --
1. What if we stopped cataloging?
2. What if we participated fully with the FBI in all criminal investigations that involved the use of library resources?
3. What if librarians individually and as a profession promoted, used and helped to develop Wikipedia?
4. What if we accepted open source software as a way of being more in control of the customer experience?
5. What if we embraced our iner geek and created immersive games that prompted cults of library junkies?
6. What if we required all library staff to have expertise using technology?
7. What if mistakes were expected and embraced and all librarians became mistake masters?
8. What if we didn't make decisions based on fear or scarcity?
9. What if we stopped being passive/aggressive?
10. What if we didn't make our customers work so hard?
Latest page update: made by Auger , Apr 1 2008, 3:32 PM EDT (about this update - complete history)
Keyword tags: dangerous ideas what if
More Info: links to this page
Bookmark: Del.icio.us StumbleUpon
Threads
There are no threads on this page.
explore and challenge...



Lovely Bones Alice Sebold


Open Library
What's New: 2 hours ago - /b/New_Yorker_book_of_lives
The OPEN Library
Open Library
One web page for every book. (More...)
GO
Scanned books only
Advanced Search
featuring 13,439,320 books
(including 234,857 with full-text)
Open Library has new functionality!
We have greatly improved our user interface to make editing our book catalog easier. In addition to this, we have added support for internationalization so that anyone can translate the Open Library site into any language.
Find Books
Recent changes
Example search
Add a book
Build The Library
About the project
About the technology
About the librarianship
A guided tour
Develop The Site
Bug tracking
Source code repository (infogami)
Developer documentation
Translate the site
Open Library
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share...

and be remembered.

Thank
DEWEY DECIMAL SYSTEM
you.