

# Trends and Tools from the Greater Library Field

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**Patrons as Producers:** Patrons are not just consumers, but producers in library spaces

*Tools:* “Making + Learning in Museums and Libraries, a Practitioner’s guide and framework,”

<https://goo.gl/uqcER7> and team building ideas, [usergeneratededucation.wordpress.com/2015/08/14/team-building-activities-that-support-maker-education-stem-and-steam/](http://usergeneratededucation.wordpress.com/2015/08/14/team-building-activities-that-support-maker-education-stem-and-steam/)

**Design Thinking:** Approaching problem-solving with a human-centered mindset and process

*Grant product:* SimplyE, [nypl.org/books-music-dvds/ebookcentral/simplye](http://nypl.org/books-music-dvds/ebookcentral/simplye)

*Tool:* [designthinkingforlibraries.com/](http://designthinkingforlibraries.com/)

**Filling Gaps:** Gaps in the larger ecosystem can lead to libraries re-envisioning their work

**Rethinking Skills:** New kinds of library work may require different kinds of expertise. Who do we bring in to diversify our profession?

**Partnerships:** Libraries don’t have to hire for special skills or become content experts – find partners instead

*Grant product:* Data Privacy, [dataprivacyproject.org/](http://dataprivacyproject.org/)

*Tool:* <https://www.imls.gov/publications/imls-focus-summary-report-engaging-communities>

**Residencies:** Pathways for professional learning through time-limited, on-the-job experience

**Crowdsourcing:** Using the skills (and spare time) of the masses

*Grant products:* Beanstalk, [beanstalkgame.org/](http://beanstalkgame.org/) and Smorball, [smorballgame.org/](http://smorballgame.org/)

*Tool:* [metadatagames.org/](http://metadatagames.org/)

**Linked Open Data:** Linking data to other data on the semantic web to provide context

*Tool:* <http://en.lodlive.it/>

**Open Access Research:** Funders (including federal government) are increasing demanding that the scholarly research they support is free to access and use

*Grant product:* SHARE, [share-research.org/](http://share-research.org/)

**Open Educational Resources (OER):** Teaching and learning materials that are not just free, but “open”

*Tools:* [sparcopen.org/our-work/list-of-oer-policies-projects/](http://sparcopen.org/our-work/list-of-oer-policies-projects/) and [oercommons.org](http://oercommons.org)

**New Paths in Preservation:** From preserving email to AV, new tools are emerging to meet the challenges

*Grant products:* ePADD, [library.stanford.edu/projects/epadd](http://library.stanford.edu/projects/epadd) and “Good Enough Digital Preservation,” [commons.lib.niu.edu/handle/10843/13610](http://commons.lib.niu.edu/handle/10843/13610)

*Tool:* “Open Digital Preservation Training and Professional Development Opportunities”:

<https://www.imls.gov/publications/open-digital-preservation-training-and-professional-development-opportunities>

**Targeted Populations:** Providing services that serve populations such as veterans and aging populations

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**Accessibility:** Accessibility in libraries is more than the physical configuration of the space – it's a mindset

*Grant product:* Project Enable, [projectenable.syr.edu](http://projectenable.syr.edu)

*Tools:* [loc.gov/nls/find.html](http://loc.gov/nls/find.html) and [arts.gov/sites/default/files/Design-for-Accessibility.pdf](http://arts.gov/sites/default/files/Design-for-Accessibility.pdf)

**Social Justice:** Libraries are responding to community needs to discuss and engage with social justice issues

*Tools:* [neabigread.org](http://neabigread.org) and [chrisbourg.wordpress.com/2016/04/16/diversity-inclusion-social-justice-and-libraries-proposing-a-framework/](http://chrisbourg.wordpress.com/2016/04/16/diversity-inclusion-social-justice-and-libraries-proposing-a-framework/)

**Facilitation:** Libraries are expanding their brand as neutral gathering spaces and conveners by training staff in facilitation

*Grant product:* Turning Outward, [ala.org/transforminglibraries/libraries-transforming-communities/resources-for-library-professionals](http://ala.org/transforminglibraries/libraries-transforming-communities/resources-for-library-professionals)

*Tool:* [libraryvision.org/download\\_action\\_guide](http://libraryvision.org/download_action_guide)

**Leading the Library:** The challenge of transforming institutions to meet user needs

*Grant products:* ILEAD USA, [cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/libraries/ileadusa.html](http://cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/libraries/ileadusa.html) and Nexus, [educopia.org/research/nexus](http://educopia.org/research/nexus)

**Infopreneur:** The ability to apply entrepreneurial practices in information professions

*Tools:* [fastcompany.com/1838014/think-entrepreneur-act-employee](http://fastcompany.com/1838014/think-entrepreneur-act-employee) and *Risk and Entrepreneurship in Libraries* (ISBN: 978-0-8389-8516-8)

**New Approaches to Marketing:** Allied organizations are helping libraries reframe their value

*Tools:* [ilovelibraries.org/librariestransform/](http://ilovelibraries.org/librariestransform/) and [csreports.aspeninstitute.org/Dialogue-on-Public-Libraries/2014/report/details/0087/Libraries](http://csreports.aspeninstitute.org/Dialogue-on-Public-Libraries/2014/report/details/0087/Libraries)

**Outcomes:** How can libraries better show their worth, not in circulation numbers or foot traffic (outputs), but in articles published, missions accomplished, etc. (outcomes)

*Tool:* [ala.org/pla/initiatives/performanceasurement/pilotsurvey](http://ala.org/pla/initiatives/performanceasurement/pilotsurvey)

## Resources for trends:

New Media Consortium annual Horizon Report: [nmc.org/nmc-horizon/](http://nmc.org/nmc-horizon/)

ALA annual State of America's Libraries Report: [ala.org/news/mediapresscenter/americaslibraries/soal\\_archive](http://ala.org/news/mediapresscenter/americaslibraries/soal_archive)

ALA Center for the Future of Libraries: [ala.org/transforminglibraries/future](http://ala.org/transforminglibraries/future)

Library Journal's Movers and Shakers: [lj.libraryjournal.com/movers-and-shakers-list-by-year/](http://lj.libraryjournal.com/movers-and-shakers-list-by-year/)

Library Journal's Library of the Year: [lj.libraryjournal.com/awards/past-winners/](http://lj.libraryjournal.com/awards/past-winners/)

Stephen's Lighthouse blog: <http://stephenslighthouse.com/>

IMLS Grants: <https://www.ims.gov/grants/awarded-grants>

IMLS National Medals: [ims.gov/issues/national-initiatives/national-medal-museum-and-library-service](http://ims.gov/issues/national-initiatives/national-medal-museum-and-library-service)