Crossing Borders, Spanning Boundaries

HOW TODAY’S LIBRARIES (AND LIBRARIANS!) CULTIVATE OPEN KNOWLEDGE

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Crossing Borders, Spanning Boundaries

1. Framing
   - Librarians, Library, Open Knowledge

2. Action
   - Where are our best examples? What are we called to do today?

3. Impact
   - Where are we already seeing it? How can we support it?

4. What can YOU do?
Part 1: Framing
What is a “library”? A “librarian”?

Photo by Jessica Ruscello, Unsplash
Open Knowledge Institution

Physical and virtual space where anyone who wants to learn, regardless of her/his ethnicity, age, class, gender identity, sex, nationality, can tap into and contribute to a rich resource base that is at once open and accessible and usable. It extends a sense of welcome; it is governed by a sense of community-accepted norms.
What do librarians do outside libraries?

Health/Wellness.....Homelessness Support
Makerspace....Literacy....Job Placement
Address Major Issues (eg: Climate Change)
Workforce Development....Youth Success
Community Building....Business Start-up
Physical Revitalization....Immigrant Support
Diversity-Equity-Inclusion Efforts....
Part 2: Action
Boundary-Spanning Exemplars - local

1. The ELITE Jail Program, Madison County Public Libraries
2. Library Service to People Experiencing Homelessness, Forsyth County Public Library
3. The Circulator (Pop Up Library), Chapel Hill Public Library
4. Historic Black Towns and Settlements Alliance, UNC
LITERACY CONNECTIONS: THE ELITE JAIL PROGRAM
Madison County Public Libraries

This grant is made possible through funding from the National Institute of Museum and Library Services through the American Rescue Plan Act, administered by the State Library of NC, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources.

ELITE Jail Program History

Collaboration & Facilitation

Literacy Connections and the ELITE Jail Program are the culmination of years of collaborative planning with community stakeholders and organizations that strive to give residents in Madison County hope, access, and the tools to take a transformational step towards success in their lives.

Partners
- Madison County Sheriff's Office
- AB Tech Community College
- Madison County Government
- Mountain Area Workforce Development
- Volunteers

MISSION: TO EMPOWER LEARNERS OF ALL AGES WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO REACH THEIR HIGHEST POTENTIAL THROUGH DIVERSE LITERACY AND HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY INSTRUCTION.

VISION: THE MADISON COUNTY ELITE JAIL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ADDRESSES HOPE AND ACCESSIBILITY, GIVING INCARCERATED STUDENTS THE TOOLS TO TAKE A TRANSFORMATIONAL STEP TOWARDS SUCCESS AND REDUCING RECIDIVISM IN OUR COMMUNITY.

The ELITE—“Education Leads Into Excellence” Jail Program

Why?
- There is an inverse relationship between recidivism rates and education. Federal Bureau of Prison
- Inmates who are educated are 43% less likely to return to prison. U.S. Dept. of Justice Rapid Report
- No funding in NC budget for HSE education in municipal jails.

GOAL: Madison County Public Libraries strive to fulfill that need, and continue to provide tools and resources for ALL members of our society, and lessen recidivism in our community as an extension of our Literacy Connections program.
Homelessness will never go away. It is how we respond to it that makes all the difference.

— Elizabeth Skinner, Project Manager and Assistant Library Director

**Project title:** Library Service to People Experiencing Homelessness

**Grant category:** Project Outreach and Innovation Grant

**About the project:** For this project, Forsyth County Public Library (FCPL) partnered with community agencies to improve library services to people experiencing homelessness and to raise awareness of the issues of homelessness in their community. Forsyth County has a significant homeless population and the Central Library had become “a de-facto day shelter,” according to assistant director, Elizabeth Skinner (pictured above). This sparked the idea to bring the many services offered by area organizations directly to the homeless by meeting them where they liked to gather in the library. FCPL hired a full-time Peer Support Specialist who was trained to work with individuals experiencing homelessness, directing them to essential services and providing informational, educational and recreational programs at the Library. The library was able to hire staff to lead computer classes, offer one-on-one technology help sessions and a “Drop-In Job Seekers Lab.” A few of the recreational programs offered include, Books for Dudes Book Club, a Sunday movie series, and Chess Club.

*Festival of Shelters*
Pop-Up Library

Chapel Hill Public Library

Here's where we will be

Bikes, Bells, and Blueberry Days

📅 May 19, 2018
🕒 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
- Bring your bike to the Community Center on Estes! □ Bike Bells & Lights □ Mini - Bike Rodeo □ Games □ Story Time □ Blueberry Crafts □ Games □ 1/4 Mile & 4 Mile Bike Rides

Movies Under the Stars

📅 June 7, 2018
🕒 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- Spiderman: Homecoming is playing. See all upcoming shows here.

Movies Under the Stars

📅 July 19, 2018
🕒 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- Star Wars: The Force Awakens is playing. See all upcoming shows here.
Collaborative Archiving
UNC-CH, Wilson Library

Historic Black Towns and Settlements Alliance: A Collaborative Initiative

HBTSA Founding Partners

Historic Display at the HBTSA Conference
Boundary-Spanning Exemplars – national

1. Government Data
2. Software Preservation Network
3. News on the Margins
Case Study: Government Information

Raising awareness for the preservation of government information

librarians
archivists
The FDLP curators
GIS experts
citizen scientists
federal agencies
grant-funded researchers
Case study: Software Preservation Network

If we preserve digital objects, shouldn’t we also preserve the means (the software) by which we can experience them?
Case study: News on the Margins

The accessibility and survival of historically significant news records created by and for marginalized communities is the responsibility of libraries, archives, and museums today.

The "News on the Margins: Surfacing Marginalized Voices in the Newspaper Collections of Libraries, Archives, and Museums" publication documents the design, methods, results, and recommendations of News on the Margins, a Fall 2017 pilot project funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and undertaken by the Educoopia Institute in partnership with the Digital Public Library of America.
Part 3: Impact
Why spanning boundaries matters

To be of use

BY MARGE PIERCY

The people I love the best jump into work head first without dallying in the shallows and swim off with sure strokes almost out of sight. They seem to become natives of that element, the black sleek heads of seals bouncing like half-submerged balls.

I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a heavy cart, who pull like water buffalo, with massive patience, who strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward, who do what has to be done, again and again.

I want to be with people who submerge in the task, who go into the fields to harvest and work in a row and pass the bags along, who are not parlor generals and field deserters but move in a common rhythm when the food must come in or the fire be put out.

The work of the world is common as mud. Botched, it smears the hands, crumbles to dust. But the thing worth doing well done has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident. Greek amphorae for wine or oil, Hopi vases that held corn, are put in museums but you know they were made to be used. The pitcher cries for water to carry and a person for work that is real.

Photo: https://www.barcelonasegwaytour.com/los-castellers-discover-one-particular-attractions-barcelona/
Perspective matters

Individual
Organization
Individual
Organization
System
Why cross-sector?
Part 4: How to do it!
Facilitation methodology: Boundary-spanning leadership

- Buffering
- Reflecting
- Connecting
- Mobilizing
- Weaving
- Transforming

(Methodology by the Center for Creative Leadership, CCL)
Facilitation methodology: Collective Impact

- Common Agenda
- Shared Measurement
- Mutually Reinforcing Activities
- Continuous Communications
- Backbone Support

Follow your passion...

Health/Wellness  Homelessness Support  Makerspace  Literacy  Job Placement  Address Major Issues (eg: Climate Change)  Workforce Development  Youth Success  Community Building  Business Start-up  Physical Revitalization  Immigrant Support  Diversity-Equity-Inclusion Efforts