

President-elect's



Session: 20 Trends for Discussion

1. Tough times ahead: a slow recovery from COVID will put pressure on all forms of public spending, requiring librarians to intensify advocacy efforts
2. Virtual is here to stay: people continue to prefer to access library services remotely, putting into question the value of spaces and physical offerings
3. The comeback of physical spaces: people rediscover the value of spaces, offering opportunities for meaningful exchange and discussion
4. The rise of soft skills: at a time of rapid evolution in technologies, it becomes more and more important for librarians to be able to adapt and innovate to unpredictable situations
5. Diversity gets taken seriously: a growing awareness of the existence and impacts of discrimination leads to radical reforms to our collections, services and practices
6. An environmental reckoning: climate change brings new threats to libraries and the communities they serve, forcing radical adaptation in order to avoid disaster
7. A mobile population: with people ever more nomadic, the concept of a 'local' library becomes less relevant, and the need to provide joined-up services across borders rises
8. The impatient user: library users, in particular from younger generations, expect the most modern technologies and service, and risk turning away from libraries if they cannot find them there
9. The analogue backlash: a new generation, traumatised by the stresses of social media constant connectivity, rediscovers physical resources – including books – as an escape
10. Scale matters: the cost of providing full and modern services means that it is only possible for larger institutions to do so, leaving smaller ones behind
11. Data domination: new uses and applications of data change dramatically our economic and social lives, making it more and more essential for people to become data literate in order to cope.
12. Search transformed: Artificial intelligence revolutionises the way in which we find information, making it possible to provide more and more accurate results for users



13. Race to the extremes: political debate becomes more polarised, making it more difficult to find consensus in politics and society alike, undermining the case for shared institutions

14. Lifelong learners: there is no such thing as a job for life any more, meaning that more and more people need to retrain throughout life. Libraries intensify learning activities in response.

15. A single, global collection: with digitisation of resources and possibilities to work across institutions, it is no longer so relevant to talk about local collections, but rather access to universal resources.

16. The privatisation of knowledge: the use of technological tools, as well as slow reforms to copyright, mean that it is possible for private actors to control information, even at a granular level, obliging permissions and payments.

17. Qualifications matter: as the complexity of the information environment increases, the need for library workers to benefit from a high level of education rises also.

18. Information literacy recognised: governments and others recognise fully the importance of information literacy as a

long-term response to the rise of misinformation.

19. Open raises questions about libraries' USP: with a growing share of scientific information available freely, libraries are forced to adapt their role or lose relevance

20. Inequalities deepen: with technology creating new possibilities for those with access, the gap between them and those without grows, risking confining large shares of the population to poverty unless action is taken