

New London Public Library

New London Public Library and Museum Board will be held on Monday, June 15, 2020 at 5:00 p.m in the council chambers at city hall

The agenda will read as follows:

Roll call of members

Approval of May 18 minutes

Action on bills to be paid Library/Museum

Museum director's report

Library director's report

Unfinished business Discussion/Action

1. Fundraising update
2. Development Discussion
3. Articles Makerspacen Bookless Library

<https://makezine.com/2011/03/10/is-it-time-to-rebuild-retool-public-libraries-and-make-techshops/>

<https://nypost.com/2014/01/04/introducing-the-first-bookless-public-library/>

New business Discussion/Action

1. Pandemic Policy
2. Phases of service Museum/Library
3. Public Comment
4. Adjourn

It is the policy of the City of New London to comply in good faith with all applicable regulations, guidelines, etc. put forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). To that end, it is the City's intent to provide equal opportunity for everyone to participate in all programs and/or services offered, to attend every public meeting scheduled, and to utilize all public facilities available. Any person(s) in need of an alternative format (i.e. larger print, audio tapes, Braille, readers, interpreters, amplifiers, transcription) regarding information disseminated by the City of New London should notify the City 48 hours prior to a meeting, etc., or allow 48 hours after a request for a copy of brochures, notices, etc. for delivery of that alternative format. Contact ADA coordinator Chad Hoerth by telephone through: (711 Relay Wisconsin) or (Voice) – 920/982-8500 and in person/letter at 215 N. Shawano St New London WI 54961

New London Library and Museum
Board of Directors Regular Meeting- May 18, 2020

President Ron Steinhorst called the regular meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. in the City of New London Council Chambers. Present: Chris Bermann, Ginny Schlais, Betty Roberts, Judy McDaniel, Bill Flease, Mary Dickrell, Library Director - Ann Hunt, Museum Director – Christine Cross.

Others Present: Chad Hoerth
Via Zoom: Alice Gilman, Brenda Hansen

Secretary's Report

Motion was made by McDaniel/Bermann to accept the minutes of the April 20, 2020, meeting. Motion carried.

Financial Reports

Motion made by Bermann/Fleuse to approve the May financial reports for the New London Public Library bills amounting to \$3,428.63 and the New London Public Museum bills amounting to \$159.90. There was no income for either the Library or the Museum for the month of May. Motion carried.

Museum Director's Report

See attached report.

Library Director's Report

See attached report.

Unfinished Business Discussion/Action

1. Fundraising Update: The fundraising committee remains in a holding pattern due to the lack of a developer. The agreement with Fox Communities Credit Union has been signed so they will contribute to the fund. The committee spoke to the new mayor after his election to inform him of the status of the fundraising and site development.
2. Development Discussion: The Economic Development Committee voted not to move forward with the possibility of hiring Todd Hutchison as project manager for the development and Chris Mokler as real estate salesman for the city.

New Business Discussion/Action

1. Reopening/Staffing: The Library and Museum directors have a plan in place to reopen on June 1, 2020.
 - For the Library:
 - All furniture will be removed
 - Only three computers will be available
 - Maximum of three staff, some work at home will continue
 - Only 6 guests at a time by appointment
 - Curbside pickup will continue
 - Back book drop will be open, and materials will be isolated for at least 72 hours
 - No in person programming
 - Online summer reading program with activity bag that can be picked up from the Library
 - Plexiglass has been placed in front of the checkout desk; guests will scan their own cards and items to limit contact
 - No magazines or newspapers will be available

- For the Museum:
 - Only two staff members in the Museum, some work at home to continue
 - Maximum of eight guests at a time with reminders of social distancing
 - Research by appointment only
 - Donations will be accepted but will be isolated for one week before processing
 - Curiosity Corner has been dismantled
 - Grab and go crafts will be available
 - Retail sales are suspended
 - Games on the Green program is cancelled

Hand sanitizer for staff and public will be available. Staff will be required, and public will be encouraged to wear masks and gloves when appropriate. Restrooms will be open.

Motion by McDaniel/Bermann to reopen the Library and Museum on June 1, 2020, with the recommendations of the directors. Motion carried.

Public Comment

None.

Adjourn

Motion by Bermann/Schlais to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Roberts

FINANCIAL REPORT

<u>BUSINESS</u>	<u>June</u> <u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>2020</u> <u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>SUBTOTAL</u>
WT Cox	242 Periodicals	\$ 2,138.68	
Hoopla	245 Audiovisual	\$ 528.54	\$ 528.54
Baker and Taylor	247 Books	\$ -	
Cavendish Square	247 Books	\$ 195.54	
Harlequin	247 Books	\$ 25.96	
Ingram	247 Books	\$ 1,025.30	\$ 1,246.80
Culligan Water	249 Supplies	\$ 20.10	
Accurate Clean Co	283 Building Main	\$ 1,387.37	
Valley Pest	283 Building Main	\$ 53.00	\$ 1,440.37
Festival Foods	288 Programs	\$ 12.79	
MBM	326 Copy Mach.	\$ 135.16	
	Total		\$ 5,522.44
Interim Bills			
Walmart	245 Audiovisual	\$ 582.09	
	Grand Total		\$ 6,104.53
Income			
Copy Machine	\$ -		
Printing	\$ -		
Fines/Fees	\$ 244.95		
Lions Club	\$ 500.00		
	Total		\$ 744.95

Museum Finance Report for June 15, 2020 Board Meeting

EXPENDITURES	June	Detail
DEPARTMENTAL SUPPLIES	\$ 79.51	COVID- hand sanitizer
	\$ 45.28	Amazon office supplies
	\$ 19.09	Wal-mart paper
	\$ 30.92	Amazon-COVID supplies
SPECIAL PROGRAMS-EDUCATION	\$ 15.00	Grab-n-Go craft supplies
	\$ 150.00	Capturing History prizes
TRUST FUND EXPENSE	\$ 68.05	eBay- Stereoview purchase
Total	\$ 407.85	

New London Public Museum
Monthly report for the June 15, 2020 Board meeting

The purpose of the New London Public Museum is to preserve and promote our community's natural, native and historical culture for the benefit of the public.

Programs

- Alice continues to post on the museum Facebook page
- We've received 13 entries for our Capturing History project so far
- Wendy is working on future programs and tours

Exhibits

- The "*V for Victory*" exhibit is scheduled to open in July. This exhibit commemorates the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Administration

- The appointment only opening has been going well. We have only had a few visitors, but right now that is fine. It allows us to work out the procedures and get used to new protocols. The staff motto continues to be "stay confused and flexible until further notice."

FNLPM

- Christine is scheduled to pick up the Red Geranium Tea Room sign in Minneapolis. She will drive up the day before and be back with the sign in the afternoon of July 15.
- Shannon Harrel, Temporary Collections Assistant sponsored by FNLPM starts at the museum on July 13. She will be working on the fossil collection.

Respectfully submitted by:

Christine Cross
Director

Alice Gilman
Assistant Director

**Library Director's Report
June, 2020**

Apr20 Attend: 291 YTD: 11,674	Apr19 Attend: YTD: 15,675
Apr20 Circ: 1,149 YTD: 20,837	Mar19 Circ: 6,894 YTD: 35,587
Wireless Statistics: 320	YTD 2,460
Computer Use 0	YTD 2,948
Hoopla audio 121 YTD 527	Hoopla ebooks 87 YTD 386
E-audio 325 YTD 1,302	E-books 708 YTD 2,228

Coronavirus

We have been open by appointment since June 1. So far we have had 208 people come in to browse our shelves, check out materials, use the computers, print items and fax materials. We have had only minor issues with people complaining about the process or the masks and cleaning. Overall people are very appreciative of the opportunity to use the library again.

We will have a plan or statement for the board for our next steps of service.

Summer Reading

Summer reading registration begins on June 15. We sent out a video to the principals of the schools to share with their students. We will also share it on Facebook, the chamber, the city and put it on our website. We have a plan for patrons who cannot or do not want to participate online.

System News

We will begin filling holds on Friday June, 12. These holds will be the old holds placed before we closed in March. Delivery will be increased to two times a week. When those old holds are cleared and all libraries are able to fill holds, patrons will be able to place holds in Infosoup again.

I am not sure when we will be able to return to a full service library. Some of the changes we made to prepare for the new service response will remain, as we like them.

Stay healthy.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Hunt

Ann Hunt, Director

Is It Time to Rebuild & Retool Public Libraries and Make “TechShops”?



To me, public libraries — the availability of free education for all — represent the collective commitment of a community to their future. They symbolize what is most important, a commitment to educating the next generation. The role of a public library should also adapt over time, and that time is finally here. It’s time to plan how we’re going to build the future and what place public libraries have, should have, or won’t have. The goal of this article is to get everyone talking about one of our great resources, the public library, and its future.

If you’re reading this, you’re likely not reading it in a public library. Computers are cheap, and internet access is pretty good for most people. The majority of people do not get their online news from terminals at the public library. At one time the library was “the living internet” — you went there to look up something hard to find, to do research — now it’s all at our fingertips through search engines, Wikipedia, and the web.

So where does this leave libraries? Last week I walked by the Borders on Broadway in NYC — it’s going out of business. There are many reasons, but I think most people will agree giant collections of books in giant buildings do not make as much sense (or cents!) any longer. Not commercially, and likely not publicly, such as in a library setting. So where does this leave the library? Maybe they’ll move more and more to eBooks with some weird library-DRM, collections of DVDs, and other media outside of books. But again, it’s usually better online, and available in our homes.

Let's explore what could be ahead for public libraries and how we could collectively transform them into "factories" — not factories that make things, but factories that help make people who want to learn and make things. Will libraries go away? Will they become hackerspaces, TechShops, tool-lending libraries, and Fab Labs, or have these new, almost-public spaces displaced a new role for libraries? For many of us, books themselves are tools. In the sense that books are tools of knowledge, the library is a repository for tools, so will we add "real tools" for the 21st century?

Before we dive into the future, let's take a look at the current public library scene now. Feel free to skip this part. I think it's pretty interesting though.

First up:

How are public libraries used in the USA?

Nationwide, visits to public libraries totaled 1.50 billion, or 5.1 library visits per capita. There were 2.28 billion circulations of library materials (7.7 per capita), and 1.21 uses of Internet PCs per capita during fiscal year 2008.

Source: [Public Libraries in the United States: Fiscal Year 2008](#)

How many public libraries are there in the USA?

If you add up public libraries and public school libraries, it's about 100,000, but if you just look at public libraries (ones that are not part of a school), it's about 9,000.

Source: [Number of Libraries in the United States, ALA Library Fact Sheet](#)

To put a 9,000 locations number into perspective:

There are currently (in the US) 650 Golds Gym locations, 1,750 Target locations, 2,300 Home Depot locations, 4,500 RadioShack locations, 10,000 Curves International Fitness locations, 17,000 Starbucks locations, and 32,000 McDonald's locations.

How many people are paid/employed in libraries? These include part-time positions.

Librarians:

47,926

Other Paid Staff:

97,318

Total Paid Staff (Public Libraries):

145,244

Source: [Number Employed in Libraries, ALA Library Fact Sheet](#)

How much does it cost to run these 9,000 public libraries?

Total operating expenditures in public libraries steadily rose during the study period, going from \$8.29 billion in FY1999 to \$10.72 billion in FY2008 (figures are in constant 2008 dollars), an absolute increase of \$2.43 billion and a percentage increase of 29.4 percent... Per capita operating expenditures increased

during the period as well. Per capita operating expenditures increased from \$31.56 in FY1999 to \$36.36 in FY2008, an absolute increase of \$4.80 per person and a percentage increase of 15.2 percent...

Source: [Library Operating Expenditures: A Selected Annotated Bibliography](#)

Let's say it costs about \$10 billion to run about 9,000 public libraries, that's an average of about \$1 million per year, per library. That's not accurate, of course, but let's deal in averages. In the same report(s), 24% of public libraries had operating expenditures of less than \$50,000; 42% expended \$50,000 to \$399,999; and 34% expended \$400,000 or more.

Where does the money come from?

Total operating revenue of public libraries and percentage distribution of revenue, by source of revenue and state: Fiscal year 2008, which reports that an estimated 83 percent of public libraries' total operating revenue of \$11.4 billion came from local sources; 9 percent from state sources; 0.4 percent from federal sources; and 8 percent from other sources, such as monetary gifts and donations, interest, library fines, fees, and grants.

OK, so for the most part it's a local effort, paid for by each community.

Source: [Library Operating Expenditures: A Selected Annotated Bibliography](#)

And lastly:

Where does the money go (not including staff)?

...69 percent was expended for print materials; 11 percent was expended for electronic materials, such as e-books, e-serials (including journals), government documents, databases (including locally mounted, full text or not), electronic files, reference tools, scores, maps, or pictures in electronic or digital format, including materials digitized by the library, which can be distributed on magnetic tape, diskettes, computer software, CD-ROM, or other portable digital carrier, and can be accessed via a computer, via access to the Internet, or by using an e-book reader, and includes expenditures for materials held locally and for remote electronic materials for which permanent or temporary access rights have been acquired, and also includes expenditures for database licenses; and 19 percent for "Other materials," such as microform, audio, video, DVD, and materials in new formats.

Mostly print books. That makes sense — they're libraries. This will likely change over time, but [it's unclear how eBooks will be managed at this time](#). At least when a physical book is purchased it can last years, but DRM systems for eBooks have always seemed problematic to me, more so with multiple users, devices, and "lenders."

Source: [Library Operating Expenditures: A Selected Annotated Bibliography](#)

Another bit of history that's interesting is "[The Carnegie Library](#)". More than half are still around, and 31 of the 39 in New York are still in use.

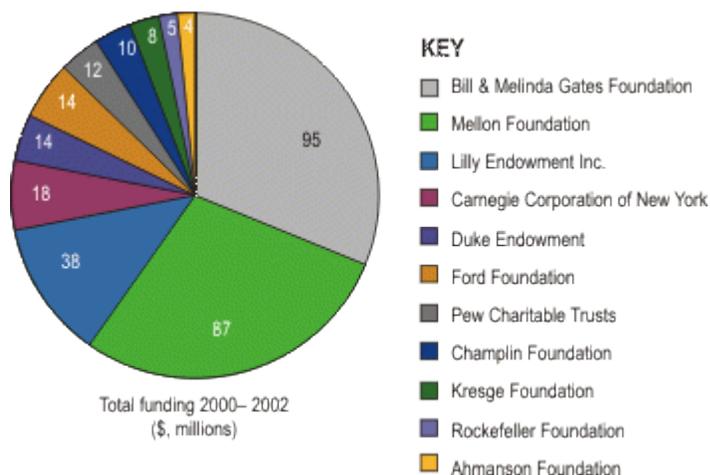
A Carnegie library is a library built with money donated by Scottish-American businessman and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. 2,509 Carnegie libraries were built between 1883 and 1929, including some belonging to public and university library systems. 1,689 were built in the United States... When

the last grant was made in 1919, there were 3,500 libraries in the United States, nearly half of them built with construction grants paid by Carnegie.

Carnegie believed in giving to the **“industrious and ambitious; not those who need everything done for them, but those who, being most anxious and able to help themselves, deserve and will be benefited by help from others.”**

The design of the Carnegie libraries has been given credit for encouraging communication with the librarian. It also created an opportunity for people to browse and discover books on their own. “The Carnegie libraries were important because they had open stacks which encouraged people to browse....People could choose for themselves what books they wanted to read,” according to Walter E. Langsam, an architectural historian and teacher at the University of Cincinnati. Before Carnegie, patrons had to ask a clerk to retrieve books from closed stacks.

[Source: Wikipedia](#). To get funding, the formula was simple, demonstrate the need for a public library, provide the building site, annually provide 10% of the cost of the library’s construction to support its operation, and provide free service to all.



There are modern-day “Carnegies”: *“Historically, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has been the largest single private foundation granting source for libraries. While the Gates Foundation led in 2000 and 2001”*. Chart above, source: [Worldwide education and library spending](#)

I have a favorite story about someone who visited a library. It’s not exactly upbeat, but I think you’ll understand why it’s a good one, even more so on the [25th anniversary of the Challenger explosion](#).

The boy walked to the counter of the Lake City Public Library through a gantlet of stares in 1959. Ronald E. McNair, then 9, wanted to check out books on advanced science and calculus, but the librarian wouldn’t release them. “We don’t circulate books to Negroes,” she told him.

Library patrons laughed at McNair’s behavior, and the librarian threatened to call the police — and his mother, Pearl.

McNair didn’t budge.

Instead, he hoisted himself onto the counter, his spindly legs dangling, and waited, because he wasn't leaving without the books. After two police officers determined that McNair wasn't causing a public disturbance, and when Pearl said she would pay for the books if McNair didn't bring them back, the librarian acquiesced.

"Thank you, ma'am," McNair, prompted by his mother, said before he walked out of the library. McNair, always a precocious student, would become an astronaut and a hometown hero...

Then, 26 years later, Ronald McNair, the second African-American in space, died at age 35 in the Challenger explosion on Jan. 28, 1986. What an amazing story and what amazing changes happened in one person's short but spectacular life. Obviously the public library was a big part of Ronald's life. It's interesting to think about the 9-year-old kids now who want to build or learn something — where will they go? Who will they ask and what will they become in 26 years given the right "tools"?

One more note (since it will be mentioned in the comments): [tool-lending libraries](#). There are about 25 or so in the USA, and this is an excellent start.

...tool-lending libraries allow library patrons to borrow tools, equipment and "how-to" instructional materials, usually free of charge. A tool-lending library was started in Columbus, OH in 1976. Originally run by the City, the Tool Library is now operated by Rebuilding Together Central Ohio, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that works to preserve and revitalize homes and communities in Central Ohio. The RTCO Tool Library makes available over 4,500 tools free of charge to both individuals and non-profit organizations. One of the first tool libraries was the Berkeley Tool Lending Library, which started in 1979 with a \$30,000 community block grant.

I know the fellow who runs a tool-lending spot in NYC — I should try it out. As far as public libraries go, I live in NYC, and there are 2-3 public libraries within a 15 minute walk. I really tried to use them, but the online interface wasn't that great — most of the things I wanted to checked out were always taken, and it's hard to beat "instant" since I have a computer and web connection. After the Kindle and Kindle apps came out, I haven't visited the library. I realize not everyone has a device that read eBooks, but I think most of us will agree that's where it's heading. There are even predictions that [eBook readers will be free](#) and books will [ultimately be 99 cents](#). That's less than a fine, and I was always late with physical books.

So, if you've made it this far you have a rough idea of the public library landscape. I think for a lot of people, we visited the public library as kids or students, and later not as much. I work with younger folks, and from what they tell me, it's rare for them to have ever used a public library. Internet access and cheaper computers have replaced a lot of that, and the libraries they have been to recently were at schools, not public ones. There are a handful of tool-lending libraries, but it certainly isn't a national effort (yet).

But, looking back, where have I visited in the last few years that's a "public-like" space for learning? Hackerspaces, FabLabs, and TechShops. If you're a MAKE reader, you're familiar with these, but let's quickly talk about each one.

Hackerspaces



Image: "DIY Freaks Flock to 'Hacker Spaces' Worldwide," Wired.com

[A hackerspace](#) is usually a membership-based location featuring workshops, tools, and people who generally like to make things.

A hackerspace or hackspace (also referred to as a hacklab, makerspace or creative space) is a location where people with common interests, usually in computers, technology, science or digital or electronic art can meet, socialize and/or collaborate. A hackerspace can be viewed as an open community labs incorporating elements of machine shops, workshops and/or studios where hackers can come together to share resources and knowledge to build and make things. Many hackerspaces participate in the use and development of free software and alternative media and can be found in infoshops or social centers.

[There are hundreds of hackerspaces](#) that have appeared, almost overnight, around the world. From my recollection over the last decade, the ones in Europe were really appealing, many makers were traveling around the world (Mitch Altman, for example), and eventually word spread. Now, just about every state in the USA has one, and most large cities have hackerspaces.

Hackerspaces usually revolve around everyone paying the rent (part of the membership, the largest cost of a space) and shared costs. It's not really possible to estimate the average cost to get one started, but it's usually whatever the rent is for a year in your local area for a pretty good-sized location.

Fab Labs



Scott Shaw/The Plain Dealer

MC STEM High School students Andrea Lane and David Boone Jr. work on a programmable router called a Shopbot in the school's fab lab.

Image: "Fabrication labs let student and adult inventors create products, solve problems," Cleveland.com

[Next up, FabLabs. As of July 2010, there were 45 labs in 16 countries.](#) Similar to a hackerspace, but Fab Labs were started before the hackerspaces really took off, and Fab Labs generally are associated with MIT, so it was more of a sponsored/academic effort and not a self-forming organic one like the hackerspaces. One of the things I really like about Fab Labs is they're all similar in terms of the equipment they promote and use. This standardization of laser cutters, CNCs, and computers is a good base to work from if you're going to do something in one area of the world and want others to be able to do it somewhere else, all using the same tools.

A Fab Lab (fabrication laboratory) is a small-scale workshop with an array of flexible computer controlled tools that cover several different length scales and various materials, with the aim to make "almost anything". This includes technology-enabled products generally perceived as limited to mass production.

While Fab Labs have yet to compete with mass production and its associated economies of scale in fabricating widely distributed products, they have already shown the potential to empower individuals to create smart devices for themselves. These devices can be tailored to local or personal needs in ways that are not practical or economical using mass production.

Getting a Fab Lab started [can be as low as \\$25,000](#), but realistically it's likely a few hundred thousand.

TechShops



“A TechShop Snapshot, Much inventive thinking takes place during a typical day at this community workshop.” [IEEE](#)

[And finally, TechShop.](#) A TechShop is a commercial venture that’s almost a combination of a hackerspace and a Fab Lab. A TechShop is membership-based, has pretty much all the equipment you need to make anything, and there are workshops, classes, etc.

TechShop is a membership-based workshop that provides members with access to tools and equipment, instruction, and a community of creative and supportive people so they can build the things they have always wanted to make. You can think of TechShop like a fitness club, but with tools and equipment instead of exercise equipment. It is sort of like a Kinko’s for makers, or a Xerox PARC for the rest of us. TechShop is designed for everyone, regardless of their skill level. TechShop is perfect for inventors, makers, hackers, tinkerers, artists, roboteers, families, entrepreneurs, youth groups, FIRST robotic teams, arts and crafts enthusiasts, and anyone else who wants to be able to make things that they dream up but don’t have the tools, space or skills.

There are currently three locations (Menlo Park Calif., Raleigh NC, and San Francisco). They have over 1,500 members between the 3 open locations and a few already committed to San Jose. TechShop also had over 200 people signed up for SF before opening. They are working on San Jose, Calif., right now (lease signed, interior demo, and construction underway). After that, New York and Detroit are locations to follow after San Jose opens. TechShop hopes to have 100 locations in five years. Across all the locations they have about 50 people working for them.

I asked the TechShop folks how much it cost to get a TechShop started, and they said between \$1.5 and \$2.5 million, depending on the market. That’s not too much above the average yearly cost to keep a public library going.

Can libraries be TechShops?

And here we are, the part where I propose we think about what role the public library can or should have. I'm really interested in what everyone thinks, so please post in the comments. I have more questions than answers, but my "gut" says we're not going to see public libraries as the centers of learning state-to-state that they once were.

If the only public space where 3D printers, laser cutters, and learning electronics happens is in fee/memberships-based spaces (TechShops, hackerspaces), that will leave out a segment of the population, who will never have access. FabLabs often are geared towards under-served communities, so perhaps it will be a combination of FabLabs and hackerspaces.

What if we were to convert just 1% or even 10% of the 9,000 public libraries in the USA to TechShops? I say TechShop because I think they could get it done with the right amount of funding, or at least coordinate the effort. Since 1% of the USA's public libraries is about 90, that's close to the TechShop goal in 5 years; 10% would be 900 locations — not a bad goal.

But why does it matter? Some of you will likely say that hackerspaces and TechShops are filling the void where a public library could have evolved to — that's probably true. I think public libraries are one of those "use it or lose" it things we have in a society. Given the current state of budgets all over the USA, I think unless they're seen as the future, we might just lose them.

- How can we encourage American innovation?
- How can we get kids access to laser cutters, CAD, 3D printers, and tools to design and build?
- How can we train each other for the jobs and skills needed in the 21st century?
- How can we spark the creativity and imagination of kids?
- How can America be a world leader in design and engineering?

I think many of these things could be helped by the re-tooling of one of our greatest resources, the public library. It wouldn't be easy, but that's the point — it would be a challenge and worth doing. We can wait and hope every state thinks about this, or that a hackerspace can support something like this (and allow kids to be part of it). But why wait? I think libraries and librarians are underutilized for skill-building. It's not fun to talk about, but that's the impression I get from everyone I talk to: they *love* their town to have one, but they never use it. They have the space, they have net connections, they're in great locations — why not evolve? If space/rent is always a challenge for hackerspaces, perhaps libraries can provide this space as books go digital.

It's scary — laser cutters, CAD stations, CNC, 3D printers. Training needed, equipment purchases, a safety class, workshops — I'm sure there are lots of reasons it could never work out, but there are also many reasons it could. Besides, how often do you hear people talking about lining up outside the local library because the new 3D printer has arrived and they want to use it?

I certainly do not know what the public library will be like in 10 years or 20 years, but I think the conversations we all have here may help shape some of the thinking. Post up in the comments: what do you think the public library should be in the 21st century?

Related Stories from Make:



A New Chapter? A Launch Of The Bookless Library

January 15, 2013 2:46 PM ET

REEMA KHRAIS



Courtesy of Bexar County, Texas



•
Courtesy of Bexar County, Texas



Courtesy of Bexar County, Texas

1 OF 3

[iView slideshow](#)

If your idea of a library is row upon row of nicely shelved hardcovers, then you'll be in for a surprise when a planned new library in San Antonio opens this fall.

"Think of an Apple store," Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff says while explaining the layout of the new library, BiblioTech.

In keeping with technological advances, the county will house a library of neatly arranged LCD screens and gadgets instead of the traditional banquet of dog-eared print and paper books. The public library will be one of the first digital-only libraries of its kind.

With 50 computer terminals and a stock of laptops and tablets on-site, the building will also offer an array of preloaded e-readers available for the card-carrying customer to take home.

"The library is a chance to expand the scope of opportunities for people to learn technology," Wolff explains. "The world is changing."

He contends that the \$1.5 million project will be cost-effective, as it'll be located in an existing county-owned building and available to many underserved communities where residents may not have access to at-home computers.

In fact, improving technological access to lower-income areas of the predominantly Hispanic county is what led to Wolff's bookless endeavor. Many of the unincorporated areas of the county, he says, lack public libraries.

Short-Lived And 'Premature' History Of Bookless Libraries

This replacement of jacket covers for hard drives is a calculated choice that many other libraries and officials around the nation have also considered, yet — in most cases — quickly abandoned.

In 2002, at the Santa Rosa Branch Library in Tucson, Ariz., officials attempted to bridge the digital gap in the community by offering a digital-only library. Years later, however, residents — fatigued by the electronics — requested that actual books be added to the collection, and today, enjoy a full-access library with computers.

In describing the Santa Rosa library's attempt and San Antonio's plan to redefine public libraries, Sarah Houghton, director of the San Rafael Public Library in California, has only one word: "premature."

The primary advantage of bookless arenas, according to Houghton? You can repurpose the saved space for work, study or collaboration areas.

Otherwise, she lists three reasons why they're not such a great idea quite yet.

"First, some people simply prefer physical media — they don't want to read on a device," Houghton says.

Second, she points to the issue of the digital divide. Those who aren't necessarily technologically literate may need extra over-the-shoulder help with the devices in a way that would require a large operation and, consequently, a big budget.

"A huge element is training staff, and that's even presuming that the library can afford enough of these devices to meet the demand," Houghton explains.

And the biggest issue? Most content is simply not available digitally to license and purchase.

"So your selection of best-sellers and popular media just went down the toilet because 99 percent of that is not available to libraries digitally," she says.

Many publishers don't license to libraries, and those willing to do business often have what Houghton considers outlandish terms — too expensive or unrealistic for a library's allowance.

An 'Evolving' Digital Backdrop

The tech-savvy librarian adds that her reluctance to embrace bookless libraries is a bit counterintuitive because she's an advocate for digital media. But the digital landscape, Houghton contends, simply isn't ready to revolutionarily merge with libraries.

Pandemic Policy

The New London Library/Museum Board, Directors and staff recognize that COVID-19 is a worldwide pandemic and is a threat to public health at this time and possibly for many months to come. The New London Library/Museum recognizes the importance of offering service to the public while at the same time maintaining the highest level of safety to the public and staff.

The New London Library/Museum will follow the orders and guidelines issued by the CDC, State of Wisconsin Department of Health, or Waupaca/Outagamie Department of Public Health as long as they are in place. The Library and Museum will always strive to follow the highest suggested level of caution and safety in the guidelines.

The Library/Museum Directors will have the flexibility to move back and forth with service phases and guidelines recognizing that conditions may require rapid decision making by government authorities and that formal board approval to move forward (or back if conditions change) will not always be possible. Changes may be instituted regarding those actions at the next scheduled board meeting.

New London Public Museum Pandemic Procedure

Phase 3

- **People in the Museum**
 - Maximum of 2 staff people in the museum (some at-home work will continue)
 - Museum will be open by appointment only
 - Maximum of 7 guests in the museum at one time, signage installed to remind of social distancing requirements.
 - Researchers will be allowed by appointment only; we will not accommodate “drop-in” researchers.
 - Volunteer activities and projects are suspended.
 - There will be no in-person programming
- **Operations**
 - Artifact donations will be accepted. The items will be isolated for one week before being processed by the staff. Donors will need to make an appointment.
 - Modifications to current exhibits to encourage traffic flow and alleviate bottleneck areas.
 - Shared touch points will be removed and the Curiosity Corner will be dismantled
 - No retail sales will be allowed
 - Museum staff will sanitize high touch areas after every user and will offer hand sanitizer and masks to the public as supplies allow. Museum staff will assist library staff with sanitizing the stair railings and public restrooms.

Phase 4

- **People in the Museum**
 - Maximum of 3 staff people in the museum (some at-home work may continue)
 - Museum will open with best practices and based on staffing levels will either expand appointments or base admittance on capacity.
 - Patrons and staff must continue to adhere to physical distancing guidelines.
 - Researchers will be allowed by appointment only; we will not accommodate “drop-in” researchers.
 - Volunteer will be welcomed back to the museum on a limited basis.
- **Operations**
 - Same as Phase 3 with the following changes:
 - Contactless retail sales will be allowed
 - In-person programming may resume on a limited basis and all programs will be registered so as not to exceed the group gathering guidelines set forth by the county, state or CDC

Benchmarks? How do we move forward through the phases? Are there any other factors besides closing for two weeks if a staff person, household member or a patron gets sick that move us backwards?

New London Public Library Reopening phases

During a pandemic, the New London Public Library will offer varying levels of service based on CDC recommendations and state/county orders to keep library staff and patrons safe. Staff and patron safety is the priority. As such, if the organizations run out of the necessary personal protective equipment or cleaning supplies necessary to ensure safety in the building or a local outbreak occurs, they may at any time alter/reduce services or close to the public.

Access to cleaning supplies during a pandemic is highly volatile. As a high touch public building, the library cannot guarantee the cleanliness of materials and equipment. Entrance to the library during a pandemic is at your own risk.

When the Library is open to the public patrons and staff of the library and museum must follow all guidelines as set forth at that time. Guidelines and phases will be based on CDC recommendations, state orders, or county orders. Failure to comply with library guidelines during any phase may result in a loss of privileges.

Phase details and procedures may be altered at any time by the Library Director, so long as they continue to follow CDC recommendations, state, and county orders.

Phase 3 Dependent on State/County Health Departments and CDC recommendations

People in the Library

- Continue appointments with 2 people per side and 3 computer users. ½ hour slots for browsing and 1 hour slots for computers
- No meetings in the building
- All tables and chairs will stay removed with the exception of three computer work stations
- Continue curbside pick up

Materials

- Back book Drop will be open; all materials will have a “cooling” off period of at least 72 hours
- Delivery will begin slowly and depend on system wide procedures
- All materials checked in or received from other libraries will have “cooling off period of at least 72 hours

Programs

- There will be no in person programming
- We will continue online programs
- WI FI will be available in the parking lot and front parking areas

Phase 4 Dependent on State/County Health Departments and CDC recommendations

- The library will reopen with normal practices and services with the exception of any specific guidelines issued by Wisconsin DHS.

CITY OF NEW LONDON
EXPENDITURES REPORT (UNAUDITED)
AS OF: MAY 31ST, 2020

101-GENERAL FUND
LIBRARY

DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES	CURRENT BUDGET	CURRENT PERIOD	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	% OF BUDGET	BUDGET BALANCE
101-55101-119 SALARIES	208,000.00	15,606.92	82,095.35	39.47	125,904.65
101-55101-129 WAGES	61,666.00	3,992.48	20,337.82	32.98	41,328.18
101-55101-132 BUILDING AND GROUND WAGES	30,417.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,417.00
101-55101-133 PARK DEPARTMENT WAGES	1,295.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,295.00
101-55101-139 OVERTIME	6,343.00	0.00	1,859.71	29.32	4,483.29
101-55101-151 LONGEVITY	2,700.00	0.00	2,750.00	101.85 (50.00)
101-55101-195 FRINGE BENEFITS	109,888.00	6,062.69	48,111.35	43.78	61,776.65
101-55101-202 POSTAGE	500.00	1.00	65.89	13.18	434.11
101-55101-203 DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS	650.00	0.00	210.00	32.31	440.00
101-55101-207 COMPUTER MAINTENANCE & SOF	577.00	57.38	57.38	9.94	519.62
101-55101-219 MEETINGS AND MILEAGE	3,200.00	0.00	737.52	23.05	2,462.48
101-55101-221 HEATING	4,000.00	130.59	1,020.40	25.51	2,979.60
101-55101-222 TELEPHONE	1,000.00	70.59	283.00	28.30	717.00
101-55101-227 ELECTRIC, WATER, & SEWER	13,500.00	674.03	3,852.76	28.54	9,647.24
101-55101-232 INSURANCE	4,026.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,026.00
101-55101-242 PERIODICALS	3,000.00	47.53	75.07	2.50	2,924.93
101-55101-244 MICROFILM	650.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	650.00
101-55101-245 AUDIO/VISUAL	12,500.00	663.43	3,228.94	25.83	9,271.06
101-55101-247 BOOKS	38,200.00	1,679.00	11,040.71	28.90	27,159.29
101-55101-249 DEPARTMENTAL SUPPLIES	4,100.00	129.18	279.68	6.82	3,820.32
101-55101-250 CONSULTANT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
101-55101-283 BUILDING MAINTENANCE	6,300.00	343.76	1,484.80	23.57	4,815.20
101-55101-287 MICROFILM MAINTENANCE	800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	800.00
101-55101-288 SPECIAL PROGRAMS	3,000.00	398.14	454.81	15.16	2,545.19
101-55101-309 SUNDRY	400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	400.00
101-55101-315 TRUST FUND EXPENSE	0.00	0.00	22,000.00	0.00 (22,000.00)
101-55101-326 COPY MACHINE/PRINTER/REIMB	0.00	136.56	776.99	0.00 (776.99)
101-55101-352 CATALOG MAINTENANCE	18,166.00	0.00	18,166.00	100.00	0.00
TOTAL LIBRARY	534,878.00	29,993.28	218,888.18	40.92	315,989.82

CITY OF NEW LONDON
EXPENDITURES REPORT (UNAUDITED)
AS OF: MAY 31ST, 2020

101-GENERAL FUND
MUSEUM

DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES	CURRENT BUDGET	CURRENT PERIOD	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	% OF BUDGET	BUDGET BALANCE
101-55102-119 SALARIES	50,612.00	3,893.22	21,412.71	42.31	29,199.29
101-55102-129 WAGES	25,098.00	1,930.56	9,740.39	38.81	15,357.61
101-55102-132 BUILDING AND GROUND WAGES	5,043.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,043.00
101-55102-151 LONGEVITY	500.00	0.00	500.00	100.00	0.00
101-55102-195 FRINGE BENEFITS	33,009.00	2,128.89	16,161.32	48.96	16,847.68
101-55102-202 POSTAGE	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
101-55102-203 DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS	900.00	159.90	377.90	41.99	522.10
101-55102-204 PUBLICATIONS	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
101-55102-208 ADVERTISING	2,300.00	0.00	223.00	9.70	2,077.00
101-55102-219 MEETINGS AND MILEAGE	1,000.00	0.00	23.03	2.30	976.97
101-55102-221 HEATING	2,800.00	89.02	673.09	24.04	2,126.91
101-55102-222 TELEPHONE	400.00	35.32	141.28	35.32	258.72
101-55102-232 INSURANCE	700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	700.00
101-55102-249 DEPARTMENTAL SUPPLIES	1,000.00	0.00	38.41	3.84	961.59
101-55102-250 CURATORAL SUPPLIES	700.00	0.00	15.38	2.20	684.62
101-55102-283 BUILDING MAINTENANCE	1,000.00	0.00	13.49	1.35	986.51
101-55102-288 SPECIAL PROGRAMS	2,000.00	0.00	286.07	14.30	1,713.93
101-55102-289 SPECIAL PROGRAMS - EXHIBIT	1,000.00	0.00	163.87	16.39	836.13
101-55102-315 TRUST FUND EXPENSE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
101-55102-720 GRANT REIMB EXPENSES	0.00	0.00	286.05	0.00 (286.05)
TOTAL MUSEUM	128,262.00	8,236.91	50,055.99	39.03	78,206.01