

# Evolving Public Library for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century & Beyond

## Agenda:

1. The Past: What we take for granted: What established the American library?
  - a. The History of the Book
  - b. The Victorian-Era Assumptions
    - i. Linear Space: One object only
    - ii. We know everything: The Fixed Universe
    - iii. We know best: Hierarchical control
2. The Present: What has changed the public library model?
  - a. The changing expectations of library users
  - b. Competitors: Not just the Internet
  - c. Budget
  - d. Demographics: Age, culture
  - e. Conflicts:
    - i. Libraries versus librarians
    - ii. Physical location versus virtual services
    - iii. The 15th century versus the 21st century book
    - iv. Needs of the community versus Library Principles
  - f. Failures?
    - i. Food: Money is the issue, not damage.
    - ii. Older programming going away
3. The Future: What libraries are doing and will be doing
  - a. A library is a space for people, not a warehouse for books.
    - i. The destination library: Meetings and events
    - ii. The Maker Movement
    - iii. Embedded librarians/library and the library without walls
    - iv. Integrated physical spaces with other institutions
  - b. Material organized around topics and themes, not Dewey.
    - i. More than books are being distributed.
    - ii. Inventory is fresh, with minimal processing.
  - c. Changing scope of services
    - i. Social services, computer access, legal services, health
  - d. Continuing education and lifelong learning