Expect More: Why Libraries Cannot Become STEM Educators

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Libraries

- Buildings or abstractions can do nothing
- People [Librarians] make it happen
- A lot of attention paid to the front of the building ignoring the reality of people behind the scenes
Greedy Librarians to...

- Consequences of Consumer/User Focus
- Collection-Orientation
- Service as Remediation “How Can I Help You?”
- Collaboration as Failure
- Skills: Cataloging|Search|Acquisition|Question Acquisition
- Values: Neutrality|Efficiency|Equitable Access
...Knitters of Community

• Facilitator of Knowledge Creation with Members and Allies

• Skills: Access|Knowledge|Environment|Motivation

• Values: Intellectual Honesty|Learning|Openness|Intellectual Safety
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The Mission of Public Libraries?

- Literacy
- School Preparedness
- Economic Development
- Cultural Heritage
- Local Knowledge
- Third Space
- STEM?
emPOWERment

• There Is No App To Overcome The Barriers Of Race, Class, Sexual Orientation, And Gender, And App Building Won’t Either

• The Children Of Ferguson Were Hungry And Librarians Fed Them

• The Parents Of Baltimore Were Without Diapers And The Librarians Provided Them

• Public Libraries Were Created Out Of A Quest For Societal Equality - Any STEM Initiative Must Further This Cause Or Libraries Simply Become An Agency Of Elite Solutions Not Agents Of Change
Slides and Screencast: www.DavidLankes.org