“What is more important in a library than anything else – than everything else – is the fact that it exists.” - ARCHIBALD MACLEISH

Strategic Library™

Issue 11 // November 15, 2014

Strategic Library: The Year in Review

The collective body of knowledge in the ten 2014 issues provides a template for the future of successful libraries.

BY MARY ALICE DAVIDSON

When planning the launch of Strategic Library in the summer of 2013, the Library Resources Group President, Mark Kimmel, and I prepared an Editorial Plan based on our research into the issues facing today’s library decision makers. The resulting plan was separated into six sections: Collections/Circulation, Community Leadership, Emerging Technologies, Fundraising/Budgeting, Legal Issues, and Strategic Planning. Each section included eleven to eighteen subcategories.

Now, ten issues of Strategic Library later, those same sections clearly define the content our authors chose to discuss...and many were added as new topics surfaced. Whether through examples, experience, lessons learned, research, or experiments, seventy-one authors shared their insights with counterparts in all types of libraries: specialty, academic, and public. While the settings may vary, the issues facing today’s libraries and their solutions are universal.

This Anthology dissects Strategic Library’s January through October issues through different lenses. No matter when your subscription started, you’ll see all ARTICLES BY ISSUE with links so you can refer back or visit anew.

ARTICLES BY SUBJECT includes topics in the original six sections and lists those articles that apply in each instance. Of course, every article could be listed under “Strategic Planning,” since all zero in on some element that looks at how libraries can plan for the future. But libraries, librarians...and our authors...have specialties that are highlighted in the other sections. Perhaps, at first reading, you did not realize that a specific article had broader implications. A glance through...
the lists will give you a good review of the breadth of library topics covered in Strategic Library’s issues.

Perhaps you recall an author, but are not sure what topic he or she covered in a certain issue. The full list of all Strategic Library AUTHORS will point you to the right article. Or perhaps you remember an author represented a certain library or organization, but don’t recall the specifics. All thirty-four LIBRARIES are listed along with fourteen CONTRIBUTING ORGANIZATIONS, which includes leading library consultants and industry groups.

Now what? The 2015 Strategic Library Editorial Plan will soon be posted on the website, which can be accessed through http://www.libraryworks.com/ or http://strategiclibrary.wildapricot.org. Guidelines for future authors will be there as well. Please consider joining our impressive list of authors by sharing your expertise with your peers.

Thank you for being a part of this inaugural year. Moving forward, we will seek out authors that can illuminate emerging trends in the complex and rapidly evolving library landscape. Based on our success in 2014, Strategic Library will continue to foster creative, strategic thinking about the future, giving decision makers in all types of libraries the tools to explore, lead, and innovate. ■

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Mary Alice Davidson is the publisher of Strategic Library. She has held executive positions in the publishing field for more than twenty years. Prospective authors should contact her at madavidson@charter.net. For questions about your subscription to Strategic Library, please email info@libraryworks.com.

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