User Response

“This guide really empowered us to take the information from Rising to the Challenge: Re-Envisioning Public Libraries and translate it for our community and our library. After reading Rising to the Challenge, there was enthusiasm for how we could apply this locally, but the task seemed overwhelming. The Action Guide broke it down into smaller, manageable steps, leaving no excuse but to execute!”

— Gretchen Pruett, New Braunfels Public Library, New Braunfels, TX

Our web site provides access to tools, news and information, discussions and more.

LibraryVision.org
GETTING STARTED

The Dialogue on Public Libraries offers a series of action steps for getting started. These action steps are addressed to library leaders. They are recommendations for actions that offer a starting point for change.

Action Steps for Library Leaders

Define the scope of the library's programs, services and offerings around community priorities, recognizing that this process may lead to choices and trade-offs.

Collaborate with government agencies at the local, state and federal levels around shared objectives. This includes partnerships with schools to drive learning and educational opportunities throughout the community.

Partner with local businesses, chambers of commerce and community colleges to provide access to curricula and resources, to technology and certification programs and to job search resources to maintain a highly skilled yet highly flexible workforce.

Engage the community in planning and decision-making, and seek a seat at tables where important policy issues are discussed and decisions made.

Connect resources from other agencies or libraries to the library platform rather than reinventing the wheel or always going solo.

Develop partnerships and collaborations with other libraries and knowledge networks that can contribute to efficiencies, using the opportunities provided by digital technologies.

Measure library outcomes and impacts to better demonstrate the library's value to the community and communicate these outcomes to key partners and policy makers.

Strategies for Success

1. Align library services in support of community goals.
2. Provide access to content in all formats.
3. Ensure long-term sustainability of public libraries.
4. Cultivate leadership.

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