

# The Impact of the Internet and Web based Technology on Public Libraries: An Examination of Future and Current Issues

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# Introduction

- The internet is a competitor to the public library
- If run successfully, the library can survive
- Library needs to offer interactive, web based technology also known as Web 2.0
- Librarians need to be on the front lines of facilitating technological change in the public library

# Electronic Media

- Many library visitors primarily associate the library as a place to “check out” paper books
- The Library offers many different types of electronic media
  - ❖ E-Books, E-Journals, E-Magazines
  - ❖ Downloadable Audio books
  - ❖ The most popular method to download is through your PC

# The Maintenance of Library Collections

- ❖ Maintaining Collections was costly in the past
- ❖ On-line Public Access Catalogs are now prevalent in the majority of library systems
- ❖ OPAC's are basically an on-line card catalog that can either be used internally or externally
- ❖ Radio Frequency identification tabs (chip is embedded into library material)
- ❖ RDIF's are controversial because of privacy issues

# Assisting Library Staff with the Transition of Roles in the Public Library

- Librarians are becoming the gateway and the liaison of technology for public library users
- Librarians need to embrace technology as a means of survival in their work settings
- Librarian's now utilize such resources as “the Librarians Index to the Internet” (directory of over 9,000 websites)
- Most librarians are accepting towards their new roles of web monitoring and management

# Library Web Development

- The future of the public library depends on its website
- 58% of library staff develop their own website
- 11% of library website development is completed at “system level”
- Suggestions: Make library websites more interactive, provide more historical and community information and references

# Library 2.0 or L2

- Definition of Library 2.0: “Sub categories of what Web 2.0 encapsulates which include usability, economy, participation, convergence, design, standardization and remixability” (Curran, 2007, pg. 289).
- Libraries need to embrace Library 2.0 and become an interactive tool while utilizing web capabilities

# Differences Between Web 1.0 and Web 2.0

Curran, Murray & Christian (2007)

	<b>Web 1.0</b>	<b>Web 2.0</b>
<b>Mode of usage</b>	<b>Read</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Unit of Content</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Record</b>
<b>State</b>	<b>Static</b>	<b>Dynamic</b>
<b>How content is viewed</b>	<b>Web browser</b>	<b>Browser, RSS readers, Mobile Devices</b>
<b>Creation of Content</b>	<b>Web site by authors</b>	<b>By everyone</b>

# Conclusion

- Libraries are facing dynamic changes due to the use of the internet and of web based features
- The Public library must embrace technology to find its niche in the information age
- Becoming interactive with web design and through the maintenance of collections will help the library
- Staff must be willing to use the internet as a tool for their survival
- The library was, and continues to be a gathering place of knowledge and recreation-web based technology will only enhance the libraries features