

Not Your Dream Library – The One After That
Creating the “Library-as-Place” suffused with appropriate technologies.





NEW ERA ARRIVES FOR LIBRARIES

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THE Library of Alexandria was one of the marvels of the ancient world, until it burned in 48 B.C. It has

THE Library of Alexandria ...remembered for its import as a repository for virtually all contemporary recorded human knowledge.

It was the ancient world's Internet.

Internet.

In our culture, libraries have always been the symbolic presence of the intellectual side of human experience. Now, technology is rewriting their reality faster than architects can keep up.

For the first time since Gutenberg created movable type, there is a fundamental change in the method of documentation and information libraries collect, store and disseminate. The Internet has gone from being an elite tool to being in everyone's pocket. Just as the buggy whip industry continued to exist for decades after the internal combustion engine was introduced, libraries continue to function much as they have since the Library of Alexandria.

When a major library expansion was proposed last year in Madison, not only was the cost - more than \$17 million - an issue, but the need for more space was questioned because the physical books can be replaced by virtually invisible electronic media stored on remote servers.

Despite significant private support, the public funding of that project was voted down. Plan B has yet to be proffered, but it will no doubt be smaller, probably relying on Internet access to reduce the building's need for space.

Libraries have been extraordinary architectural achievements in America, as well as points of civic pride. The New York Public Library, built in the 19th century by Carrere and Hastings, architects, is

perhaps the finest Beaux Arts building in North America. The neo-classical Library of Congress is a 19th-century civic

one of the On the one g of or their rmation they search

museum. On the other hand, the library's externally

Libraries ... all their contents can be accessed through a smart phone in seconds.

old, to be expendable when land was needed for new residential colleges.

New Haven celebrated its commitment to access to knowledge with a tripling 20 years ago. The neo-classical library facing the Green school renovated or built during the last century. A massive construction program has had plenty of books, but each building has an increasing number of computer terminals.

But, even these recent examples of library design cannot be expected to reflect the sea change in how humans get information.

According to the American Library Association, public library use has leveled off since 2006. On college campuses, where there is 100 percent Internet access, there has been a decline in circulation since 2004.

I think nearly universal Internet access has pervasively changed culture in ways that rival the Industrial Revolution. In the late 19th century, steel, electricity and mass-produced building parts

transformed construction. Modernism only became the default setting for civic architecture in the mid-20th century.

Libraries as representations of the best hopes and dreams of human culture have to change into a recognition that all their contents can be accessed through a smart phone in seconds. As with the Industrial Revolution's inevitable impact, buildings will be transformed by non-building-based information access, with libraries at the cutting edge of that sea change.

gh to remember when an IBM Selectric was state of the art, and carbon paper typewriters. I also remember caring when the

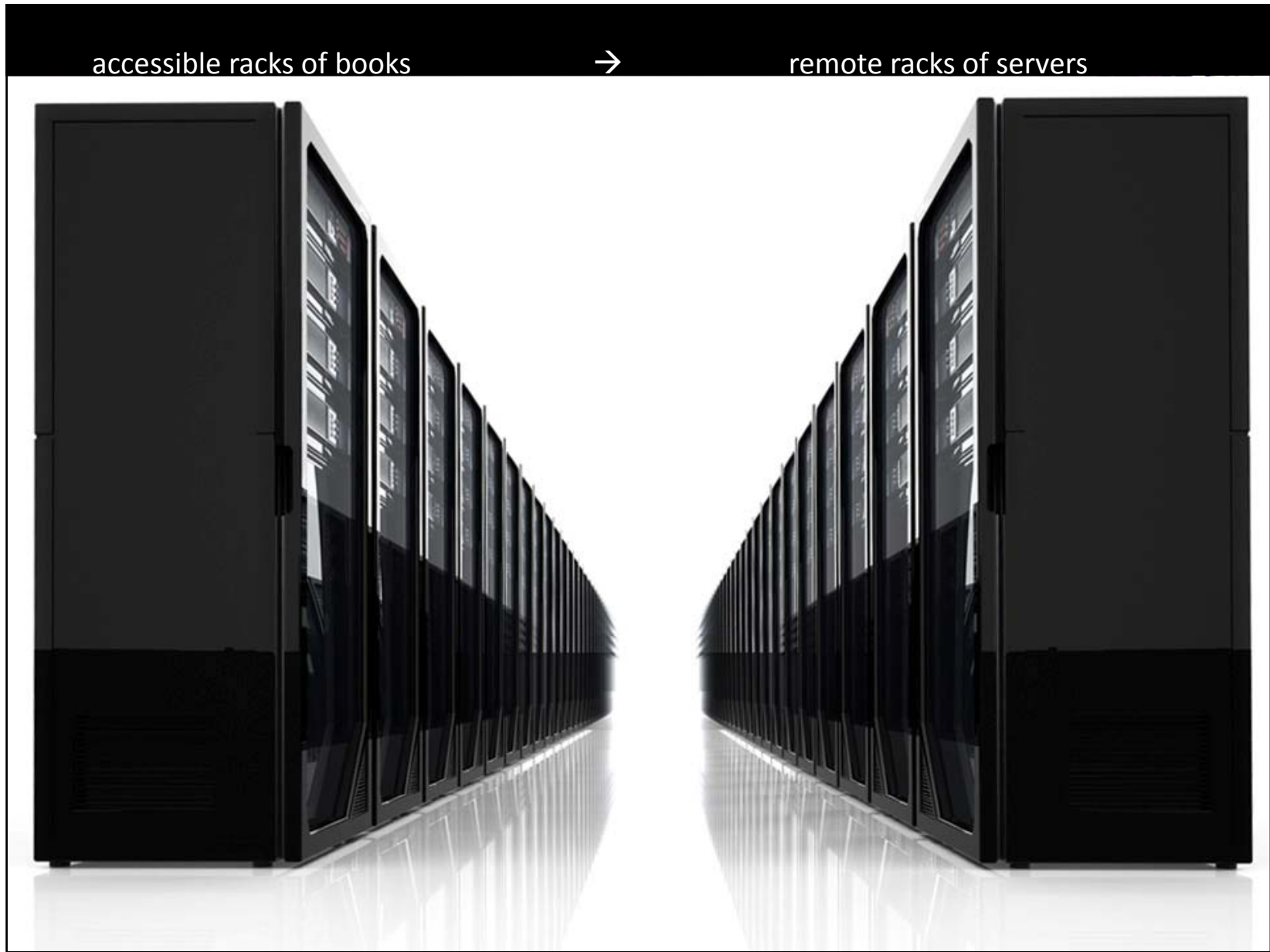
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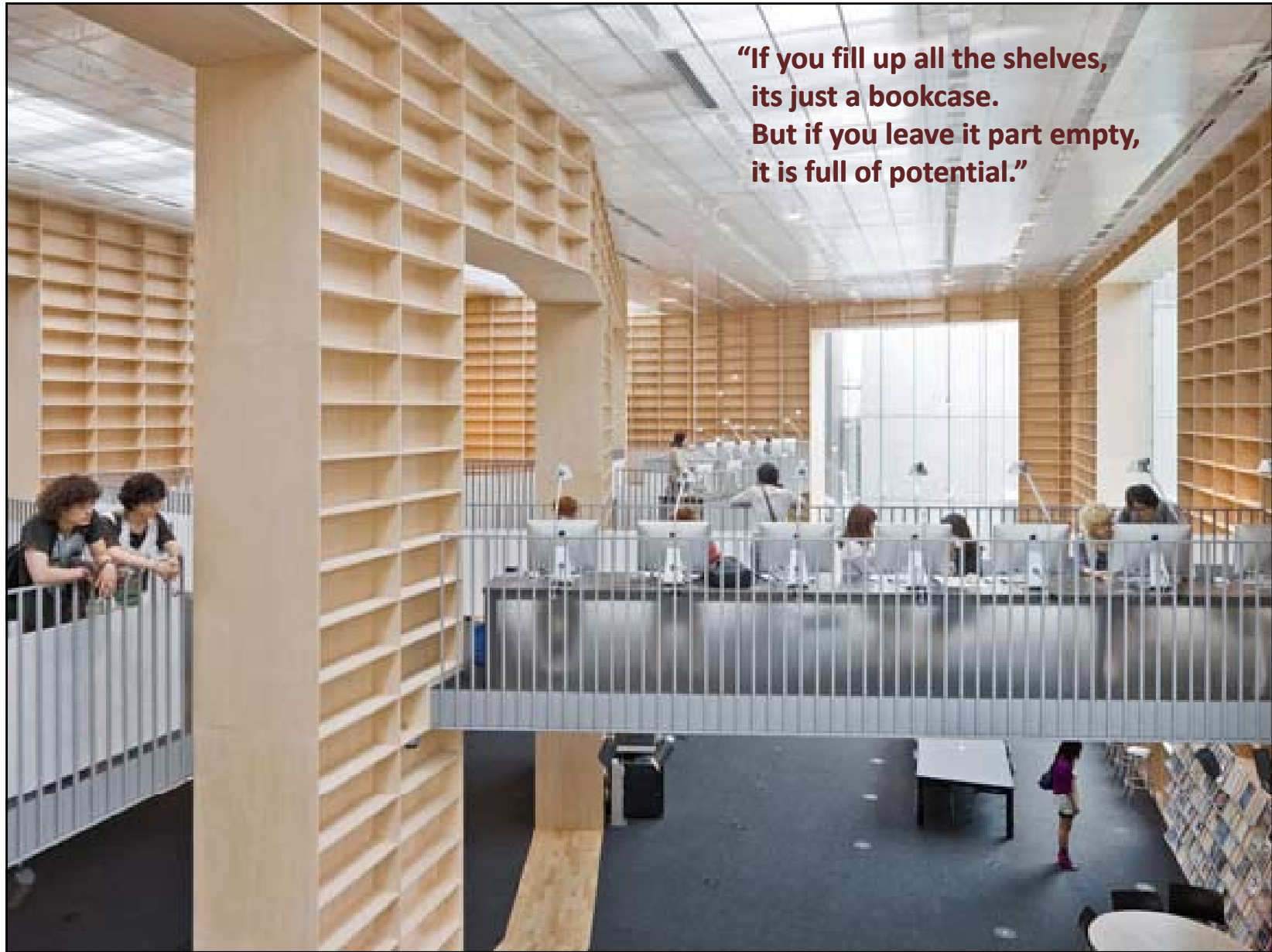
telephone access.

...fact that nearly every manuscript printed has been scanned into an instantly accessible database.

Library 2.0 has yet to be conceived, but each time anyone of us searches the Internet for anything, the inevitable and permanent change becomes closer to reality.

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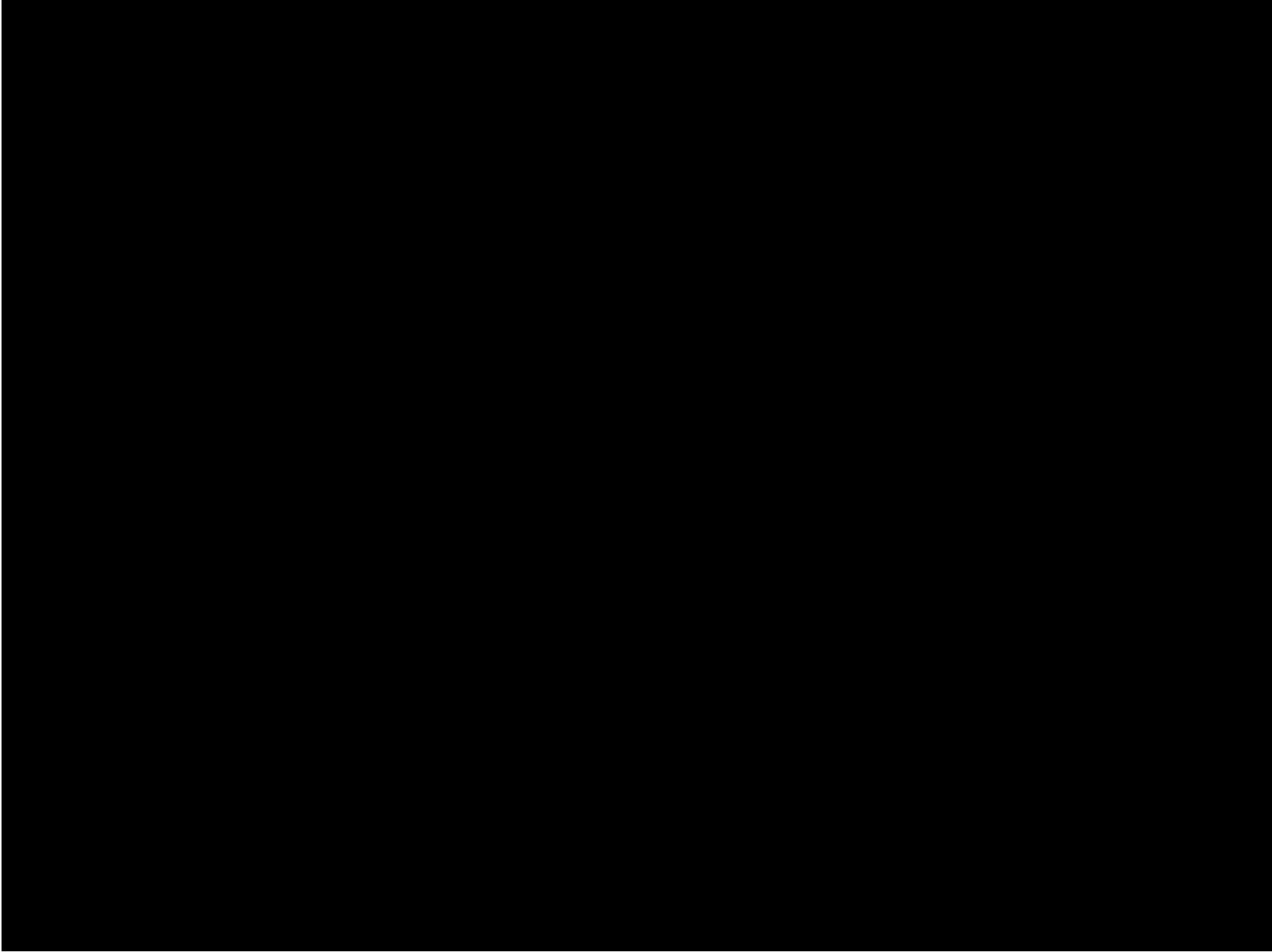
Library \neq Books
Digital Age \neq Threat to Physical Library



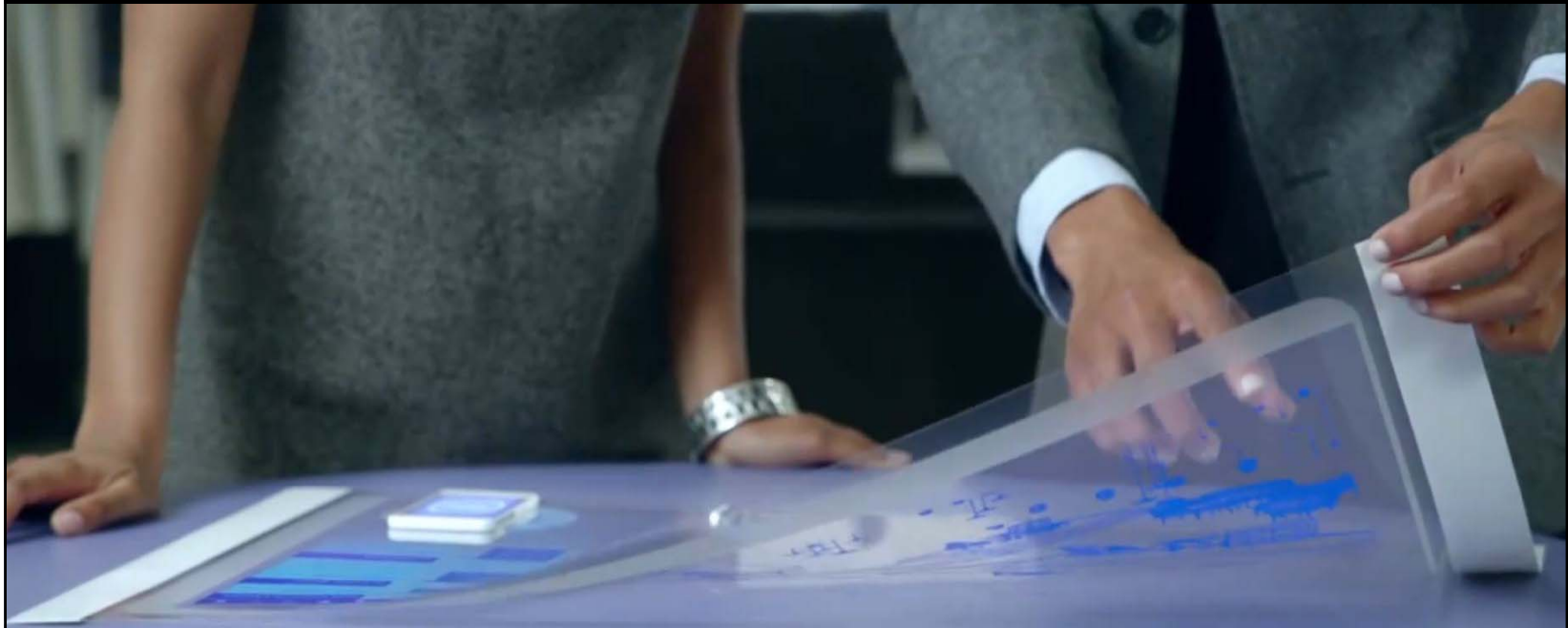








flexible future - digitally enhanced (conjecture)



Perceptive Pixel

flexible future - digitally enhanced (available)



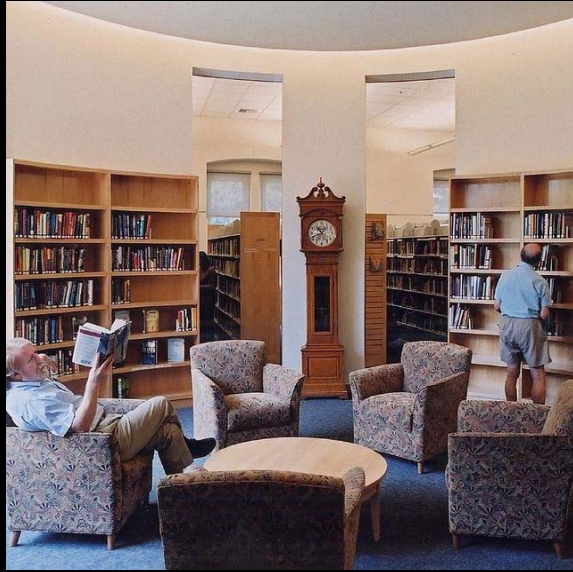
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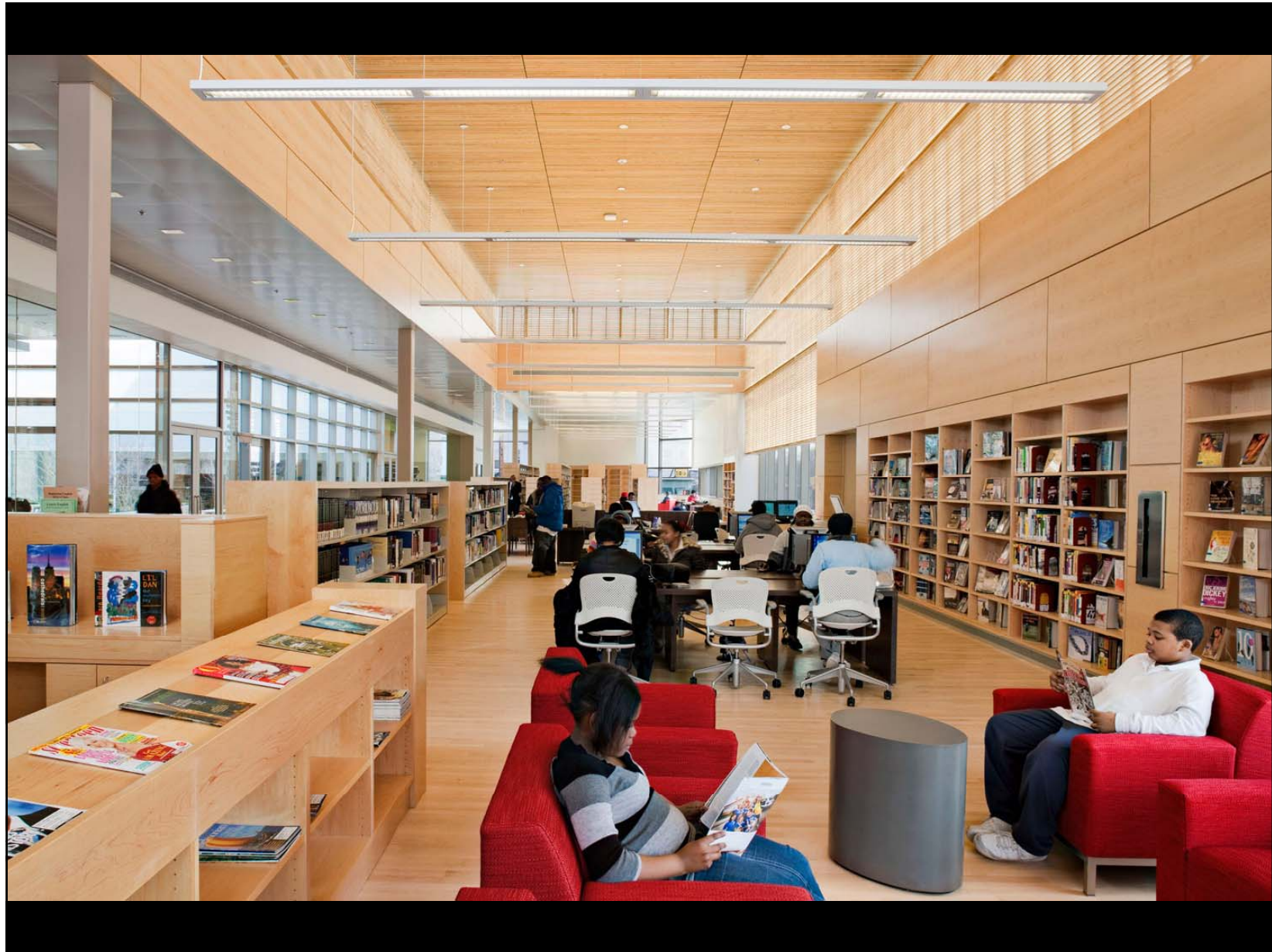


















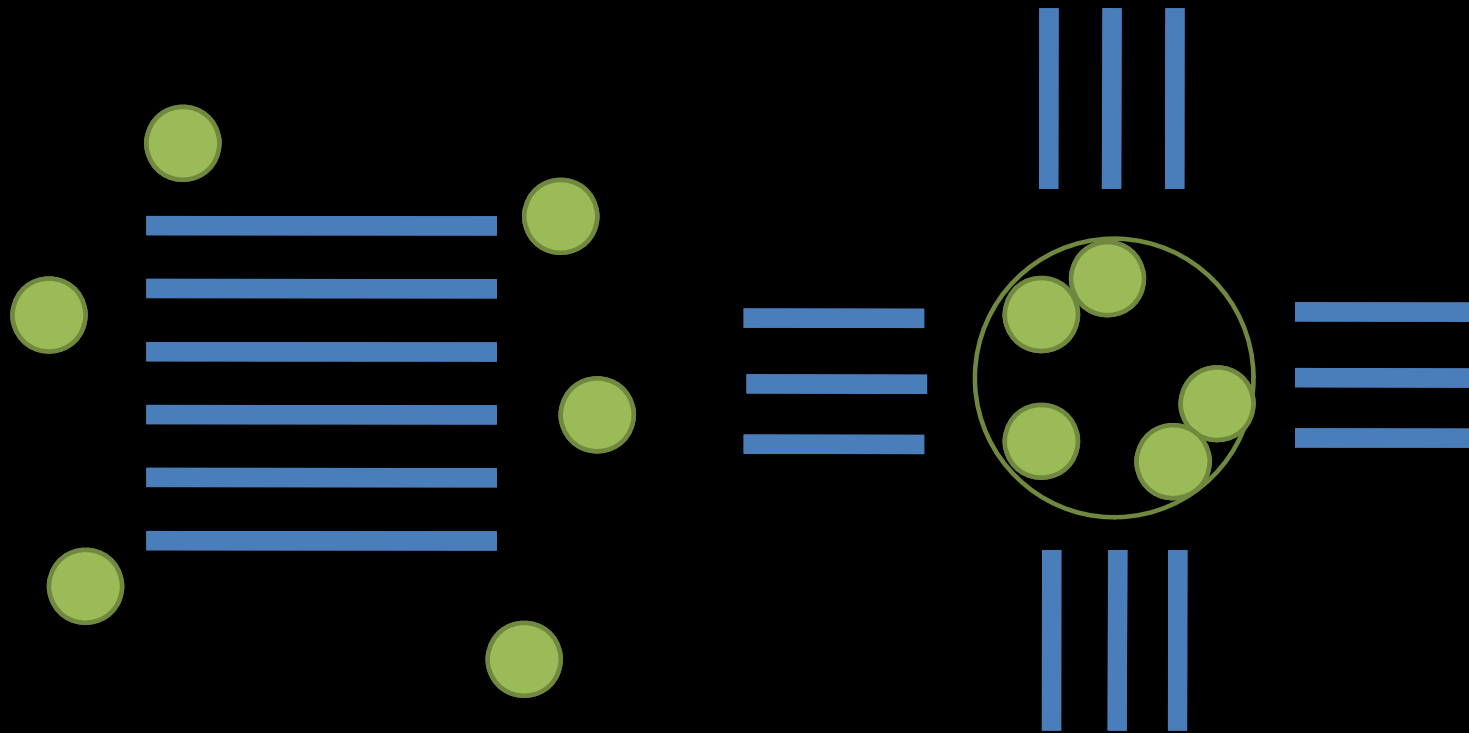
Library Ingredients:



Library Space in a Changing Paradigm



Library Space in a Changing Paradigm

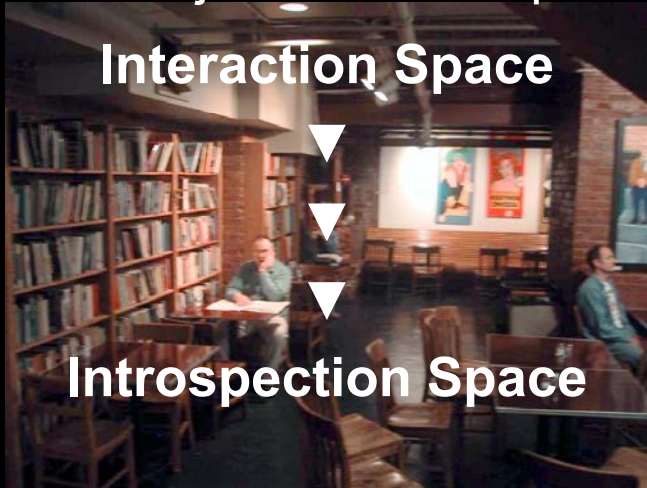


Book-Centric + People-Centric

Compelling Space?

- Not just “WOW” Space

Interaction Space

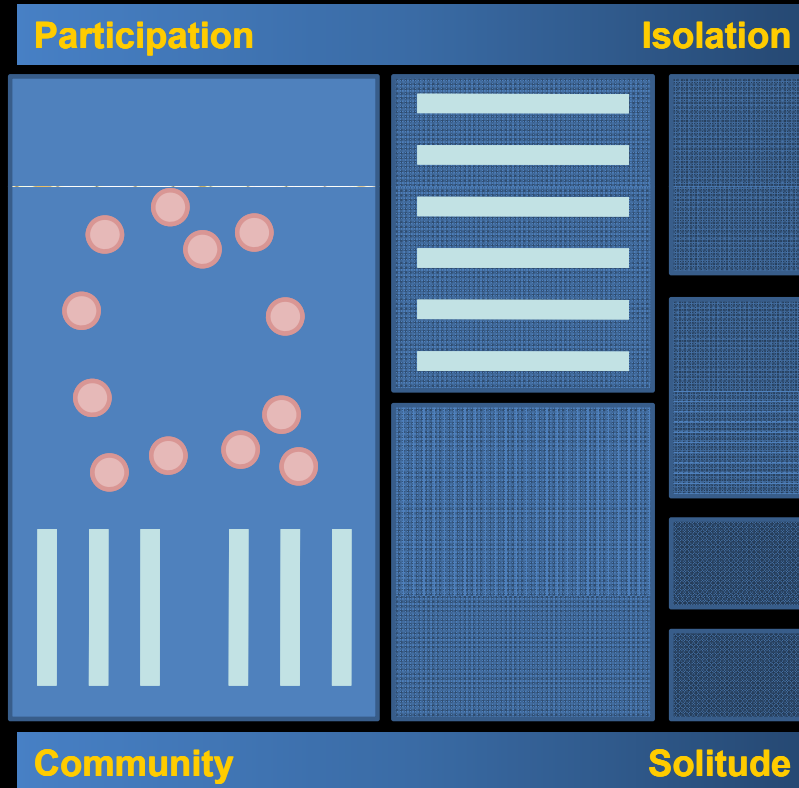


Introspection Space

Spaces supporting:
meaningful
delightful
repeatable
experiences



Spectrum of Spaces



Library ~~≠~~ Space for Books

Collaboration **Events**
Information **Production**
Interaction **Learning**
Technology **Experiences**
 Transformation

