



OPEN FOR THE FUTURE

LIBRARIANS AS PLANNERS AND PREPPERS

Christopher Harris, Ed.D.

chris@playplaylearn.com



EveryLibrary
Institute



Hi, I'm Chris

- Director of the School Library System for Genesee Valley BOCES since 2004
- Rural educational services agency outside of Rochester, NY
- 22 Districts, about 21k students K-12

chris@playplaylearn.com

@DrChrisHarris

Topics for Today



Ok, Doomer



Library Redesigned



Library Prepping



Changed Roles



2020

~~1816~~: The Year Without a Summer

—
School



KNOWN KNOWNS, KNOWN UNKNOWNNS & UNKNOWN UNKNOWNNS

Donald Rumsfeld

Planning for an Uncertain Future



KKs

- COVID-19 will still be an issue this fall
- Schools will have to find new models of student interaction

KUs

- How long will this pandemic last?
- How will budget cuts impact my school library?

UUs

- ???

***This is why
we plan now!***

COVID-19 Reading List or, How I Prepare to Plan

- "Why the Coronavirus Is So Confusing"
4/29/20, *The Atlantic*
- "The Dangerous Coronavirus Conspiracy Theories Targeting 5G Technology, Bill Gates, and a World of Fear" 4/24/20, *The New Yorker*
- "Our Pandemic Summer" 4/14/20, *The Atlantic*





Library Redesign

Everything is possible.



What do you think will be the most significant change to libraries between now and May 1, 2021? [edit](#)

There are likely to be many changes as a result of the larger global, economic, and health circumstances, and you are welcome to respond with more than one idea. But each idea should be listed separately for voting and commenting. Thank you!

Add idea

Ideas

The inability to hold traditional programming for children and families.

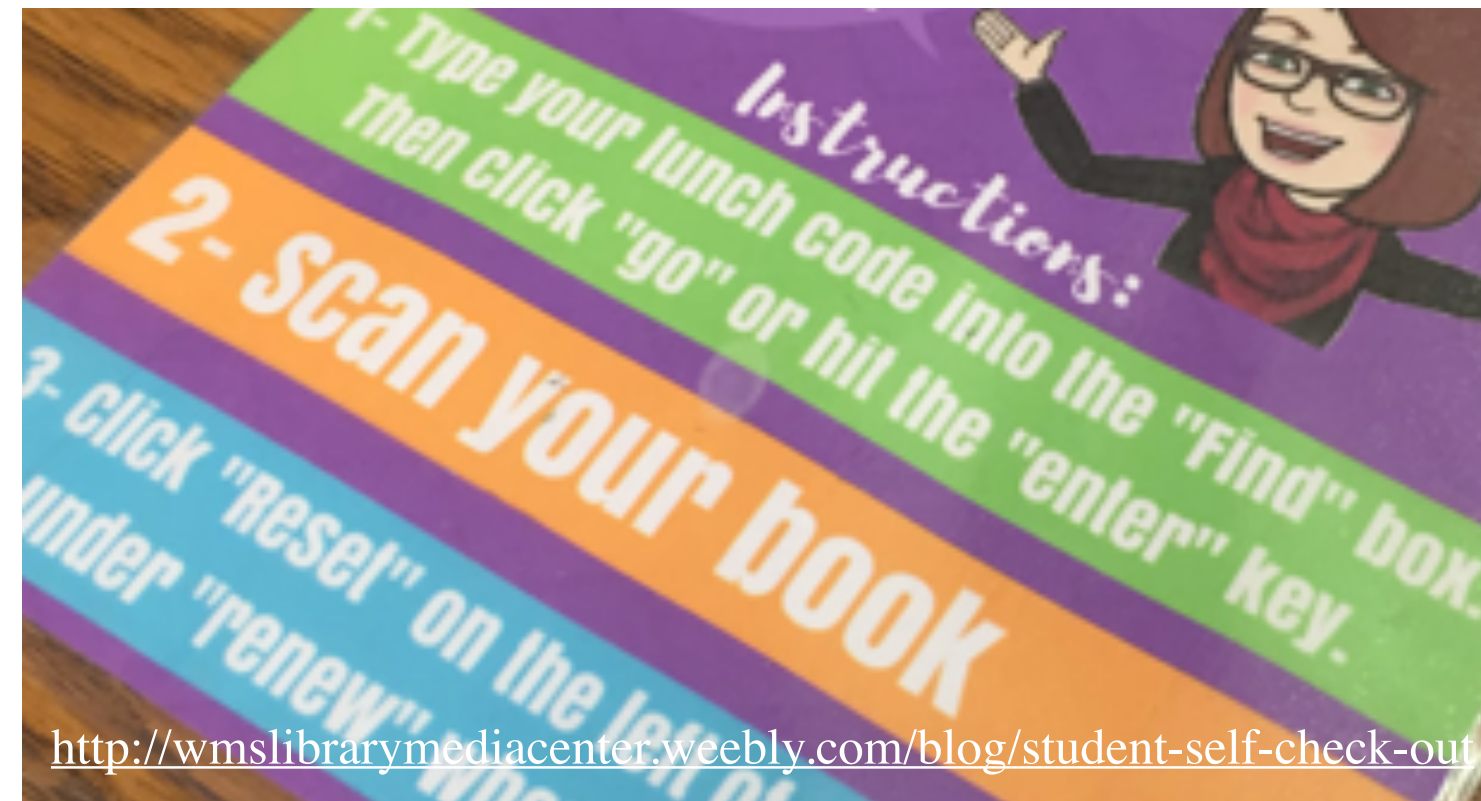
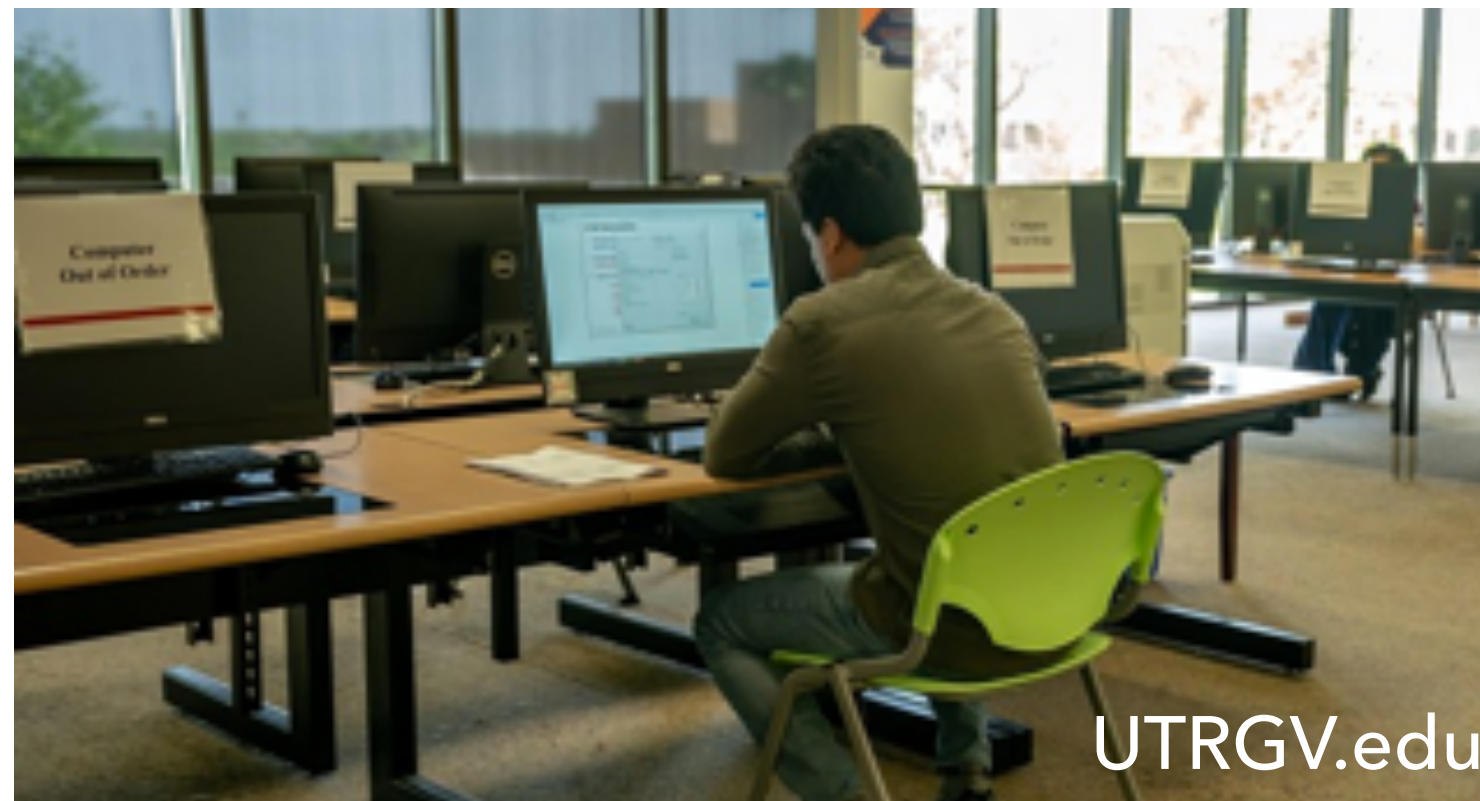
Pros and cons

+ Definitely libraries will have to promote and use self-check-out, as well as, cloudLibrary Apps. ... [more](#)

[Add comment](#)

The Conversations are Happening...

Just remember that while we can make use of common ideas, all planning is local.



Physical Space

Can we use the library space as a communal area?

Maintaining distance in seating/movement.

Service Modifications

Circulation changes:
Pick list for requests?
Book quarantine?

Touchless self checkout?

Staying Safe

Disinfecting books, computers, surfaces per district plans.

Thinking about safety and perceptions.

Operational Needs Assessment Lessons Learned from MITRE

- Beware solutions masquerading as needs.
- State needs unambiguously.
- Get all relevant views.
- One size may (or may not) fit all.
- The educated consumer is the best consumer.



TOOLS OF A SYSTEM THINKER



DISCONNECTION



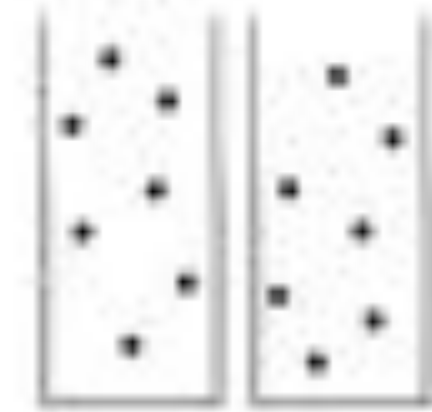
INTERCONNECTEDNESS



LINEAR



CIRCULAR



SILOS



EMERGENCE

Explore Systems Thinking

<https://bit.ly/systemstools>

UNTHINKABLES...THOUGHT

- What if we distributed library books to classrooms so books are accessible if the communal space is closed?
- What if we treated each classroom as a branch of the school library and had inter-library loan in the building?
- What if we just went ahead and called "fair use" on the things that we actually need in order to teach online?

SCHOOL LIBRARIAN PREPPING

Prepping for the future

What's in your bag?

If you had to put together a "go bag" of essentials for continuing work from home in the case of a local flare up, what would you keep in the bag? What have you been wanting these last weeks?



What I wish I had from my office...



Good Microphone



Tabletop Tripod



Family Games



???

Advocacy tools in a bag

Plan A: Be so awesome that districts could never even imagine cutting librarians

Plan B: Emergency advocacy toolkit

<https://www.saveschoollibrarians.org/>

<https://studentsneedschoollibraries.org.au/>

7 Signs Your Child Needs Help From Their School Library ¹⁷
They use digital media every day but...

- FRUSTRATED**: They get frustrated with homework and assignments
- OVERWHELMED**: They feel overwhelmed by research tasks
- BORED**: They can't find topical, age appropriate digital content
- CONFUSED**: They have trouble knowing which information to trust
- VULNERABLE**: They don't understand the privacy settings on their social media accounts and devices
- POOR LITERACY**: They rarely read for pleasure and their literacy is lagging
- POOR RESULTS**: Their grades are starting to suffer

Is your child's school library all that it can and should be?

HOW CAN I HELP?

- Ask about your child's access to a well-resourced school library and qualified library staff.
- Share on social media #StudentsNeedSchoolLibraries
- Visit the Students Need School Libraries website for more ideas and info

Students Need School Libraries
studentsneedschoollibraries.org.au



The changing roles of school librarians

How can we leverage our unique skill set to make the biggest difference in our schools and communities?

New Role: Advocate for Allowed Use of Content

A more progressive view of fair use combined with the provisions of the TEACH Act will let librarians help teachers find a way to get to yes when it comes to using content for teaching.

<https://guides.lib.utexas.edu/copyright/teachact>



New Role: Instructional Design Consultant

There is a big difference between emergency remote teaching and online learning. With most school buildings closed for the rest of the school year, we have time to plan for the fall.

<https://www.h5p.org>

H5P

20

Search h5p.org

CREATE, SHARE AND REUSE
INTERACTIVE HTML5 CONTENT
IN YOUR BROWSER

Try this ↓

Time spent: 0:11
Card turns: 4

New Role: Parent Outreach Coordinator

Parents are going to continue to struggle with helping children who are learning at home. Librarians can provide outreach, technical support, and resources for parents.



New Role: Manager of the Unknown Unknowns

New things are going to come up. Things we never anticipated. It is going to be kind of crazy for the next year or two. So buckle up and get ready to ride the unknown unknowns.



KITTEN CHASER



Follow Up: chris@playplaylearn.com

