

# What is the Purpose and Role of the Baraboo Public Library Now and into the Future?

For our October 5th meeting, we are asking you to do a fair amount of reading. Your preparation for this next meeting is key to the overall task of our committee and to set the stage for our following meetings.

Originally, we had planned to review the library's 2004 Space Needs Assessment. Although this document is still on the library website and you may gain some insight from it, we thought more recent surveys of citizen's views about libraries would be more relevant for our work.

**First**, we'd like everyone to **read the following two articles** before the October 5th meeting:

*Libraries at the Crossroads* 9/15 <http://www.pewinternet.org/2015/09/15/libraries-at-the-crossroads/>

*Libraries 2016* 9/16 <http://www.pewinternet.org/2016/09/09/libraries-2016/>

Both of these are recent survey studies, are somewhat similar, and are four sections long each. They should give you a quick picture of public perceptions of the roles and uses of libraries.

**Second**, we ask that you **choose at least three of the following six articles to read** before the October 5th meeting:

*The Public Library Manifesto*, David Morris, 5/11  
<http://www.yesmagazine.org/happiness/the-public-library-manifesto>  
good overview of public library challenges and roles

*Community Centered: 23 Reasons Why Your Library Is the Most Important Place in Town*, 4/13  
<http://publiclibrariesonline.org/2013/04/community-centered-23-reasons-why-your-library-is-the-most-important-place-in-town/>

*5 Myths About the Information Age*, Robert Danton 4/11  
<http://www.chronicle.com/article/5-Myths-About-the-Information/127105>  
historical perspective on print books and digital resources

*Uncertainty and the Future of Libraries*, Daniel Rasmus 12/13  
<http://www.infotoday.com/cilmag/dec13/Rasmus--Uncertainty-and-the-Future-of-Libraries.shtml>

*Library as Infrastructure: Reading Room, Social Service Center, Innovation Lab. How Far Can We Stretch the Public Library?* Shannon Mattern 6/14  
<https://placesjournal.org/article/library-as-infrastructure/>

*What will become of the Library? How it will Evolve as the World Goes Digital.* 4/14  
[http://www.slate.com/articles/life/design/2014/04/the\\_future\\_of\\_the\\_library\\_how\\_they\\_ll\\_evolve\\_for\\_the\\_digital\\_age.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/life/design/2014/04/the_future_of_the_library_how_they_ll_evolve_for_the_digital_age.html)

**Finally**, and if you find the above topics and issues interesting and have time and motivation, we've prepared another document with additional suggested readings OR just discover articles or videos on your own that relate to the role and future of libraries and bring those ideas to our committee discussions as well.

Hopefully, by the time of our October 5th meeting, you'll have taken the time to visit a library to put some of the above readings in context and to compare with what you learned about the Baraboo Public Library at our first meeting. Please be sure to visit several libraries no later than our October 26th meeting when we will attempt to translate library roles and their related services and materials into a future space design.