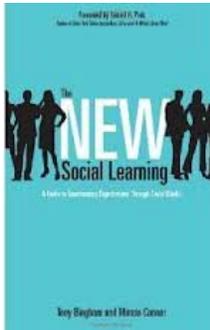




Thinkers Worth Knowing:
Social Learning, Communities, and Collaboration
 Prepared by Paul Signorelli and Maurice Coleman
 Adapted from Presentations for Library of Virginia Directors' Meeting
 September 2012

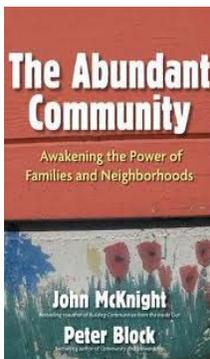


Publications



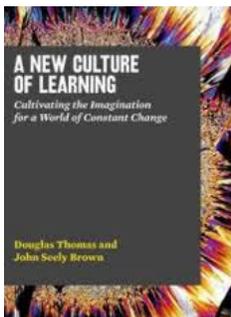
American Society for Training & Development (ASTD) President and CEO **Tony Bingham**, writing with **Marcia Conner**, has developed the quintessential “Guide to Transforming Organizations Through Social Media.” As head of the premier workplace learning and performance (staff training) organization in the country, Bingham is one of those people well worth reading, hearing, and following as he keeps us up to date on learning trends and practices.

Excerpts: http://www.amazon.com/New-Social-Learning-Transforming-Organizations/dp/1605097020/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1349413041&sr=1-1&keywords=bingham+new+social+learning#reader_1605097020



In *The Abundant Community*, written by **Peter Block** and **John McKnight**, we have an engaging book-length exploration of what the writers call “the shift from citizen to consumer”—the move away from providing things for ourselves and, instead, buying services. Block and McKnight provide plenty of ideas that can be adapted to the quest to provide learning centers within our communities.

Excerpts: http://www.amazon.com/Abundant-Community-Awakening-Families-Neighborhoods/dp/1609940814/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1349413378&sr=1-1&keywords=abundant+community#reader_B003MW0H74

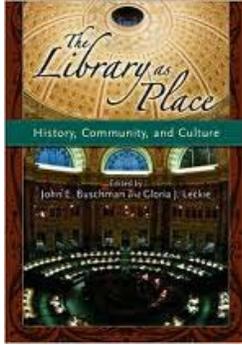


John Seely Brown, former director of the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center and an independent co-chairman at the Deloitte Center for the Edge, worked with **Douglas Thomas** to co-write a wonderful manifesto about learner-centric education. Just as Peter Block and John McKnight write about the negative shift from citizen to consumer; Brown and Thomas write of differences between communities and collectives: “A collective is very different from an ordinary community. Where communities can be passive...collectives cannot. In communities, people learn in order to belong. In a collective, people belong in order to learn. Communities derive their strength from creating a sense of belonging, while collectives derive theirs from participation.”

--*A New Culture of Learning*, p. 52

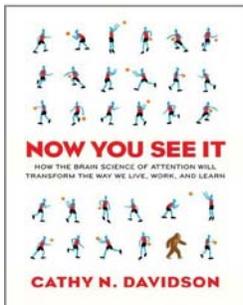
If we nurture our communities toward being collectives, we’re well on our way to creating social learning centers that produce measurable results.

Excerpts: http://www.amazon.com/New-Culture-Learning-Cultivating-Imagination/dp/1456458884/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1349413555&sr=1-1&keywords=new+culture+of+learning#reader_1456458884



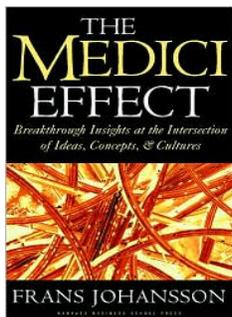
John Buschman and Gloria Leckie's anthology provides 14 essays from a variety of writers—including the editors themselves—to demonstrate how public, academic, and special libraries have served users needs in differing ways since the early 1800s. Those involved in contemporary remodeling projects and the way their efforts will serve library members and guests can draw from articles on the furnishings and the design of social libraries from 1800 – 1860; how Vancouver's Carnegie Library building changed over nearly a century of use to accommodate community needs; and how undergraduates' use of an academic library encouraged flexibility in the way the building was configured so users could “manipulate space—to move the desks in a classroom, pull many chairs up to one computer stations, or read with their feet up on library tables” so they were comfortable in and attracted to the library.

Excerpts: http://www.amazon.com/Library-Place-History-Community-Culture/dp/1591583829/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1349413696&sr=1-1&keywords=library+as+place#reader_1591583829



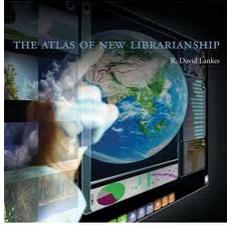
Cathy Davidson, an innovative educator long affiliated with Duke University, starts her book with a description of how the learning process often begins with an “unlearning” process, through which we have to set aside something we already knew so we can fully utilize what we are about to learn. The rest of this must-read book walks us through a series of stories inspiring us to create learning opportunities that support a 21st-century digital workplace—again, a role we're primed to play if we want to step up to the plate.

Excerpts: http://www.amazon.com/Now-You-See-Technology-Transform/dp/014312126X/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1349414254&sr=1-1&keywords=now+you+see+it#reader_014312126X



Frans Johansson writes, at the beginning of *The Medici Effect*, about a place in Horta (in the Azores islands)—Peter's café—where sailors from around the world meet and talk before parting ways and informally disseminating ideas throughout their much larger and diverse communities. If Peter's sounds a bit familiar, think for a moment about how much has been written about Library as Third Place (drawing upon the term The Third Place from Ray Oldenburg's *The Great Good Place*). This lays the groundwork for what libraries already are doing so well: meeting their overall mission statements while providing community/social meeting places and also serving as informal and formal learning centers—all of which anticipates the process that increasingly is being called “social learning.”

Excerpts: http://www.amazon.com/Medici-Effect-Elephants-Epidemics-Innovation/dp/1422102823/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1349411031&sr=8-1&keywords=johansson+medici+effect#reader_1422102823



R. David Lamkes explores the changing roles of libraries and librarianship within the communities they serve. With his emphasis on knowledge creation and facilitating conversations, he is firmly grounded in our theme of the interconnections between learning, libraries, and communities.

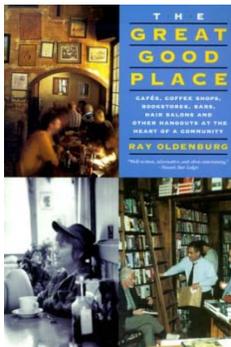
Excerpts: http://www.amazon.com/Atlas-New-Librarianship-David-Lankes/dp/0262015099/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1349414635&sr=1-1&keywords=atlas+of+new+librarianship



The **New Media Consortium** creates advisory boards of educators from around the world each year to take a look at technology that is reaching maturity in educational organizations within three separate time horizons: one year, two to three years, and four to five years. These publications are available free of charge online and provide a quick primer on what we can expect our educators and learners to be incorporating into their lives sooner than later. Technologies in the 2012 report, for example, included mobile apps and tablet computers in the one-year horizon—which is clearly the way it has been playing out—and game-based learning and learning analytics (measuring learners' progress in real time so we

can quickly respond to and adjust our offerings to foster more success in learning).

Accessible at: <http://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/hr2012.pdf>

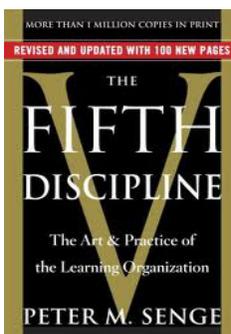


Ray Oldenburg is one of our key influences in terms of how we and a few other “T is for Training” colleagues made the leap into seeing libraries as social learning places: in essence, a new Fourth Place to build upon Oldenburg’s original First, Second, and Third places (home, work, and the gathering places that, like Johansson’s Intersection, bring us together in a social setting and produce magnificent results as a result of fostering development of community).

We think libraries are well positioned to be the Fourth Place in communities and we suspect that the first step is simply an acknowledgment of all that libraries already do to combine social and learning endeavors. These don’t have to be big and elaborate; administrators and staff just need to make the commitment to continue what they have been doing and continue developing their learning

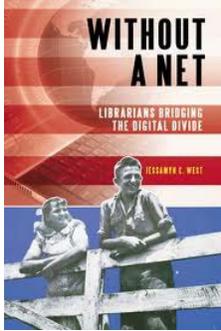
endeavors in response to library users’ changing needs.

Excerpts: http://www.amazon.com/Great-Good-Place-Bookstores-Community/dp/1569246815/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1349415577&sr=1-1&keywords=great+good+place#reader_1569246815



Peter Senge, through publication of *The Fifth Discipline*, helped define how communities of learning can be established and nurtured in organizations with a commitment to investing in their best resources—the people who work within them. What Senge says about workplace communities of learning can easily be adapted to support the sort of social learning center communities we’re proposing here.

Excerpts: http://www.amazon.com/Fifth-Discipline-Practice-Learning-Organization/dp/0385517254/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1349415758&sr=1-1&keywords=fifth+discipline#reader_0385517254



Jessamyn West looks at one of the critical issues in connecting learners with resources: the digital divide. She offers guidance on how to provide effective tech training to a variety of learners, including those affected by physical limitations.

Excerpts: http://www.amazon.com/Without-Net-Librarians-Bridging-Digital/dp/1598844539/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1349415992&sr=1-1&keywords=without+a+net+jessamyn+west#reader_1598844539

Online Resources



Buffy Hamilton, who describes herself as “a high school librarian and teacher at The Unquiet Library in Canton, Georgia, with twenty years of experience as an educator as a high school English teacher, technology integration specialist, and librarian,” had created a bona fide Library as Fourth Place long before the rest of us were talking about it. Drawing students into a state of the art school library and connecting them with education resources via Skype and other tech tools, Hamilton is another of those people we would follow anywhere to see what she’s going to do next to promote stunningly engaging educational opportunities for those she serves.

Blogs at: <http://theunquietlibrarian.wordpress.com/>



Sarah Houghton is one of those must-read/must-see people for us. Her “Librarian in Black” blog always bring a fresh approach to technology, training, and other issues of interest to anyone working in or with libraries; the presentations she does all over the world are witty, incisive, and always thought-provoking; and the honesty with which she chronicles her current position as director of the San Rafael (CA) Public Library is a refreshing approach that continues to draw plenty of positive attention.

Blogs at: <http://librarianinblack.net/librarianinblack/>





Jill Hurst-Wahl was part of the original “T is for Training” discussion that led to our advocacy for libraries as Fourth Place/Social Learning Centerse. In addition to being a terrific blogger, she is an Associate Professor of Practice and Director of the LIS Program in Syracuse University's [School of Information Studies](#) and a [member](#) of the SLA Board of Directors (2011-2013). Her interests, as she notes on her blog site, “include digitization, digital libraries, copyright, web x.0 and social media.” And it was Jill who helped hammer home the idea that social learning centers could be created relatively inexpensively. One of her most interesting contributions to the Library as Fourth Place conversation, in fact, has been to suggest that we should look for innovative ways to create these social learning centers—including the use of refurbished shipping containers that can

be placed next to existing library buildings.

Blogs at: <http://hurstassociates.blogspot.com/>



New Media Consortium CEO **Larry Johnson** is, to put it mildly, a force of nature and a key driver in the production of the Horizon Project reports. Horizon reports continue to document the growth of technology in education and museums globally, and members of the organization are beginning to broaden their attention to include technology in libraries. In a thirteen-minute address at the 10th anniversary Horizon Project retreat in Austin, Texas in January 2012, Johnson was at his peak in a stunningly beautiful and thought-provoking summary of how our means of communication and communication networks have changed over several generations.

Video accessible at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3aVwQDBUIM>



TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) talks are obvious sources of inspiration and provide tremendous educational value. One of the most popular TED talks on the web is Kenneth Robinson’s funny, poignant, and memorable response to the question, “Do Schools Kill Creativity?”

Video accessible at:

http://www.ted.com/talks/ken_robinson_says_schools_kill_creativity.html

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