**Año 3 Número 93 noviembre 2018**



**Contenidos de este número**

1. **Ebooks: MIT Press Partners with Silverchair to Launch MIT Press Direct eBook Platform**

Filed by [Gary Price](https://www.infodocket.com/author/gprice/) on October 15, 2018

From [Silverchair:](https://www.silverchair.com/news/mit-press-partners-silverchair/)

Silverchair announced today a partnership with the [MIT Press](https://www.silverchair.com/news/mit-press-partners-silverchair/) to develop and host a new eBooks platform, *MIT Press Direct*.

[Clip]

*MIT Press Direct* will launch with more than 2,500 titles in 2018, offering a broad range of books from its distinguished front- and backlist, including significant works in economics, business innovation, machine learning and AI, environment, evolution, and energy. Using Silverchair’s suite of self-serve publishing tools, the MIT Press plans to introduce new subject collections, including science/technology/society, information sciences, digital humanities, and education in 2019.

[Clip]

Once launched, MIT Press Direct will offer institutional subscribers DRM-free books with chapter-level access for unlimited simultaneous users, MARC and KBART records for easy data ingestion, and standardized usage reports.

[Clip]

“Partnering with Silverchair will make it possible for the MIT Press to launch an elegant, responsive, full-feature ebook site that advances the fields to which the Press has contributed over the last 50 years,” said Terry Ehling, director of strategic initiatives at the MIT Press. “Delivering our high-value scholarly ebook content to a global community of scholars is a priority for us, and we look forward to utilizing Silverchair’s technology to help us advance research and education worldwide.”

MIT Press Direct will be available to institutional subscribers in 2019.

Read the [Complete Announcement](https://www.silverchair.com/news/mit-press-partners-silverchair/)

<https://www.infodocket.com/2018/10/15/ebooks-mit-press-partners-with-silverchair-to-launch-mit-press-direct-ebook-platform/>

1. **Internet Archive Expands Access to Millions of Books For People With Disabilities**

Filed by [Gary Price](https://www.infodocket.com/author/gprice/)

For many, the [Internet Archive](http://archive.org/) IS the [Wayback Machine](http://web.archive.org/) (one of the most important Internet resources) and perhaps the [TV News Archive](https://archive.org/details/tv) or the wonderful [Archive-It service.](https://archive-it.org/) However, it’s so much more. With so many wonderful services it’s easy to forget all that they offer users.

Today, news about one of their most important services expanding. Kudos IA!

From an [Internet Archive Blog Post:](https://blog.archive.org/2018/10/11/internet-archive-expands-access-to-millions-of-books-for-people-with-disabilities/)



Now, disabled users that are certified by a growing number of organizations can [borrow hundreds of thousands of modern books](https://archive.org/details/printdisabled) and download [mostly older books](https://archive.org/details/texts?and%5B%5D=NOT+collection%3Ainlibrary&sin=) all for free.

Individuals that are already a qualified user of  [NLS-BARD](https://www.loc.gov/nls/braille-audio-reading-materials/bard-access/), [Bookshare](https://www.bookshare.org/cms/bookshare-me" \t "_blank), or Ontario Council of University Libraries [Scholar’s Portal (ACE)](https://learn.scholarsportal.info/all-guides/aceportal/)  can [link their archive.org accounts and gain access](https://archive.org/services/universal-access/verify/).

[Individuals that are are affiliated with any of these organizations](https://archive.org/details/print_disability_access) can contact them to authorize their [archive.org](http://archive.org/) account for print-disabled access.

Individuals can also request verification for free by filling in [this form to contact the Vermont Mutual Aid Society](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScSBbT17HSQywTm-fQawOK7G4dN-QPbDWNstdfvysoKTXCjKA/viewform).

We welcome other organizations, such as libraries, schools, hospitals, and dedicated service organizations [to join in this free program](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfClhUkTvF5z29hhxoi5UgaB1_50lr8F7HV5Cq0ABdztX9CkA/viewform) to certify users for access and also get full access to digital books for further remediation.

If you have questions or suggestions about [this program](https://archive.org/details/printdisabled&tab=about), please [contact the Internet Archive](mailto:info@archive.org). We are excited to be able to offer these services to the print-disabled community.

**on a Related Note…**

[Roundup: Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act Signed Into Law (October 10, 2018)](https://www.infodocket.com/2018/10/10/roundup-marrakesh-treaty-implementation-act-signed-into-law/)

**A Few (of Many) IA Announcements From 2018**

[World’s Largest Collection of Tibetan Buddhist Literature Now Available on the Internet Archive](https://blog.archive.org/2018/10/04/worlds-largest-collection-of-tibetan-buddhist-literature/)

[Internet Archive Announces Availability of Afghan Media Resource Center (AMRC)/Images of Afghanistan 1987-1994 Collection](https://www.infodocket.com/2018/09/26/internet-archive-announces-availability-of-afghan-media-resource-center-amrcimages-of-afghanistan-1987-1994-collection/)

[Full Text Search: The Open Library Now Allows Users to “Search Inside” More than 4 Million Books](https://www.infodocket.com/2018/07/14/full-text-search-the-open-library-an-internet-archive-project-now-allows-users-to-search-inside-more-than-4-million-books/)

https://www.infodocket.com/2018/10/11/internet-archive-expands-access-to-millions-of-books-for-people-with-disabilities/

1. New Data: SPARC Documents and Reports Over $1 Billion in Savings Through Use of Open Education Resources (OER) Around the World

Filed by [Gary Price](https://www.infodocket.com/author/gprice/) on October 12, 2018

From a [SPARC Blog PostNicole Allen:](https://sparcopen.org/news/2018/1-billion-in-savings-through-open-educational-resources/)

2018-10-12_10-25-39Five years ago at the 2013 Open Education Conference, we issued a challenge to the OER community to save students $1 billion by 2018.

Over the past three months, SPARC and our member libraries have worked to [document OER adoptions](http://sparcopen.org/save-1-billion/) over time. More than 100 organizations and individuals contributed to this effort, resulting in information on OER use at more than 4000 institutions, primarily in the U.S. and Canada but also all around the world.

Today we are thrilled to share that the data show that the OER movement has saved students, parents, schools and governments at least $1 billion dollars. While we continue to process the data and numbers will eventually be higher, we have documented at least the following savings:

* U.S. & Canada Higher Ed: $921,783,169
* U.S. & Canada K-12: $45,051,066
* International: $38,500,000
* Total: $1,005,334,235

Learn [More, Read the Complete Blog Post by Nicole Allen](https://sparcopen.org/news/2018/1-billion-in-savings-through-open-educational-resources/)

See Also: [Students Save $1 Billion Web Page](https://sparcopen.org/save-1-billion/)

**A Few Recent OER-Related Items**

* [New Research Resources: SUNY Geneseo’s Milne Library Announces Official Launch of OASIS, an OER Search Too](https://www.infodocket.com/2018/09/05/new-research-resources-suny-geneseos-milne-library-announces-official-launch-of-oasis-an-oer-search-tool-155000-records-from-52-sources/)  
  *Over 160,000 resources.*
* [OER/Open Textbooks: LibreTexts Awarded $5 Million Federal OER Pilot Program Grant](https://www.infodocket.com/2018/10/02/oeropen-textbooks-libretexts-awarded-5-million-federal-oer-grant/)
* [U.S. Congress Renews $5 Million Open Textbook Pilot For Second Year](https://www.infodocket.com/2018/09/26/u-s-congress-renews-5-million-open-textbook-pilot-for-second-year/)

https://www.infodocket.com/2018/10/12/new-data-sparc-reports-over-1-billion-in-savings-via-oer/

1. Express eBooks Program Proves Popular for Ottawa

by [Matt Enis](https://www.libraryjournal.com/?authorName=Matt%20Enis)

Ottawa Public Library (OPL), ON, Canada, last month was selected as a Top 10 Innovator by the Urban Libraries Council (ULC) for its new [Express eBooks](https://www.urbanlibraries.org/innovations/offering-express-ebooks)program. Aimed at making current bestsellers and other high-demand titles available to more patrons via smartphones, tablets, and e-readers, Express eBooks mirrors the library’s Express Collection for print books and other physical media, originally launched in 2005.

Similar to the “lucky day” collections at many libraries, the print Express Collections feature frontlist titles that can’t be placed on hold, and have checkout periods limited to seven days to increase circulation. The name “Express Collection” was chosen at OPL partly because it reads the same in French and English, simplifying compliance with language requirements in Canada’s capital.

The library had wanted to extend the concept to ebooks for many years, according to OPL Content Services Manager Ann Archer, who recalls internal discussions beginning as long ago as 2010. But creating a separate, rotating collection of titles with specialized lending terms within the library’s larger OverDrive collection turned out not to be feasible.

In 2015, OPL began an evaluation of competing ebook vendors, and “We decided to pose the question—because we still wanted it—could someone else do an Express ebook platform?” Archer said. Library officials eventually selected bibliotheca’s cloudLibrary, based on its ease of use.

“I think, in the spirit of competition, they stepped up to the plate,” Archer said. biblotheca customized its platform for OPL with no holds or renewals allowed on ebooks, checkout limits of two ebooks at a time per patron, and loan periods limited to seven days. “It took us a year to work with them” to get the customization just right, Archer said. “No holds, no holds button [in the user interface], short loan period, and make [these features] as clear to the public as possible.”

Launched in 2017, the cloudLibrary Express eBooks platform operates alongside OPL’s OverDrive collection, which continues to offer ebooks, audiobooks, and other e-content with OPL’s standard loan terms—generally three weeks. Although patrons who wish to borrow content from both collections must download and access separate apps, Archer said that this hasn’t resulted in any confusion.

Prior to launch, “we gave staff enough time to practice, themselves [with the cloudLibrary app], so that they could help people…. But, we have had just about zero tech complaints,” Archer said. Downloads have grown steadily since launch, with many patrons learning about the platform from word of mouth or librarian referrals.

Curation involves a mix of anticipated demand, holds lists, and other factors, primarily resulting in a collection of new bestsellers and backlist titles that have adaptations premiering in movies or TV shows.

“Some books you know, out of the gate, that they’re going to be really high demand,” Archer said. “So, you can easily gamble on a James Patterson, for instance, and get a copy or two in Express [eBooks] immediately. You’d be getting that in all formats—ebooks, print, audio, etc. Other titles we wait to see how it’s doing on our other platform that has holds. If it meets that 50 request [threshold], or we’re really seeing momentum building, we’ll get a copy, or two or three, judging the need and demand. It’s books that have real immediacy to them.”

For example, she cited Michael Wolff’s political bestseller *Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House*, published in January. “When it came out, it was sudden,” Archer said. “It was suddenly published, it was made available faster than expected, it was in the news, and people wanted to get their hands on it,” making the title an ideal candidate for Express eBooks.

Although Express eBooks has now been available to OPL’s patrons for more than a year, Archer said the project is still in the pilot phase. Given the variety of different licensing terms that publishers offer libraries for ebooks, OPL is still considering how titles from different publishers will be managed when checkouts slow. Metered licenses such as HarperCollins’s 26-loan model present a relatively straightforward scenario, enabling checkouts to be maximized in as little as half a year. Titles with two-year or perpetual licenses may need to be weeded or possibly migrated prior to expiration when demand begins to wane.

“At this point, it’s still early days for us,” Archer said. “There are still some perpetual licenses that remain and we will do what we can to promote, and at some point develop weeding guidelines. But right now, it has not become imperative to do that.”

While OPL is still working on these details, Archer said that it’s clear that “the return on investment is much improved” on the library’s ebooks, offering a new way to meet high, temporary demand rather than simply buy extra copies for three-week circulation. “We’re not stuck dealing with the holds manager…. If we see that pressure point growing on a particular book, rather than continuing to [add] more copies there, we’ll pick it up and promote it through Express eBooks. It takes our budget so much further.”

Other programs recognized with ULC’s 2018 Top Innovator awards included the Los Angeles Public Library’s [New Americans Initiative](https://www.urbanlibraries.org/innovations/new-americans-initiative); the San Francisco Public Library’s [Free Orton-Gillingham (FOG) Readers](https://www.urbanlibraries.org/innovations/fog-readers-helping-struggling-readers-succeed) program; The Austin, TX, Public Library’s [Social Media Ambassadors](https://www.urbanlibraries.org/innovations/austin-public-library-social-media-ambassadors)program; The San Mateo County, CA, Libraries’ [Building Engagement to Accelerate Employee Performance](https://www.urbanlibraries.org/innovations/building-engagement-to-accelerate-employee-perform) initiative; the Spokane, WA, Public Library’s [Lilac City Live](https://www.urbanlibraries.org/innovations/lilac-city-live) local variety talk show; Pima County, AZ, Public Library’s [Library Restorative Practices for Youth](https://www.urbanlibraries.org/innovations/library-restorative-practices-for-youth) social and racial equality initiative; Broward County, FL, Library’s [BCLFit Wellness Centers](https://www.urbanlibraries.org/innovations/bclfit-wellness-centers" \t "_blank); Brooklyn, NY, Public Library’s [Teacher Lab: Library Literacy and Classroom Teacher](https://www.urbanlibraries.org/innovations/teacher-lab-library-literacy-an-classroom-teacher) program; and Hartford, CT, Public Library’s [Immigrant Career Pathways Initiative](https://www.urbanlibraries.org/innovations/immigrant-career-pathways-initiative).



Matt Enis

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1. **Eric Klinenberg: Libraries and Social Infrastructure**

by [Lisa Peet](https://www.libraryjournal.com/?authorName=Lisa%20Peet) 

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| https://www.libraryjournal.com/binaries/content/gallery/Jlibrary/57574.jpg |
| **Eric Klinenberg**  Photo by Lisa DeNeffe |

Sociologist Eric Klinenberg’s newest book, *Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life* (Crown), suggests that the key to a more equitable society may lie in our shared spaces. Libraries—Andrew Carnegie’s “palaces for the people”—are chief among the building blocks of what Klinenberg terms “social infrastructure”: places where people gather, bonds form, and communities are strengthened. Recent articles in the *New York Times* (“[To Restore Civil Society, Start With the Library](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/08/opinion/sunday/civil-society-library.html)”) and the *Atlantic* (“[Worry Less About Crumbling Roads, More About Crumbling Libraries](https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2018/09/worry-less-about-crumbling-roads-more-about-crumbling-libraries/570721/)”), and an excerpt from the book accompanied by a photo essay in *Slate* (“[The Secret Life of Libraries](https://slate.com/human-interest/2018/09/seward-park-library-photos-eric-klinenberg-social-infrastructure.html)”), have contributed to the conversation as well.

Klinenberg, professor of sociology and director of the Institute for Public Knowledge at New York University, is the author of *Going Solo: The Extraordinary Rise and Surprising Appeal of Living Alone* (Penguin Pr.), *Fighting for Air: The Battle to Control America’s Media* (Metropolitan Books), and *Heat Wave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago* (University of Chicago Press), as well as editor of *Cultural Production in a Digital Age* and the journal *Public Culture*. *LJ* caught up with him to find out more about his research on libraries.

***LJ*: How did your current focus on social infrastructure, and libraries in particular, evolve from your past work?**

Eric Klinenberg: I’ve had a general interest in what I call the social infrastructure for years, since Heat Wave. After Hurricane Sandy, I was asked by the Obama administration to be the research director for this competition called [Rebuild By Design](http://www.rebuildbydesign.org/) that aimed to generate innovative infrastructure projects in the region affected. My job was to take these design teams, engineers and architects, and to show them and help them understand or identify the different needs and vulnerabilities and possibilities, because a lot of the teams were international and didn’t know the region especially well.

One of the design teams came up to me and said, “We’ve been listening to you talk about social infrastructure and resilience, and we’ve decided that we want to build... what we call a resilience center, and it’s going to be this new building type—it’s going to do all these amazing things…. It’s going to be a place that you have in your neighborhood, and the doors are going to be open as much as possible. It’s going to be open and available to help people during crises, but it’s going to be a place that people know well, because they’re comfortable there all the time. And it’s going to have programs for very young people, for parents, for middle-aged people, for older people. It’s going to be especially welcoming, regardless of your citizenship status. It’s going to have really good infrastructure for the Internet and communications and technology.”

They kept on describing this place, and as I listened it occurred to me that they were essentially describing libraries. And I said, “You know, this is a great idea, this resilience center, but why don’t we go look at some libraries first?”

So we did, and…I realized that libraries were doing things that not everyone understood, that I certainly didn’t understand fully, until I rediscovered them.

Around that time Michael Kimmelman, the architecture critic for the *New York Times*, wrote an article about this idea of mine that the library could be a really vital part of dealing with neighborhood cohesion and even climate adaptation.

Then I got a visit from Julie Sandorf, president of the Charles Revson Foundation. She knew my work on *Heat Wave* and other projects. [Revson had] been collecting all of these entries for the New York City branch library competition, and said, “I have all this data, and we’d really like a social scientist to sort through them.” I did look at the data, and then I started spending more time at one particular library on the Lower East Side, not too far from where I live, called Seward Park, and I got so taken with the idea that the library needed to be understood more deeply that I decided that I would spend every day for the next year in the libraries of New York. I didn’t do the data analysis that the Revson Foundation wanted, but I proposed to them that I would do a really deep study of the library and social infrastructure, and they went for it.

I was going to write a book that was just about this one particular library. Then it occurred to me that…the library is a part of the social infrastructure—it’s not the whole thing. And it would really be useful to…explain it for readers who don’t know that concept, and to show how investing in social infrastructure like libraries can help us address a whole range of problems that we’re struggling to solve.

**How did the title come about?**

Originally I was going to call it *The Social Infrastructure*, but nobody seemed to think that that was a very good idea. It seemed too wonky. Then I had this conversation with a librarian I got to know very well in Seward Park named Andrew Fairweather.

Andrew was explaining to me that he loved the idea from Andrew Carnegie that libraries should be palaces for the people; places where people would go and make their lives a little more exalted for as long as they could be there. I just love that phrase. It’s gorgeous and evocative, and I thought not only is that what a library should be, but it’s what all of our best social infrastructure should be.

**What reaction has the book been getting?**

It started with the op-ed that I did for the *New York Times*…. I was totally floored by the response. Hundreds of people wrote comments. Ordinarily when you’re an author, you never look at the comments, because they are full of hatred and invective. But the comments for the most part were people telling their own library stories.

Then I started getting emails from people who…wanted to share their library stories with me. I started getting invited to speak at libraries in cities throughout the country. There’s been lots of activity on Twitter of people telling their own stories. It feels to me like the library enthusiasts of the world have united, and everyone is making a more public case that we should view libraries not as luxuries, but as essential features of our social infrastructure. They are fundamental to our well-being.

**Do you feel that people’s thinking about libraries is evolving in that direction?**

I certainly hope so. I wrote the book because I want people to understand just how valuable and important social infrastructure is. I think that we fail to appreciate its significance, in part, because we don’t really have a concept for it.

Infrastructure isn’t just building a sea wall or a bridge. It’s also building the places that shape our interactions and that make our society work. I think all of us understand these days, regardless of our political preference, that our infrastructure is broken. And frankly, society is broken. We are as polarized as we’ve been since the Civil War.

People love their libraries regardless of their political preference. You go into red states and blue states and rural areas and urban areas, and people feel like libraries are special places. There’s a section of the book on education where I share stories from people who had really vivid memories of the way that the library shaped their development. Almost any time I talk to a group, people tell a library story that brings the significance of the institution to life.

**What don’t people realize about libraries that you wish they did?**

I think a lot of people understand what the contemporary library does…but I think there’s a world of very influential people—affluent people, heads of major philanthropies and political power brokers—who don’t use the library in the way that typical Americans do and who believe that the library is an obsolete institution…. I don’t think that reflects popular opinion.

I also don’t think people realize how woefully underfunded [libraries] are; how much investment they need to live up to the challenges that they face today. We ask libraries to do all of these things, but we treat them like luxuries in the policy world and only fund them when there’s extra money lying around, for the most part. So the bathrooms are broken, and not all libraries are accessible for people with disabilities. And, tragically, they’re not open the number of hours they need to be open.

One of the grand ambitions of this book is to establish the concept of social infrastructure so we can see it as a class of public goods that needs our support. If we don’t demand that our elected representatives support the library, then [libraries] live or die at the whims of the local political officials who are trying to balance tight budgets or philanthropists who may or may not decide a library is worth investing in.

**Do you consider the library a “third space,” such as Robert Putnam defined in *Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital*?**

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| https://www.libraryjournal.com/binaries/content/gallery/Jlibrary/57598.jpg |
| **Library Lanes program at Brooklyn Public Library's New Lots Library**  Photo by Eric Klinenberg |

A little bit. But the third spaces that [Putnam] writes about are typically commercial places. The significance of places like libraries became even more clear this past year when we watched two African-American men get arrested for waiting too long to order in a Starbucks, because it made it clear that some of our most popular third spaces are actually not open and accessible to everyone, and in fact, can exclude, because there’s a price tag. It’s an extraordinary book, it really shaped a conversation about the state of civil society for a generation, and it’s a touchpoint for me. But I think there’s something else going on. We’re not just bowling alone anymore.

So you can only imagine how delighted I was to learn about the Library Lanes program in the Brooklyn Public Library where once a week groups of older library patrons assemble in common rooms, put on bowling league jerseys, and hook up an Xbox and do virtual bowling matches, one library team against another.

Sociologists have this term called “[collective effervescence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collective_effervescence),” which refers to the spirited joy that you find when a group comes together and does something special. I saw this group of people who had every reason to be home and alone and isolated or lonely, cut off from one another, because they lived in a really tough neighborhood in New York City where street level conditions can be pretty intimidating. But because they lived near a branch library that had this program, instead of being home and alone, they were together bowling and having an amazing time. There were these wonderful moments of laughter and joy. It’s hard to calculate the value of an experience like that in the cost-benefit calculations that drive so much of our social policy today, but being there and watching that moment unfold, it felt priceless.

<https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=181003-Eric-Klinenberg-QA>

1. Remote Information Literacy | Field Reports

by [Derek Malone](https://www.libraryjournal.com/?authorName=Derek%20Malone)

At the University of North Alabama, we are quite proud of the first-year library instruction sequence that was built through years of hard work, testing various ideas and components, and constant reflection and assessment. We provide three unique experiences in our first-year program: a library orientation, a critical thinking within information session, and two information literacy sessions.

Historically, the sessions are conducted physically in the library classroom. Dissimilarly, a large increase in online course offerings has occurred, and for the foreseeable future, growth will continue. Thus, librarians were presented with the opportunity to fill the gap and simultaneously evolve.

At our university, we use Canvas as our learning management system (LMS). Additionally, we use LibGuides for both course-specific and noncourse-specific assistance. We felt that there was an opportunity to leverage the use of Canvas and LibGuides to create opportunities for equivalent instruction to online learners.

The critical thinking and information literacy sessions were the most natural starting points for a supplement from solely traditional instruction (in-person) to instruction that accommodates online learners.

The critical thinking and information literacy sessions have two primary components:

1. Lecture with interactivity (games and worked-through examples)
2. Hands-on group activities

For our online critical thinking sessions, we have created lecture modules in LibGuides and Canvas in which we use screen recordings (typically via Screencast-o-matic) to cover the material that is introduced through lectures in the physical sessions.

**PICK YOUR PLATFORM**

With LibGuides, we are able to localize content for an abundance of sections with the same course number. Based on faculty preference, a LibGuide with video content can be used with multiple courses with a common need of video content, or activities available for download, without the need for built-in assessment.

In Canvas, we are able to embed interactive questions throughout the video via Kaltura for assessment. Grades can be assigned, or we can stipulate that the correct answer be the response before progressing. The questions can be inserted throughout the lecture videos to break up monotony. The content can be shared via the Canvas Commons and inserted into courses that choose to use it.

In addition to embedded video lectures within Canvas modules, we have the ability to insert stand-alone assessments (such as quizzes). These can be shared in the Canvas Commons and allow faculty to pull pertinent content into their courses for assessment. These are used as either a vital assessment component to the online session or a supplement to the in-class offering. Faculty members can choose what works for their classes. We have learned through offering a variety of assessments, videos, modules, etc., that some work, while others are less effective.

The idea that some content works for a course, while other material does not, correlates with transitioning content to a digital equivalent. Some activities are simply designed to work in the classroom. We have a confirmation bias game that requires in-person interaction. Conversely, some information evaluation exercises that we use pair well with a lecture introduction (independent of in-person or online) and a follow-up assessment (again independent of in-person or online). Those work perfectly online.

There are specific goals for us in our critical thinking and information literacy sessions. We are attempting to aid in information skepticism, understanding information presentation, and evaluating information and information practices. Through some creativity with what is available to us, we are making progress in making the online experience fully comparable to the in-person experience.

New tools with better opportunities for engagement will certainly be presented in the future that can enhance our students’ experience in our digital offerings, and based on our constant reevaluation and reworking of these sessions in-person, we will continuously mold the virtual presentation of our courses, too.

*Derek Malone is Assistant Professor, Instructional Services & Interlibrary Loan, Scanning & Delivery Librarian for the University of North Alabama, Florence*

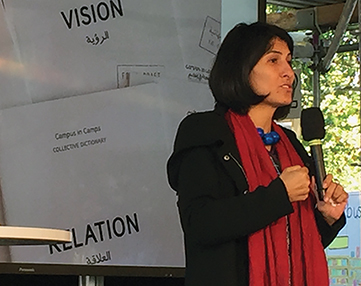
<https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=ljx181001-Remote-Information-Literacy-Field-Reports>

1. **The Invitation: A Call To Reconceive What “Public” Means | Editorial**

by [Rebecca T. Miller](https://www.libraryjournal.com/?authorName=Rebecca%20T.%20Miller) 

Sandi Hilal brings a powerful and radically inclusive perspective to the definition of public space. A researcher and architect, Hilal is also an artist and with her husband, Alessandro Petti, has been exploring what it means to be a refugee, most recently via an installation project at a Syrian refugee camp in Boden, Sweden. Along the way, she has questioned the limits of existing public space. Her closing keynote was among the many inspiring elements of the Next Library Conference, held in Berlin, Germany, September 12–15.

“Permanent Temporariness”—a recent exhibit by Hilal and Petti at New York University Abu Dhabi Art Gallery—includes a piece called Living Room, which revolves around enabling the unique exchanges that occur in the open intimacy of such shared spaces.

Hilal asks a fundamentally important question: “Who is ‘the public’?” She notes that many people who are not versed in a particular culture may not recognize an “abstract public” because they lack the language or “enough codes” to interpret it, or simply don’t feel welcome because the space doesn’t feel like it is for them. Hence, an open space such as a central square can still be, in practice, inaccessible. “We think we can live with the notion of public and private,” she notes, “while others live beyond or without this notion.”

This is especially poignant for those living in refugee camps or who are otherwise displaced for extended periods and especially need the community connections we intend public spaces to provide. But it is also important to consider whether the same problem impacts those who are supposedly at home, when public spaces are created by a dominant culture without consideration of the other diverse societies that make up the community to be served by the space—such as a park or a library.

Among the insights Hilal shared is a reconsideration of the value of experience that can occur between what she refers to as “superprivate” and “superpublic” spaces. For her, “the living room is that place, between the public and the private.” In such a space, she notes, hosts are able to offer something unique shaped by their own culture and create an important intimacy and shared culture. Although guests are welcomed into a living room, hosts take responsibility for and, in a sense, own the space. Refugees, Hilal says, “lose the right to be hosts” since “they are required to be guests.” When one is a perpetual guest and closed off from the possibility of hosting, Hilal says, not only the individuals suffer but the community as a whole loses.

In response, Hilal looks to identify or create what she refers to as “thresholds” to invite use of public spaces. She asks, “Are we able to open the public for different types of guests and hosts?... Or is there only one public” to which we should all conform?

This thinking has implications for libraries as we address past exclusionary practices and work toward building more inclusive environments and services. It is especially resonant in light of the evolving concept of library as community living room. Libraries, Hilal states, already provide one “threshold” for refugees, whether in the tiny libraries around a camp or via a branch in a new city. “While the public space and notion of public are completely stuck,” she adds, “libraries are maybe the first place we can get unstuck.”

While recognizing the existing efforts by libraries to design a welcoming space for new arrivals, Hilal believes we should engage in further self-examination. She argues that librarians should ask, “Am I always hosting or am I sometimes a guest in my own library?” If a guest, she says, they “are on the right track.”

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