

LibraryCrunch

Bringing You A "Library 2.0" Perspective, by Michael Casey

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The Meaning of...

From the March 2006 edition of [Information World Review...](#)

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THE MEANING OF: LIBRARY 2.0

Who better to explain Library 2.0 than the man who invented the term? Michael Casey is a library scientist and IT theorist as well as a library branch manager in Atlanta, Georgia. He is the author of the Library 2.0 weblog LibraryCrunch (librarycrunch.com).

“In my opinion Library 2.0 is about keeping our current users while embracing those who do not currently use libraries. It is also about adopting ideas and technologies that can assist libraries in the delivery of services to these groups. To do this we need to utilise new technologies to their fullest while at the same time making libraries more flexible and better situated



to meet changing user needs.

Libraries need to involve users in all aspects of service creation, from the earliest stages of finding ideas to the far later stages when services are being re-evaluated.

Many library systems face a perennial funding shortfall that

will only get worse if the user base fails to grow. Getting young users in is critical, as is making the library an indispensable part of the community. This will ultimately pay great dividends when budget time rolls around.

Library 2.0 is more than technology. It is a lean and quick operating model that allows libraries to respond rapidly to market needs.

This does not mean that we abandon our current users or our mission. Library 2.0 includes many old ideas such as reaching out to new users, but it wraps into the equation a philosophy of rapid change, flexible organisational structures and user participation, which will put the library in a much stronger position, ready to meet the needs of a larger user population.”

Paul Miller and Talis are the primary focus of the article, but the folks at IWR were nice to contact me and ask for my two cents. Full article link when available.

[Library 2.0](#)

Posted by Michael on March 24, 2006 09:29 PM | [Permalink](#)

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