

# Using technology to protect the future of public libraries

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London Book Fair Supply Chain Seminar 13 April 2011



# Under siege...

- 523 UK public libraries threatened with closure
- 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of councils to cut >20% from 'leisure' services
- 4000 – 6000 staff redundant?

The Guardian 30 March 2011

# Social good/community value...

Public Libraries need to demonstrate their value and contribution:

- Relevance to the public
- Importance to their council
- Asset (not a 'burden') to local government...

# Technology - no substitute for political and public support

- No amount of technology – no matter how whizzy – can help by itself...
- Technology and libraries aren't always seen as ideal bedfellows
- Views about libraries and technology tend to get polarised very quickly...

# International Society for the Abolition of Data Processing Machines...

***‘The computer has a healthy and conservative function in mathematics and other sciences, but when the uses involve business or government and the individual is tyrannized, then we make our stand ...’***

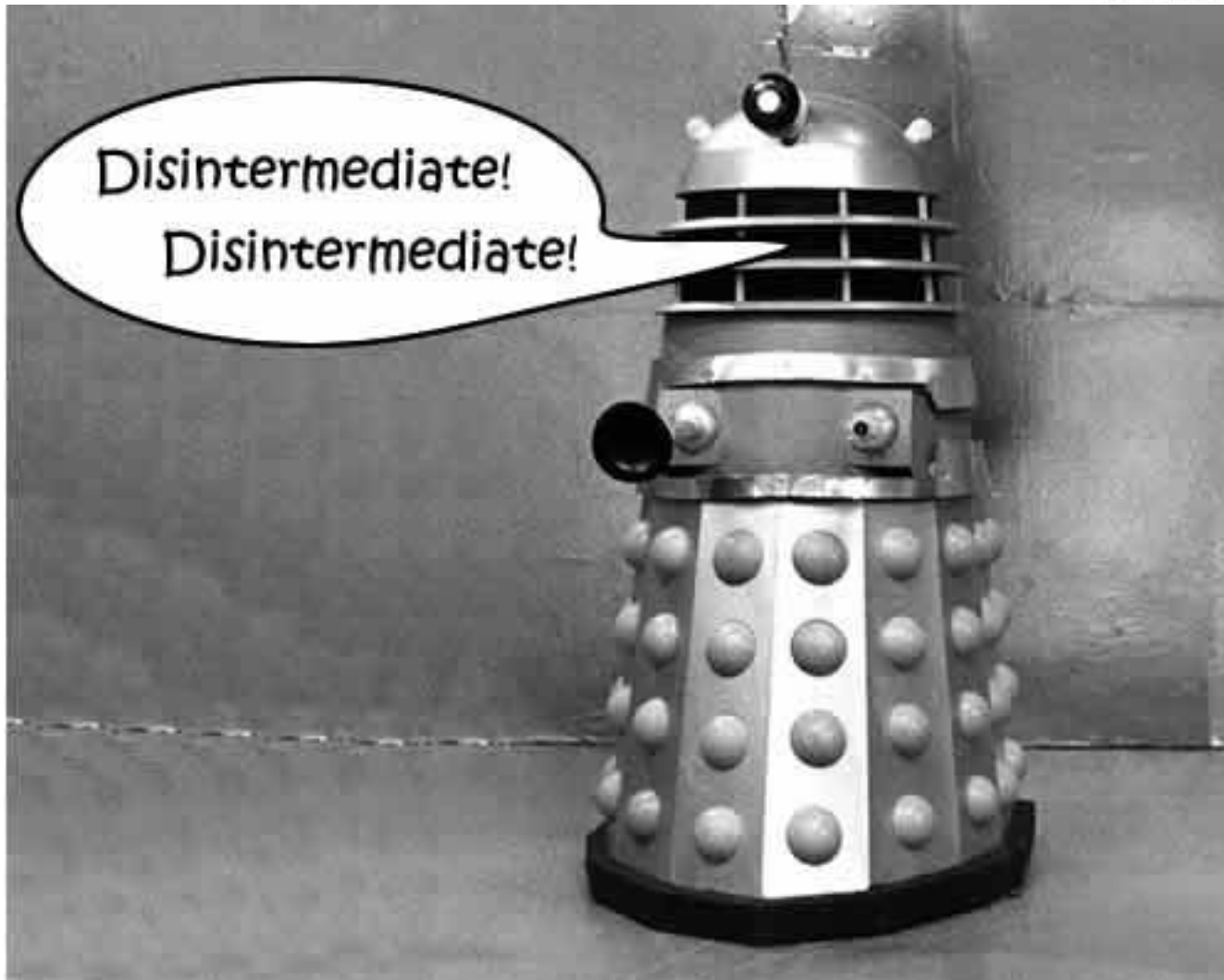
*Harvey Matusow, 1969*

However, some believe technology has already replaced the public library...



WIKIPEDIA  
*The Free Encyclopedia*





# Between those extremes...

- Many public libraries are successfully using technology to:
  - Provide core services more efficiently and effectively
  - Provide new services
  - Reach new audiences
  - Provide help in bridging the digital divide

# Public Libraries and digital marketing...





# Essex Libraries

at the **heart**  
of your **community**

EssexWorks.

For a better quality of life



Essex County Council

**Essex Libraries Newsletter**

**Mid October 2010**

## Greetings!

What is it about the weather? We love to talk about it and try to predict what's in store for us. Our forecast? You won't be able to put down these gripping stories and you'll be blown away by the true extreme weather accounts from past and present.

## Dead calm

Snow-clouds are gathering and the suspense is chilling in our selection of thrilling reads - so run for cover and settle in for some non-stop action.

The mountains hide a silent killer as skiing champions compete for a rare diamond in an exclusive French resort. When the [Avalanche](#) hits, the desire to win becomes a fight for survival.

On a freezing evening in Norfolk a line of cars are trapped in a blizzard. Three hours later one driver is dead but no

## In This Issue

**Dead calm**  
**Perfect storm**  
**Weather news**  
**Featured service:**  
**Energy monitors**  
**Events this month**

## Hot Pick



**The Rehearsal by  
Eleanor Catton**

# follow us

@EssexLibraries





Results 1 - 10 of 166 for **essex**, sorted by:

RSS FEEDS

To check availability and make a request, select the item title.



**Essex**

ready for anything  
Michael Foley

A follow-up to the 'Frontline Essex' this book describes life in the county during the Second World War. It draws on written sources and...

Year: 2006  
Class no. 940.534267  
Subject: 20th century, Essex (England), History  
Matched: Essex (3)



**Select Location**

Showing results from:

**Refine**

**Library format**

- > Book (159)
- > CD (3)

**Author**

- > Essex County Library (7)
- > Institute of Historical Research (7)
- > Erskine, Barbara (5)
- > 138 more...

**Subject**

- > Fiction (38)
- > England (25)
- > Essex (15)
- > Large type books (14)
- > History (12)
- > 140 more...

**Series**

- > County street atlas (1)
- > Publications / Essex Record Office (1)
- > Charnwood series (1)

**Publication date**

- > 2010 (13)
- > 2009 (16)

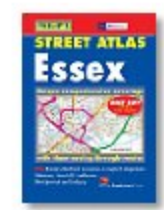


**Essex**

Ordnance Survey

This atlas of Essex names every street, and shows detail of the new A210 and includes Ipswich and Felixstowe. The mapping is sourced from...

Year: 2003  
Class no. 912.4267  
Matched: Essex (2)

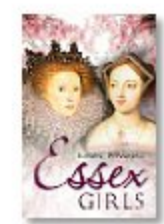


**Essex girls**

Karen Bowman

Queen, temptress, martyr, witch: the Essex Girl has left her mark on history. This book tells her story.

Year: 2010  
Class no. 942.67  
Subject: Women, Essex, Essex (England), Biography, Biography, History  
Matched: Essex (4)



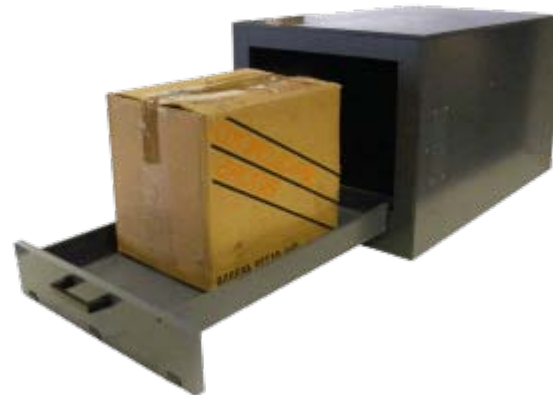
# Public libraries and digital content...



CLIPPER DL

public library **online**

# Behind the scenes...



And front of house...





# ‘Comprehensive and **Efficient...**’

- Behind the scenes –
  - EDI - FDI - RFID in the supply chain...
  - Shared Services – bibliographic/system support...
- Front of house
  - RFID
    - self service
    - stock management
    - inventory

# e4libraries

*Promoting the value of technology  
and standards in the library supply chain*

## On e4libraries...

- REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS
- ACCREDITATION SCHEME
- CASE STUDIES
- EDI AND E-COMMERCE
- RFID
- INTEROPERABILITY STANDARDS
- EVENTS AND PRESENTATIONS



**Comments and suggestions about this project are welcomed!**  
Please email: [Peter Kilborn](#) or [Simon Edwards](#)

You are here: [Home](#) > e4libraries Home

## Welcome to e4libraries

E4libraries is a BIC project to improve the efficiency of the library supply chain through the application of technology and commitment to standards. Its remit covers both public and academic libraries and its focus is on printed books and reading resources delivered digitally.

The project is overseen by a steering committee of librarians and library experts and is chaired by Martin Palmer of Essex Libraries and its project manager is Simon Edwards, whose scoping report can be accessed [here](#).

BIC is grateful to the Museums Libraries and Archives Council for financial and other support for the project and to its sponsors, The British Library and CILIP, for their encouragement and help.





- Current accreditations...
  - 20 Library services
  - 6 Library suppliers
  - 5 Library system suppliers

# Public Libraries now able to build on their existing roles ...

Such as, helping to address the 'literacy gap' -

- Quick Reads
- Summer Reading Challenge – 760,000 children in 2010
- Reading groups for everyone...
- And much more...

## And adapt them to 21<sup>st</sup> century needs...

- Public library also a key part of the digital world, and helping address the digital divide...
- So, ideally placed to address not only literacy, but 'transliteracy' as well...
- **Transliteracy** – 'the ability to read, write and interact across a range of platforms, tools and media... from print, TV, radio and film, to digital social networks.'

# Technology + Public Libraries = a unique offer...

- Traditional services, retaining original benefits but made easier to use and updated –
  - Public, neutral space... contributing to social capital
  - Books - current and out of print – and more...
  - Efficient and effective supply chain...
  - Self service...
- New services, reaching new audiences –
  - Digital resources
  - Remote Access
  - Digital marketing/social networking