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
- 1/3rd 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…
Disintermediate!
Disintermediate!
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...
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
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Results 1 - 10 of 166 for **essex**, sorted by: relevance

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)

**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...
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
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 21st 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