

 current and future impacts of technology on libraries.

I learned a lot from the videos and the reading. Before reading or watching them, I did not know there are as many as 17,000 libraries in the United States, more than Starbucks or McDonald. I have assumed people are using digital technology instead of physically going to libraries to gather information, but I do agree with the videos that the time that libraries are taken over by digital technology is coming, unless improvements and changes are made. These changes will attract customers and bring up revenue for them to survive economically. Since people want to obtain information quickly and digitally, libraries have incorporated digital collections and other assessable software to better accommodate potential customers in this new era. The statistics on libraries offering e-books surprises me. 95% of academic libraries, 82% of public libraries and 44% of school libraries have made this change, and I believe these numbers will rise even more in the near future for the libraries to survive in this digital age and compete with online informational sources. It is also interesting to learn that responsive web design is an important factor for libraries to attract and keep users. This is very much related to what we learn in this course, including usability, copyrights, and this choice of the websites.

From the article, I learned that we are now in the web 4.0 time, where humans and machines cooperate and interact with each other, emphasizing ubiquity, identity and connection. Additionally, the library trend follows the progression of the web and also progressed into the 4.0 time, as suggested by the author. In this library 4.0 era, library exists in an intelligent form equipped with “makerspace, context-aware technology, open source, big data, cloud service, augmented reality and state-of-the-art display”. Just by looking at the essential keywords of the library 4.0 concept, the connection between the library and the technology world is very noticeable. Since people most often view library as source of information, I believe these key concepts and its relationship with the technology world are essential for libraries to survive in today’s era.

Maybe I am being a bit pessimistic about the status of the library, as can be seen from my comments above, but from my point of view, library would not be the first thing that comes to mind when I want to obtain information, even though I have access to the Drexel library. I have also not gone into a library except in university as a place to study for about seven years now. However, sometimes I access the summit database of Drexel’s library to obtain information on published paper for university courses, but in my internships or after my graduation, I would not expect myself to use the library database online or go in person. Nonetheless, I hope the library can keep up with the technologic changes, and become more incorporated as one entity.