Innovation Report

In a world that is increasingly digitized and virtual, it is essential for libraries to keep up with technological trends and developments. Prior to the pandemic, libraries were already embracing new technologies and finding ways of leveraging digitization to reach their members, but lockdowns forced us all to pivot and quickly entre a virtual world, and libraries have been no exception. As such, we've seen an increase in interest in digital libraries where collections are presented online, the introduction of library programs delivered through Zoom or other video-conferencing platforms, and a dramatic rise in the use of online offerings and services such as video and music streaming platforms, online language courses, e-books, and so on.

The American Library Association has identified trends that libraries should be paying attention to. A significant number of these (30%) were classified as technological trends, and included such topics as AI, connected learning, data everywhere, the internet of things, and virtual reality. All these areas will require libraries to possess a sound understanding of the basics of how these technologies operate so that they can make informed choices in in the selection and implementation of new services and collection offerings. It will also increasingly become the role of the library to act as a primary source of education in the basics of programming languages and processes. With so much of the library's work now happening online, it's clear that libraries and information services need to adopt and seek out IT innovation in order to survive and remain relevant.

References

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