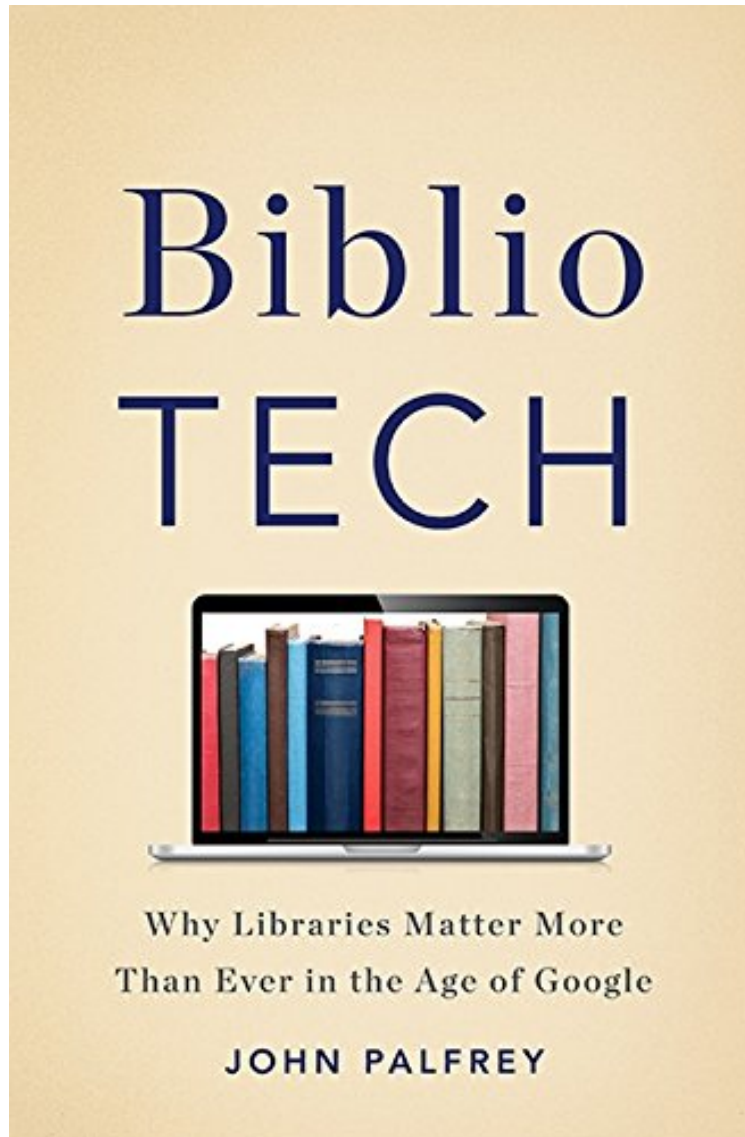


BiblioTech: Why Libraries Matter More Than Ever in the Age of Google

John Palfrey

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#74104 in Books Palfrey John 2015-05-05 2015-05-05 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .88 x 6.00l, .92 #File Name: 0465042996288 pages Bibliotech Why Libraries Matter More Than Ever in the Age of Google | File size: 29.Mb

John Palfrey : BiblioTech: Why Libraries Matter More Than Ever in the Age of Google before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised BiblioTech: Why Libraries Matter More Than Ever in the Age of Google:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A call to arms for America's information institutions By Karl

Janssen In his 2015 book *BiblioTech*, John Palfrey responds to those who declare that the coming of the digital age spells the death of libraries. He argues that public libraries, in providing free and equal access to information for all, are essential to the existence of a true democracy. He does agree, however, that libraries are in trouble, and in order to survive, they're going to have to adapt. The problem is, libraries are currently expected to provide information services through both traditional analog (print) media as well as new digital media, and few institutions have the money or the personnel to do both. To remedy this, Palfrey recommends a two-pronged attack, on the one hand arguing for increased funding for libraries, while on the other hand encouraging libraries to collaborate and consolidate their services, embrace digital technology, and reinvent themselves as platforms or on-ramps to extensive networks of digital content. While making this digital transformation, however, libraries must also protect their role as public spaces without devolving into mere community centers. In the present era of information overload, we need librarians more than ever to act as guides through the morass of digital content and to serve as trained, knowledgeable stewards responsible for the preservation of and access to our cultural heritage. In recent years commercial entities like Amazon and Google have attempted to arrest control of information from libraries, and they're doing a pretty good job of it. If librarians want this trend to stop, they need to act now. This privatization of knowledge, Palfrey contends, undermines the free access to information necessary to a democratic society. Those presently working or studying in the field of librarianship are likely already familiar with the issues and debates presented here. To that audience, the book offers few surprises, but Palfrey states his case clearly and concisely. As someone who's currently halfway through an MLS degree program, I think this book would make a great text for an introductory course in library and information science, as a state-of-the-profession overview of the issues facing librarians today. Palfrey means to deliver a much-needed kick in the pants to those Luddite librarians who are falling behind the times, but mostly his arguments are directed at those outside the field—the stakeholders and policymakers who are in a position to assist libraries in their process of change. But how many of those people, outside of librarians themselves, will actually read it? The real value of this book will be the effect it has in stirring debate in the media over the value of libraries. Hopefully, as Palfrey intends, it will influence an increase in public funding for libraries and archives. Sadly, Palfrey makes the depressing observation that even that probably won't be enough. What libraries really need is a heroic benefactor—a 21st-century Andrew Carnegieto philanthropically usher them into the digital age, but will anyone step up to the plate? As a prospective librarian, *BiblioTech* left me with mixed feelings. On the one hand it inspires optimistic enthusiasm for the digital future of libraries, while on the other it pessimistically questions if we'll ever make it there. Despite my misgivings, I much prefer Palfrey's serious and realistic approach to the profession over Marilyn Johnson's giddy librarian lovefest *This Book is Overdue!* Anyone who cares about libraries should read Palfrey's book. Even if the discussion is familiar, his reasoned, well-stated approach will spur your thoughts on the enduring value of libraries, their present precarious position, and how to convey their importance to the public at large.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The giant hub of information would be a wonderful accomplishment. However, Libraries have been around for a while and will go extinct if they do not adapt to modern society. That, in a nutshell, is the thesis of *Biblio Tech*. The author, John Palfrey, a law professor and library director discusses several factors that have changed the way we procure information. Most notable, and no surprise to anyone reading *Im sure*, is the internet. The author comes down strong on the case that libraries can no longer be large storehouses for books and other information, waiting for people to come to them. Rather, libraries must take a more active role in becoming information synthesizers and distributors. Within the ten chapters of the book, Palfrey expands on his vision that libraries must become interconnected through the internet and technology and thus become hubs of a giant information database. He describes ways in which some libraries are already doing this. He also discusses how libraries have failed in procuring a role in the Digital Age. Then, he lays out a plan for libraries to move forward. Each library contributes its specialized collection of information into a comprehensive whole that is available to anyone with access to technology (Something libraries can continue to offer as well!) The book makes the case for libraries continuing to be both a physical space for hard copy media while expanding their online presence and offerings. The book takes a strong stance against doing away with librarians or allowing the field to be flooded with professionals with backgrounds in areas other than information science. The giant hub of information would be a wonderful accomplishment. However, we'll need trained professionals to help the rest of us navigate this world of information and find what we need. In our post-truth and alternative facts society, librarians play a very important role. Throughout the book, Palfrey sprinkles in a defense of why libraries should continue to exist in the era of Google, Facebook, and numerous for-profit online databases. Libraries, in the purest form of the institution, are truly free, open to everyone, and exist without a double-motive. They are simply there to provide people with the information they want and need. I've always been an on-again off-again user of libraries. However, after reading *Biblio Tech*, I'm going to make it a point to utilize more of the resources my local library has to offer. The book ends with a potent passage on the importance of libraries: It is not too much of a stretch to say that the fate of well-informed, open, free republics could hinge on the future of libraries. Maureen Sullivan, then-president of the American Library Association and one of the great librarians who give me hope, told me: The reason I think the future of libraries is so important is because I want to ensure that every child in America has access to the information he or she needs to be well-informed before casting

a vote. Our public institutions have every reason to work together on a common, bright, delightful, digital-era future. Libraries matter too much to democracies for us to fail at this task. John Palfrey, *BiblioTech: Why Libraries Matter More Than Ever in the Age of Google* 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Library loan wasn't enough for me! By MathAppeal I had borrowed this book from the library and had so many quotes I wanted to use that I decided to buy it.

Libraries today are more important than ever. More than just book repositories, libraries can become bulwarks against some of the most crucial challenges of our age: unequal access to education, jobs, and information. In *BiblioTech*, educator and technology expert John Palfrey argues that anyone seeking to participate in the 21st century needs to understand how to find and use the vast stores of information available online. And libraries, which play a crucial role in making these skills and information available, are at risk. In order to survive our rapidly modernizing world and dwindling government funding, libraries must make the transition to a digital future as soon as possible by digitizing print material and ensuring that born-digital material is publicly available online. Not all of these changes will be easy for libraries to implement. But as Palfrey boldly argues, these modifications are vital if we hope to save libraries and, through them, the American democratic ideal.

Jim Leach, former Chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities In *BiblioTech*, John Palfrey sums up the seminal function libraries have played in inspiring and preserving creative thought over the ages. Then, with confident optimism, Palfrey makes it counter-intuitively clear that the digital age has expanded the function and energy level of libraries. In a splintered world, these book-centric institutions have also become singularly safe and welcoming tech havens where the public can seek knowledge and gain access to wide-ranging perspectives about events and circumstances, real and fictional. It is the library where the imagination is unshackled, where the past and present can be civilly probed and the future contemplated, alone or together in community. As a society we short-change these civilizing institutions at our peril. Deborah L Jacobs, former City Librarian of the Seattle Public Library John Palfrey has crafted a bold new vision and compelling argument for the power and value of public libraries. Perhaps more importantly he warns us of the unfortunate future for free societies if we simply stay the course and don't create a new 'nostalgia' for the digital age. Many speeches have been given and books written on the topic of the future library, but this is the finest and most inspiring call to true action I've read. *BiblioTech* should be required reading for not only every librarian, but every library supporter and policymaker. John Willinsky, Khosla Family Professor of Education at Stanford University In this engaging shout-out to public libraries as bastions of info-age equality and opportunity, John Palfrey presents a compelling vision of a network-scale 'revitalization of their contributions to learning and community. Jonathan Zittrain, Vice Dean for Library and Information Resources at the Harvard Law School Library, and co-founder of the Berkman Center for Internet Society John Palfrey's *BiblioTech* is a sparkling call to action for libraries everywhere urging them to collaborate and adapt to survive in the ever-expanding, increasingly digital information landscape. Libraries that heed Palfrey's call will find themselves poised to rise to the occasion of the twenty-first century and continue to fulfill their core societal functions: building communities, democratizing access to information, and educating the next generation. Maureen Sullivan, former President of the American Libraries Association John Palfrey, a true visionary who deeply understands the enduring importance of libraries, makes an urgent and compelling case for the transformation and sustainability of this critical education institution. This is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand why it is so critical to make a renewed investment in this essential democratic institution. His brilliant and lucid analysis offers a path, and describes how policy makers, community leaders, librarians, and technologists can work to ensure that libraries will enable everyone to be successful in a networked world. Luis Herrera, City Librarian of the San Francisco Public Library In *BiblioTech*, John Palfrey offers fresh perspectives and keen insights on the importance of libraries in the digital age. He reaffirms the value of libraries as purveyors of knowledge and information in democracies around the world. Yet, he reminds us that we must leverage our core values and skills as collaborators, networkers, and community builders for libraries to remain relevant. *BiblioTech* is a call to action for libraries to claim their role as key innovators in learning, addressing digital literacy, and bridging the technology divide in order to thrive in the Age of Google. Robert Darnton, Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor of History and University Librarian, Harvard University John Palfrey makes a convincing case for the ever-increasing importance of libraries in the age of Google. 'With wit and wisdom, he shows how they can help create a democratic digital future provided that we overcome a nostalgic view of their past and an inadequate understanding of their place in the current information environment. Brian Bannon, Commissioner, Chicago Public Library *BiblioTech* offers a historical account of libraries' iconic past and chronicles the environmental shifts and dangers we may face if we fail to support and lead their next evolution. As libraries experience unprecedented instability, John Palfrey's *BiblioTech* offers unique insight into the complex challenges and opportunities in the digital and physical world while giving hope for a successful future. This is essential reading for librarians, educators, policy makers, and all who care about the public institutions that support the citizens who are the basis of a vibrant democracy. Tony Marx, President and CEO of the New York Public Library John Palfrey insightfully charts the

information revolution's path through the world of libraries, where he has been an innovator. We are indeed at an exciting moment. Susan Hildreth, former Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, *BiblioTech* is a must read for anyone who cares about the future of libraries. John Palfrey has eloquently identified the essential role libraries play in keeping our democracy strong and has clearly articulated the challenges facing libraries today. This is a true wake-up call. We may very well fail our communities and society if we do not invest in library innovation that supports access and preservation of knowledge at scale. *Seattle Post-Intelligencer's Book Patrol blog* [A] lucid, passionate account of the state of American libraries a handy guide for how to begin to right the ship. *LibraryCity.org* A must-read.... *BiblioTech* reminds us that libraries are and should be about much more than books. *VOYA Magazine* Thought-provoking and well-researched, this book takes a long view of the role of libraries in communities and society with careful attention to the shifts required to retain relevance in the digital age. *Library Journal*, starred review A celebration of libraries as well as a dose of tough love.... [T]his work should be required reading for librarians, particularly those who are looking to lead their libraries into the future. *Publishers Weekly* Carves out a strong and exciting vision for libraries in the 21st century. *Kirkus* Palfrey provides insight into local efforts in schools and libraries around the country.... A significant wake-up call. *New York of Books* In his new book, *BiblioTech*, a wise and passionate manifesto, John Palfrey reminds us that the library is the last free space for the gathering and sharing of knowledge. *Washington Post* Palfrey is adept at explaining the struggles libraries face with technologies that constrain as much as they liberate... [and] is particularly good at explaining new legal challenges to preserving information. *Nature* Anyone interested in the future of libraries and whether there is one at all will find much to mull over in this book. *Miami Herald* The persuasive argument Palfrey makes in *BiblioTech* is simple: The conventional wisdom that suggests libraries aren't important anymore and thus require less funding isn't true, no matter how many Google searches we can perform on our phones. *Roanoke Times* *BiblioTech* is an exciting adventure the exercise of imagining how we can provide a library model that will ensure the continued education and enjoyment of future generations no matter how they create and receive the information they will share.