



What have we learned so far?

As library workers, we live in a world of questions and answers. It's little surprise that in a time of communal uncertainty, we are striving to find answers. We are all looking for answers that we can truly comprehend and use with our families, our libraries, and our communities.

So, what have we learned so far?

- We know more about the world economy, the stock market and the auto, mortgage and banking industries than ever before. Who knew we were all so connected to Detroit?
- Bi-partisan politics has produced few answers, and in many cases, has impeded progress. Teamwork is digging us out of this hole.
- The reality is we need many solutions to lead us out of this complex recession: solutions for the nation, solutions for the states, solutions for our communities, solutions for our libraries, and solutions for our families. We are all part of the problem, so we all need to be part of the solution!
- Innovation truly is the engine of change. We need to find sustainable solutions to this 7-9 year economic boom and bust cycle, as it does not sustain economic growth. We need to learn where the tipping point is and self-regulate ourselves to avoid the precipice!
- The library community needs to be part of the solution. Keeping our work force employed and focused on the community we serve is essential.
- Innovative new products like Playaway and new services like reference text messaging are opening up a whole new community of users.
- Good library leaders; articulate the libraries vision again, again and again, focus on actions and team work, stay healthy, listen well, use common sense, and understand the power of a simple thank you.
- I laugh as I write this, but being thrifty and green is finally chic. Bringing your lunch to work, shopping at Goodwill (my favorite store), and not printing every single email you receive are all back in fashion!

As I continue to look for solutions for the library community, I am thrilled to be doing a SirsiDynix Institute webinar on Wednesday, May 13 at 11 am central time. It's a free one-hour live chat, right on your computer about leading in tough times. Register at <https://sirsidynix.webex.com/mw03051/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=sirsidynix&service=6> . If you have questions just email them to stacilee.oakes@sirsidynix.com , and I will respond on air. Talk to you Wednesday, and have a great week!

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