



Change really is good...honest

As the economic roller coaster begins its long climb back up to a sustainable level, I've been thinking over the weekend about how we need to work together and take responsibility for our future. For America's libraries, I would suggest this is good news. If there is one thing we really do well, its collaboration and sharing. Now is the time truly to embrace and inspire change. I say "truly" because we all can provide lip service to "change is good", but to **really believe it**, right down to our cotton socks, is another story.

Change is all about managing our options and charting a path that will reach out and build a future, for our libraries and, more importantly, for the whole community. So, honestly, why is change so good?

1. Embracing change ensures our long-term growth as a nation and as a library community. Without change, we stagnate and become obsolete, left behind, and redundant. In most cases, embracing change is truly a matter of survival. Just think where public libraries would be today if we had not embraced that first OPAC (online public access catalogue) fifteen (or was that twenty) years ago!
2. Change powers innovation, innovation grows communities; communities power libraries. It's all interconnected!
3. Change helps us to personally embrace new ideas and sustain hope for a better tomorrow. It is this hope that drives our inner courage to embrace change.

To begin to appreciate the power of real change, I recommend to you the Harwood Institute for Public Innovation, (www.theharwoodinstitute.org) a nonprofit organization dedicated to "accelerated change for the public good." Read Richard Harwood's essay "Make Hope Real" (available on their website), in which he simply asks "how can we understand the important change that is occurring and help accelerate it in the right direction?" Read Harwood's blog where he comments "hard times demand that we turn outward. Simply faster won't get us there" and you will begin the personal journey to explore the power of real change!

Have a great week.

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#7 March/09