
I thought these reports were interesting and useful to discuss because, in my opinion, they say something to all types of libraries.

I found this to be an interesting report from ALA. I would call your attention to pages 15-18 where the topic is “The Future is Collaboration”. You’ll notice on the bottom of page 16 a reference to the Palm Beach County Library System in Florida. Since I am a strong advocate on services to local government, this intrigued me. You may want to check out the link: [http://www.pbclibrary.org/grs.htm](http://www.pbclibrary.org/grs.htm).

2) Clouds, big data, and smart assets: Ten tech-enabled business trends to watch.
This report is from the McKinsey Quarterly web site and I found the trends useful since the library field tends to see these trends develop in its services somewhat after they develop in businesses. The two areas I would suggest you look at are number 2 on page 3 of 12: “Making the network the organization” plus number 3 on the same page: “Collaboration at scale” (page 3-4).

I would be interested in discussing whether we see in the library community in Minnesota a decline in collaboration or a steady state, especially considering the two messages in these documents about the increase in collaboration. The last paragraph in the second business report includes the interesting sentence: “In the longer term, collaboration will be a vital component of what has been termed “organizational capital.” It is possible that budget reductions, especially in local government along with an inability to increase staff positions while experiencing an increase in service demands will result in some changes into the future. At the same time, staff expertise is one of our main ‘assets’ and I am concerned when I hear more and more from library directors that they no longer let their staff even attend webinars on library time much less take advantage of other staff development opportunities that may not cost anything or very little. At the same time, I am concerned with staff who are not willing to put in their own time to develop and/or expand their own skills on taking courses outside of the library work time.

I look forward to a discussion in these topics.