

## **E Reader Remarks**

Tonight I am so pleased to begin an e reader pilot program in the Yucca district. Before I go any further I want to thank Barbara George, my Council assistant, for her incredible efforts to bring this project forward.

The reason for an e-reader pilot program is simple. Libraries are changing dramatically and libraries of the future will transform to meet needs we can only imagine. The stereotypical library is dying -- and it's taking its shushing ladies, dank smell and endless shelves of books with it.

Books are being pushed aside for digital learning centers and gaming areas. "Loud rooms" that promote public discourse and group projects are taking over the bookish quiet. Hipster staffers who blog, chat on Twitter and care little about the Dewey Decimal System are edging out old-school librarians.

And that's just the surface. By some accounts, the library system is undergoing a complete transformation that goes far beyond these image changes. We have transitioned from a time where information was scarce and precious to today where information is vast and readily available, and in many cases, free.

People who in the past visited libraries to find specific pieces of information are now able to find that information online. The vast majority of people with specific information needs no longer visit libraries. However, others who read for pleasure as example, still regularly patronize their local library.

Many people today think our present day search technology is fairly simple, and it is. But the simple search days are numbered. The vast majority of today's search industry is based on text search. Text search is being expanded to cover the various languages of the world and some forms of image, audio, and video search are currently in place. However, next generation search technology will include the ability to search for such attributes as taste, smell, texture, reflectivity, opacity, mass, density, tone, speed, and volume.

As we achieve the ability to conduct more and more complicated searches, the role of the librarian to assist in finding this kind of information also becomes more and more important. People will not have the time and skills necessary to keep up on each new innovation in the search world, and they will need a competent professional to turn to.

With the emergence of distributed forms of information the central role of the library as a repository of facts and information is changing. While it is still important to have this kind of resource, it has proven to be a diminishing draw in terms of library traffic.

The notion of becoming a cultural center is an expansive role for the future library. It will not only serve as an information resource, but much more, with the exact mission and goals evolving and changing over time.

A culture-based library is one that taps into the spirit of the community, assessing priorities and providing resources to support the things deemed most important. Modern day cultural centers include museums, theaters, parks, and educational institutions. The library of the future could include all of these, but individual communities will be charged with developing an overall strategy that reflects the identity and personality of its own constituency.

I believe that this e-reader pilot program is the start of a new future for Glendale's libraries. These readers provide the capability of reading all kinds of books for free from our library without ever going to it. This new form of acquiring free material to read from the library will free capacity to move in different directions based upon community needs.

The first six persons from the Yucca district to borrow an e-reader are:

Judy Anderson  
Kathy Boubek  
Robert Grimes  
Ray Miles  
Missi Schreiber  
Bert Schwind

You are my pioneers. You will use these e-readers free of any charge for the next 2 months. You will fill out a survey form monthly to share your experiences in using these e-readers along with who in your family used them. This information is important in determining future directions for Glendale's library system. I want to thank you for your willingness and eagerness to participate and we look forward to hearing about how well – or not - these e-readers fit your individual lifestyles.