IFLA Public Libraries Satellite: Public library futures in a global digital world

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Making without a maker space: the people’s La in Roskilde, Denmark

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Making without a makerspace

People’s lab
• **Trends People’s Lab is trying to pick up...**

• Denmark was just rated most innovative country in Europe – 55 % of Danish companies have developed new products or services since 2010.

• More and more public schools are teaching children about innovation, creative thinking and entrepreneurship.

• How can the library support this development and help the general public realize their ideas and projects?
6 very different events/labs where citizens got involved along with the library and its staff.

People’s Lab

Here’s what we found out:
You create together with your community not for it. Get the citizens involved from the beginning, ownership is a process; don’t reduce your community to just guests.
Build a frame around the space, and processes you want to facilitate so the citizens can easily see what’s going on. But be willing to change and expand the frame so ideas aren’t limited.

Mobile and flexible innovation room
Focus on learning as something also done with your hands; skills are created by making, touching and participating.
Create opportunities for engagement at different levels, no one starts out as an expert.
The clout of maker culture is determined by its community.
Don’t clean up all the time. Creativity and new ideas come from chaos and mess.

Maybe not this messy...
People are more important than technology and machines
“Do it yourself” is important, but “Do it together” is more important. It is in the community, the network, where you create and share your ideas.

Girls teaching girls how to weld
Put yourself in the game. Lead by example and don’t be afraid to make mistakes. Use your own personal skills and creativity.

Tonny, Works front desk at Library by day and Guitar wizard by night.
• 2-year project with Aarhus Libraries
• Read more on www.folkelab.dk

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