



**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
AS A RESULT OF THE  
SMALL GROUP  
WORK ACTIVITY  
**SESSION #2 • MARCH 1, 2018**

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A total of 34 people participated in the activity at the *Speak Up!* community engagement session on March 1, 2018. Total attendance was 46, including Facilitating Team members, Trustee, and several Library employees.

Session Two of the *Speak Up!* community engagement project continued the conversation about the future of the Batavia Public Library. Lynn Elam, consulting librarian and former Trustee, past president of Batavia Public Library Foundation, and former library director at North Aurora, Hinsdale, and Algonquin presented information about current trends and needs of future-ready libraries. To view the presentation [click here](#). Following the presentation, participants worked in small groups to complete the tasks listed above. Following is a summary of the responses from the groups.

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**TASK #1A: IDENTIFY TRENDS**

List 3–4 trends that you feel are important for the libraries of the future. (These do not need to come from this evening’s presentation.)

**TASK #1B: IDENTIFY TRENDS - SIGNALS**

What are the signals—that is, news stories, anecdotes, experiences—that show these trends working in our world?

**TASK #2: PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE**

**CATEGORY: COLLECTIONS** - Books; audiobooks; CDs, video games; DVDs; early literacy kit; games; puzzles; magazine; newspapers; &c.

**CATEGORY: PROGRAMS / EVENTS** - Storytimes; Inclusion Game Night; Chess Knight; New Lyceum Lecture Series; One Book, One Batavia; American Red Cross Babysitting Workshops; Books Between Bites; Sundays on Stage; Summer Reading Club; &c.

**CATEGORY: SERVICES** - My Librarian (reader’s advisory service); Born to Read; 1000 Books Before Kindergarten; Notary Public Service; Test-Proctoring Service; Reference Service; Computers; Scanner; Local History

**CATEGORY: ACCESS: PHYSICAL LIBRARY** - Hours of operation; Reading Garden; employees (and volunteers); meeting rooms; study rooms; public art; parking; mobility scooter; “coworking space”; café; &c.

**CATEGORY: ACCESS: VIRTUAL LIBRARY** - Web site; eBooks; online databases (such as Consumer Reports and Ancestry Library Edition); Batavia PL mobile application; downloadable music; downloadable movies; eAudiobooks; &c.

**CATEGORY: IN THE COMMUNITY** - Home Delivery Service; BatFest; Celebration of Lights; social media; PechaKucha Night™ Batavia; Egg Hop; eNewsletter; Neighbors of Batavia; &c.

### **TASK #3: OTHER SUGGESTIONS**

What other suggestions would your group like to provide to the Facilitating Team as we move forward with this community engagement program?

### **TASK #1**

In the first task participants were asked about important trends for libraries the future and what signals they could identify to show these trends working in our world.

Three trends stood out most frequently mentioned — the move toward digitization of materials and technology, the need to personalize materials, access and programs for individuals and various demographic groups, and an increased need for community/public spaces. There were also multiple mentions of the need for STEAM/STEM support and maker spaces.

Comments about “signals” mirrored those about trends. Participants mentioned the increased use of technology, use of social media, and demographic trends.

### **TASK #2**

Task #2 was a complex exercise. For each of six categories — Collections, Programs/Events, Services, Access: Physical Library, Access: Virtual Library, and Community — participants were asked to provide input on three questions: (1) how will trends affect the library of the future; (2) what features of the library should be preserved regardless of trends; and (3) what more can the library do in this area.

A review of the verbatim responses will find a wide variety of responses. But several themes emerged as a result of this activity. Primary among those themes was:

- Needing to keep up with and enhance technology and the digitization of materials, including the convenience of electronic delivery to library
- Understanding demographic trends and providing equitable services across demographic categories
- Providing adequate space for children’s programs and other types of community use
- Maintaining the quality of existing library programs
- Preserving features of the library regardless of trends including keeping up with providing printed materials and maintaining the quality of the collection
- Providing technical assistance to library users
- Providing training to library staff to keep up with changing technology
- Partnering, where possible, with other community organizations

### **TASK #3: OTHER SUGGESTIONS**

At the end of the workshop, participants were asked to share additional suggestions for the *SPEAK UP!* program. A few suggestions were offered. One group asked, “How does the library address the stay-at-home culture with in-building/face-to-face activities,” and “What resources must the library provide whether or not they are on-trend?” Another group recommended considering business co-working space.

**For a complete listing of all responses  
see the CES-2 Verbatim Response Document please contact the library.**