

Critics said that e-readers would kill the library. They were wrong. Our patrons downloaded almost 8,000 digital library books to their devices last year. Critics said mobile devices would stop people from coming to the library. In nine months we averaged 100 people dropping in for free tech assistance because they didn't know how to use their devices. Using mobile devices can isolate us from our social groups. So remember to join us for social events like reading group, open mic night and author talks. In this digital age we cannot forget the importance of face-to-face interaction.

Do remember what the library is about - LIFE-LONG LEARNING and access to information. When you enter the library through the Hope Street doors, chances are it isn't silent as in the days of the Osterberg sisters. If you listen closely you will hear the exchange of INFORMATION and IDEAS. If you have a chance, pick up the book "When We are No More: How Digital Memory is Shaping Our Future" by Abby Smith Rumsey. She dedicates a good chunk of the book to Thomas Jefferson's ideals and library. Later she writes "Google boasts that they organize knowledge for the world. But the vision of Jefferson and the Founders proposes that the organization of access to knowledge is to be a public utility, wholly owned by the people for the purpose of self-government." Let us not forget that term self-government. In a world where digital technologies and "self-made professionals" are taking over, we must have free access to true information.

So why is the library still a well kept secret? I guess there is only a small percent of the population who realize the importance of education and freedom. And that really frightens me. Recently I overheard someone label the library obsolete. We will never become obsolete because we adapt. We are lucky to have a creative staff with fresh ideas and a Friends group who is willing to foster our proposals and programs rather than requesting more money from your tax dollars.

I invite you to join us. You might just be surprised by how much we have to offer. If you can't make it sign up for our monthly newsletter so we can keep in touch. We look forward to seeing you.

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