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Why libraries matter in today's technological world

Municipal libraries are perhaps one of the most enduring public institutions – priceless repositories of history, language, and culture. The dawn of the ‘information superhighway’ threatened to make them less relevant, even obsolete. Yet now, these institutions are extending their mission well beyond the storage of knowledge. Indeed, to distinguish themselves in a world where Google is well on its way to digitally scanning most of the books ever written, libraries are learning to avail themselves of the simple fact that they are centrally located in almost every community in the USA. In other words, libraries now see success being linked to their role as public places and destinations.

While many US cities and towns now recognize the importance of re-inventing public libraries as destinations, this awareness doesn't always translate into a well-rounded success. The most high-profile new libraries rely on stylized designs to create buzz, feeding a false perception that public libraries are all about attention-grabbing looks. But when the tour bus crowds stop coming, these libraries will sink or swim based on how well they serve the needs of their respective communities – whether they are truly great places, not just eye-catching buildings.

There are plenty of unsung libraries that embody a very different and more compelling vision of what it means to be a public place. They may fly under the radar as architectural landmarks, but they still garner respect, praise and even adoration on account of their innovative management and programming. They are taking on a larger civic role – balancing their traditional needs and operations with outreach to the wider community – thereby contributing to the creation of a physical commons that benefits the public as a whole. If the traditional model of the library was the inward-focused community ‘reading room’, the current one is more like a community ‘front porch’.

3. Come si articola l'offerta formativa dell'Università di Foggia nei diversi livelli di formazione universitaria e quali sono le caratteristiche, le finalità e i requisiti dei corsi di laurea, delle lauree magistrali, delle scuole di specializzazione, dei dottorati di ricerca e dei master universitari? Come sono strutturati gli ordinamenti didattici dei corsi di laurea e di laurea magistrale?