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Librarians of the 21st Century

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Poster Presentation 8

LIBRARIANS OF THE 21ST CENTURY

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This photo-ethnographic research project focuses on the librarians of the Bloomington Public Library. The library is often considered to be an outmoded source of information. Librarians are commonly viewed as nothing more than the protectors and organizers of books. The Internet and World Wide Web are considered superior sources of information. However, the "information highway" is vast, and the validity of the information it provides is difficult to confirm. Librarians – experts in deciphering credible sources of information- are actually under-appreciated resources for utilizing these new forms of reference.

A major part of my research included observation of and interviews with several librarians at Bloomington Public Library. I talked with them to identify what they believe their role is within the community. We collaborated in creating photographs to facilitate a more accurate understanding of what the public library and librarians offer to the greater community.

Through these photographs and their corresponding captions, I have tried to illustrate that librarians are far from obsolete. Rather, librarians use the Internet among a myriad of other reference tools to empower all members of the community in navigating the expanding world of knowledge.