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Interview Resource Guide

RESOURCE GUIDE: Christopher Cox

The interview with Christopher Cox discussed the resources and methods a lot of librarians have had to face and endure in the wake of the covid pandemic. The challenge of still making the library accessible in a time where most establishments have been shut down and vastly effected by the pandemic has shown how resilient and resourceful a lot of people are or have been forced to become. IT was refreshing to see how it's being taken note that we do live in a time where social media has allowed the world to connect more than it has been in the last 10 years. Because of this, the path to making the library work and still accessible even in the wake of a pandemic like the corona virus shows that libraries are definitely evolving with the times whether the public realizes it or not.

SEVERAL KEY POINTS:

1. Making the library more accessible, but still safe during a pandemic.
2. Enhancing the interest in the library for undergraduate services.
3. Accommodating the library space more for graduate students and employees.

ABOUT CHRISTOPHER COX

Christopher Cox was born and raised in Salisbury Mills, a rural community which is located north of New York City. His father worked for the electric company in real estate, it was his job to convey right-of-ways and liens for electric poles and substations. His mother worked at the local public library as a children's librarian. It was here where Christopher developed his love of books, and it's also where he understand the importance of librarians as someone who often looked to them to help him find certain books. Christopher's journey to becoming a librarian began when he has just completed his Master's

Degree in English at the University of Connecticut. It was here that he has to decide which path he was going to go down, and this is where he sought advice from his mother who suggested he speak to some of her colleagues in regards to becoming a librarian.

FIVE RELATED RESOURCES

1. **Coronavirus: Reopening Guide for Public Libraries**

South Carolina State Library (n.d) ***Coronavirus: Reopening Guide for Public Libraries***

https://guides.statelibrary.sc.gov/covid19-reopening

The South Carolina State Library website offers a brief insight into what they're doing in order to begin the slow, but needed, process of reopening libraries in the wake of the Covid-19. This articles breaks down the steps and precautions they're taking in order to assure the safety or both the librarians and the patrons. This is something that's important for libraries to uphold to as it basically gives the guidelines one must go by in order to re-open and allow access to any library facility in the state of South Carolina. The website offers news updates, vaccine information and where to get them at, webinars on safety tips against Covid-19, and other various resources for librarians to adhere to in these times including links to other facilities outside of the state that may follow the same guidelines and offer extra tips as well.

2. **10 Virtual Library Activities for Students to Do at Home**

10 Virtual Library Activities for Students to Do at Home (2020, March 13) ***Mrs. J in the Library***

https://mrsjinthelibrary.com/remote-learning-library-activities/

With more students being homebound due to the virus, most libraries have taken steps to ensure that children are able to still have to resources they need to connect with the library despite distance learning. Thankfully, a lot of students now have more access to devices with Chromebooks, so because of

this there's apps such as Microsoft Teams, Zoom, and Google Classroom which make it more accessible to librarians especially during related arts and library time for most schools. This allows for the interactions to become more accessible and not limited despite not being able to actually be in the library physically. With methods such as this it's also beneficial as the article says to include activities that the students can also perform at home as well. This helps most libraries and media centers stay in the mix by allowing them to still provide the resources and effort they provide on the regular for patrons of the library.

3. Know before you go! See what services are available today.

Know before you go! See what services are available today. (2020, March 15) ***Richland County Public Library*** **https://www.richlandlibrary.com/announcement/coronavirus-Updates**

From the Richland County Public Library, another page that helps aid in the awareness of Covid-19 and offers those who still want to attend the library tips and guidelines on how to go about doing so. This is another method that can further help librarians as it offers a template on how to keep the public informed of what's going on as the library is still accessible to the public despite. The site is broken up into various sections that further help.

- Books movies and music
- Internet and technology access
- Other services
- Safety measures

This reflects on the video in the sense that we within the library need to keep the public informed of what's going on no matter what. Christopher Cox brings up several points where he emphasizes on the importance of the patrons knowing what's going on. There's even a part where he talks about patrons

wanting coffee in the library, which is something that wasn't common years ago, but is more common place now.

4. Why You Shouldn't Do Curbside During COVID-19 | Backtalk

Attanasio, K. (2020, Apr 22) Why You Shouldn't Do Curbside During COVID-19 | Backtalk. LibraryJournal.com
https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=Why-You-Shouldnt-Do-Curbside-During-COVID-19-Backtalk

With the rise of Covid-19 and the demand of more curbside services to be provided by libraries both public and in the education level, there's also numerous reservations that are had in regards to curbside services. It's only fair to hear some of the reservations. Katelyn Attanasio discusses her concerns and why she believes curbside during covid-19 shouldn't be a thing, she also makes it known that her views in the article do not reflect those of her employer, respectfully.

Attanasio talks about the problems with PPE and how libraries have two options when offering curbside pickup.

1. Providing personal protective equipment (PPE) to library staff, to protect them and the public.
2. Not providing PPE for staff, which means putting staff and patrons both at risk of getting ill and even dying.

She also poses questions in regards to the staff using fabric masks while handling materials and working with other patrons. The masks may help prevent people who are already infected from spreading it, but wearing masks will not prevent staff members from getting it from a patron not wearing a mask, it can also be contracted from surface of a book or even something as simple as a door handle.

5. Where Are We: The Latest on Library Reopening Strategies

Freudenberger, E. (2021, Feb 02) Where Are We: The Latest on Library Reopening Strategies. LibraryJournal.com
https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=Where-Are-We-The-Latest-on-Library-Reopening-Strategies-covid-19

The next articles discusses how the release of the vaccines is cause for hope and can be a step in the right direction for a bit of normalcy. Living in suspense is challenging, especially for organizations that serve the public. The article also brings up some points about how the pandemic has inequities:

- systemic racism
- economic
- food insecurity
- mental and physical health issues
- digital equity disparities

Even before the pandemic these were issues the public libraries have been on the front lines dealing with and negotiating how to address while still providing essential community services while keeping staff and the community healthy. Freudenberger also points out how the pandemic has created an endless loop of ambiguity where the coronavirus has causes so much drastic changes it's become more of a challenge to keep things in line.

With much of what is discussed in the article, it takes not that we can look at these issues and find a proper way to deal with them within our own facilities. It's important for the libraries to keep the community in the thick of things and to help keep a straight line of communication between the librarians and the patrons despite the hindrance of Covid-19.

THREE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

1. When patrons return books, how long should the books be quarantined when they come back? Also, what are some proven effective methods to help successfully quarantine and decontaminate returned books that will reduce the risk of spreading the virus as well as not having any long term damaging effects on the books themselves?
2. What guidelines can be implemented when it comes to the usage of masks, gloves, sneeze guards, hand sanitizer, and other protective measures throughout the library? With these guidelines in place should we also require it to be mandatory for all patrons to wear these within the building?
3. With social distancing playing a key role in safety, how can we as the library change the floor plans of the library to better accommodate social distancing without changing book sections or having to radically alter various sections of the library?