



Libraries as transformative hubs



Professor Chris Riedy
Institute for Sustainable Futures

The sustainability challenge







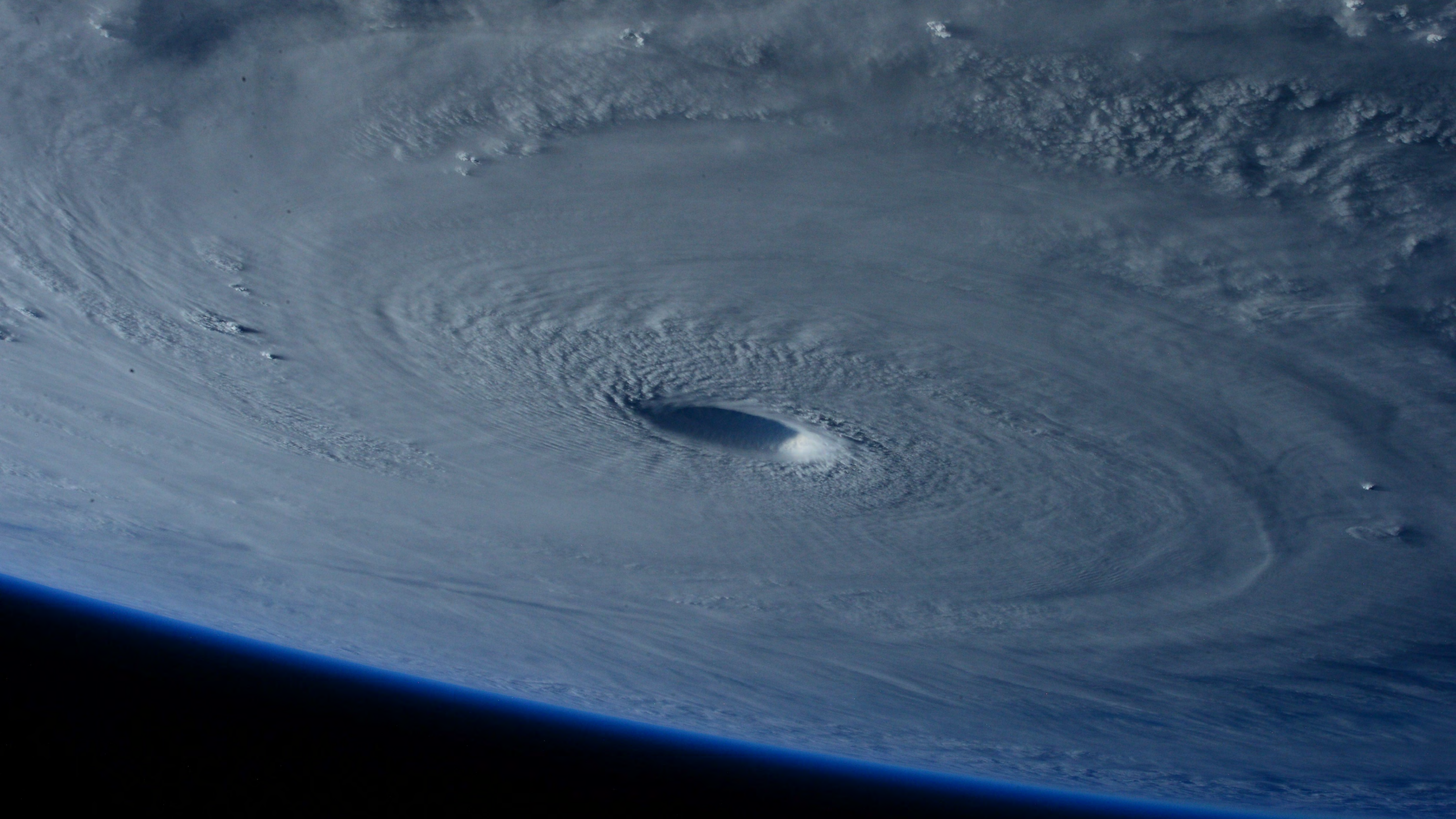
g r o w





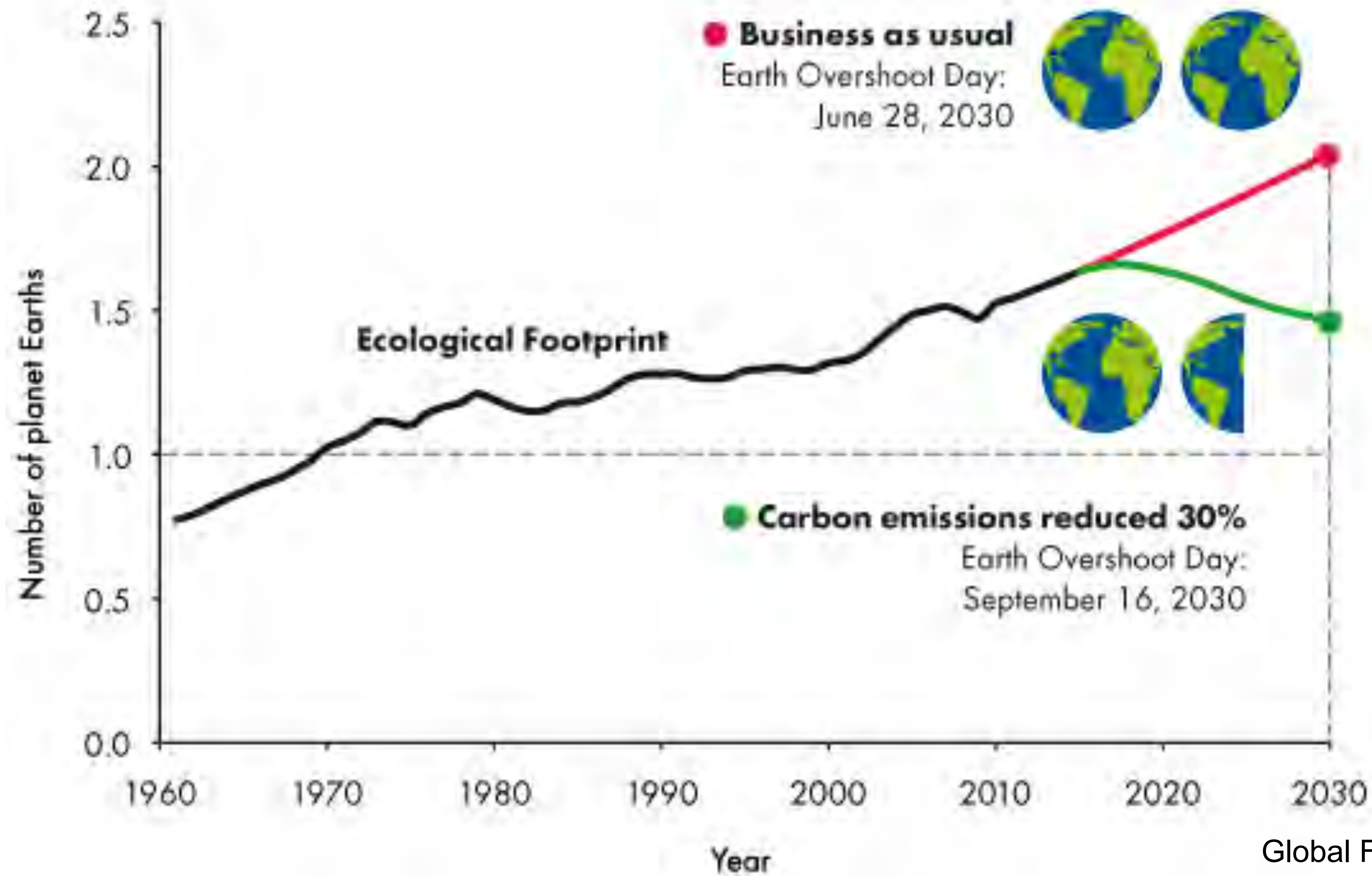
Coral bleaching

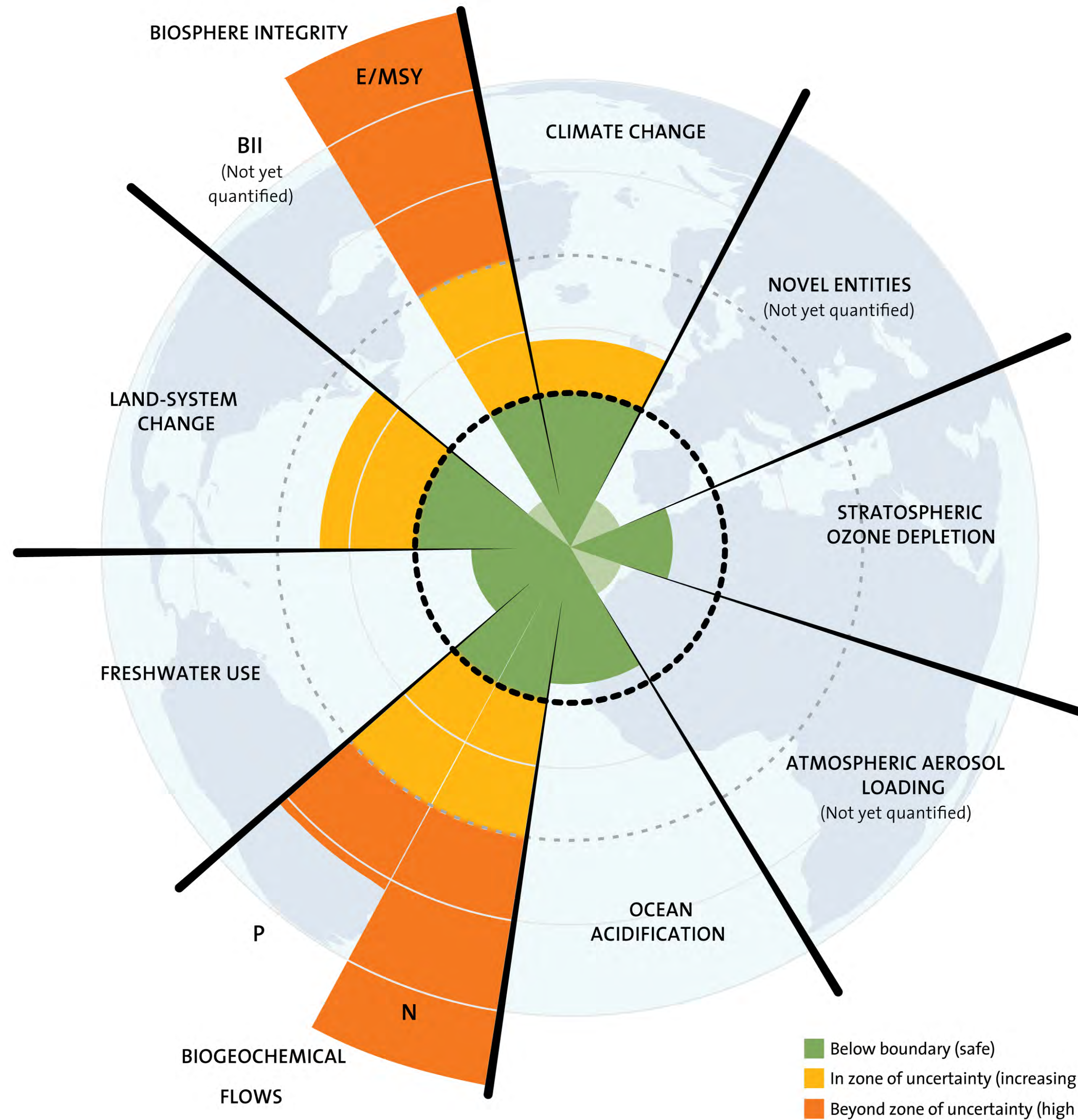






How many Earths does it take to support humanity?

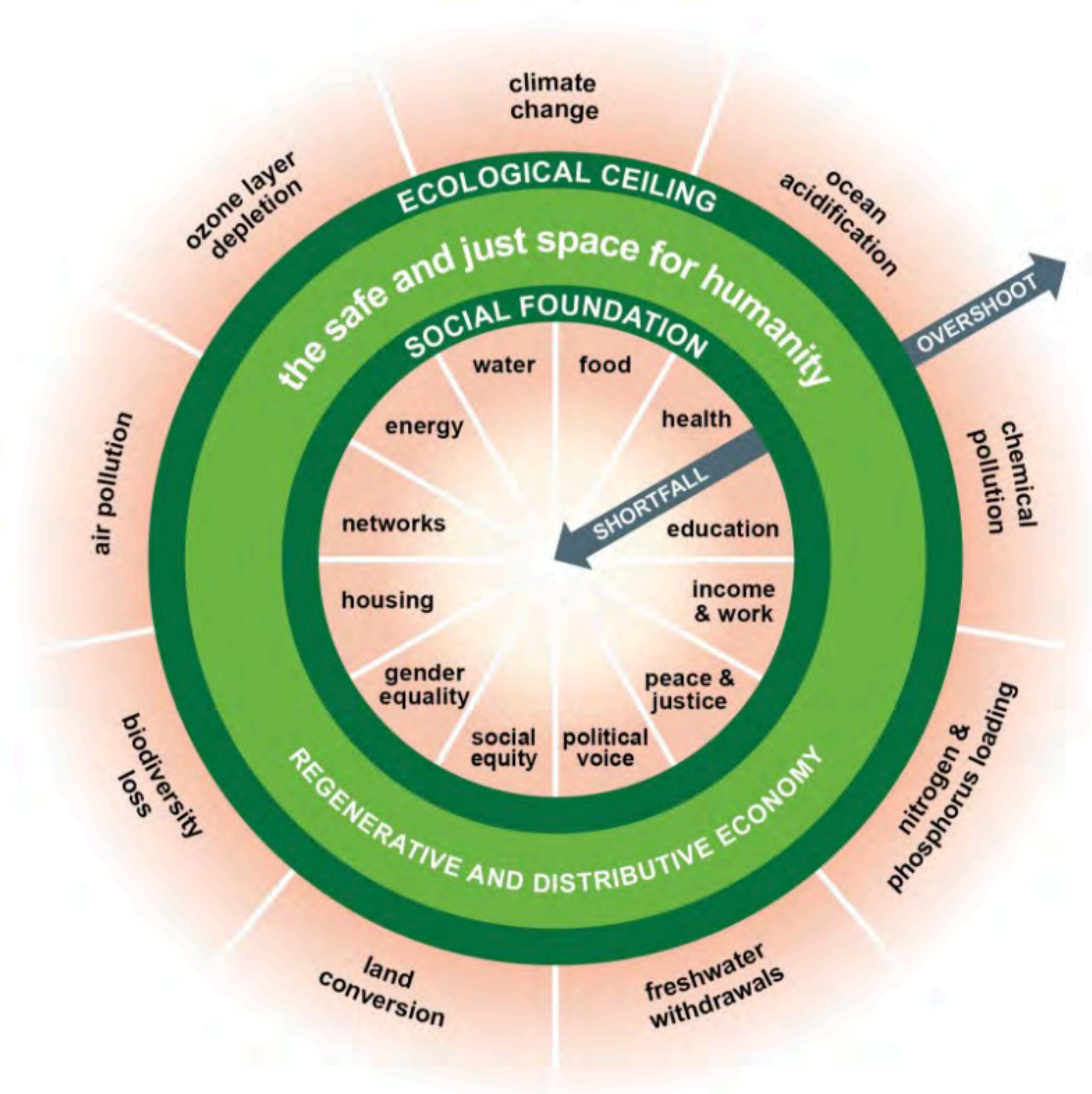




Credit: J. Lokrantz/Azote
based on Steffen et al. 2015.







More Ideas

Do one thing at a time

The brain is a sequential processor, unable to pay attention to two things at the same time. Businesses and schools praise multitasking, but research clearly shows that it reduces productivity and increases mistakes. Try creating an interruption-free zone during the day—turn off your email, phone, and social-media sites—and see whether you get more done. If you have trouble untangling yourself, download software that blocks your access to certain websites for a certain amount of time that you specify.

Divide presentations into 10-minute segments

Remember my students who said they got bored in 10-minute lectures? The 10-minute rule, which researchers have known for many years, provides a guide to creating presentations people can pay attention to. Here's the model I developed in giving a lecture, for which I was named the Hoechst Marion Roussel Teacher of the Year (awarded at one of the largest annual meetings in psychiatry).

I decided that every lecture I'd ever give would be organized in segments, and that each segment would last only 10 minutes. Each segment would cover a single core concept—always general, and always explainable in one minute. The brain likes meaning before detail, and the brain likes hierarchy. Starting with general concepts naturally leads to explaining information in hierarchical fashion. Give the general idea first, before diving into details, and you will see a 40 percent improvement in understanding.

Each class was 50 minutes, so I could easily burn through five large concepts in a single period. I would use the other nine minutes

in the segment to provide a detailed description of that single general concept. The trick was to ensure that each detail could be easily traced back to the general concept with minimal intellectual effort. I would regularly pause to explicitly explain the link. This is like allowing the general concept to be between stuffings. In addition to walking through the lecture plan at the beginning of the class, I sprinkled liberal repetitions of "where we are" throughout the hour.

This prevents the audience from trying to multitask. If the instructor provides a series of general concepts without telling the audience where the general concepts are, the audience is unable to pay attention to the instructor and attempt to connect the dots. It's like trying to pay attention to ANY two things at the same time. It's impossible to pay attention to ANY two things at the same time. This will cause listeners a series of millisecond delays throughout the presentation.

After 10 minutes had elapsed, I had to be sure to give the audience a signpost. Why did I construct my lecture that way? I knew that I only had about 600 seconds to be heard—of the next hour would be useless. And I knew that I had to do something after the 601st second to "buy" another 10 minutes.

Build the hook

After a class had 60 seconds, the audience's attention is getting ready to plummet to near zero. If something isn't done quickly, the students will end up in successively losing bouts of an effort to stay with me. What do they need? Not more information of the same type. Not any completely irrelevant cue that breaks them from their train of thought, making the information stream seem disjointed, unorganized, and patronizing. They need something so compelling that they blast through the 10-minute barrier—something

*You may tell a tale that takes up
residence in someone's soul,
becomes their blood and self and
purpose. That tale will move them
and drive them and who knows
what they might do because of it,
because of your words.*

~ Erin Morgenstern



The story of Separation

We are separate from each other and nature



Competition, free markets and growth in GDP will deliver well-being



We live in a mechanical world that is ours to exploit





The story of Interbeing

We are a community of living beings on a living Earth



Cooperation and collaboration is needed to provide a safe and just future



We *are* nature and should work to regenerate the Earth



1 NO
POVERTY



2 NO
HUNGER



3 GOOD
HEALTH



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



7 CLEAN
ENERGY



8 GOOD JOBS AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INNOVATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION



13 PROTECT THE
PLANET



14 LIFE BELOW
WATER



15 LIFE
ON LAND



16 PEACE AND
JUSTICE



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS

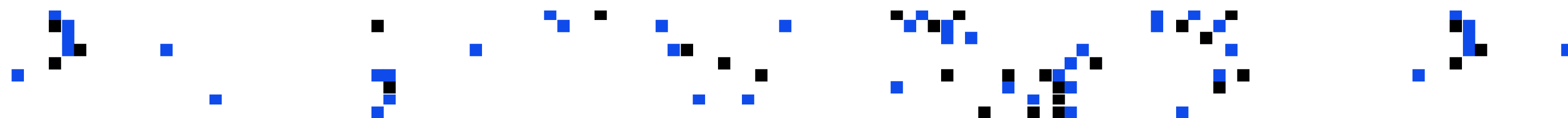


THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

Role for libraries

ALIA has identified a role for libraries related to all of the SDGs. In particular:

1. Supporting freedom of access to information
2. Providing examples of success, which can be used as part of Australia's reporting
3. Helping to communicate the 2030 Agenda to the general population



1. Regeneration

Library at the Dock,
Melbourne



NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

CODE

GREEN

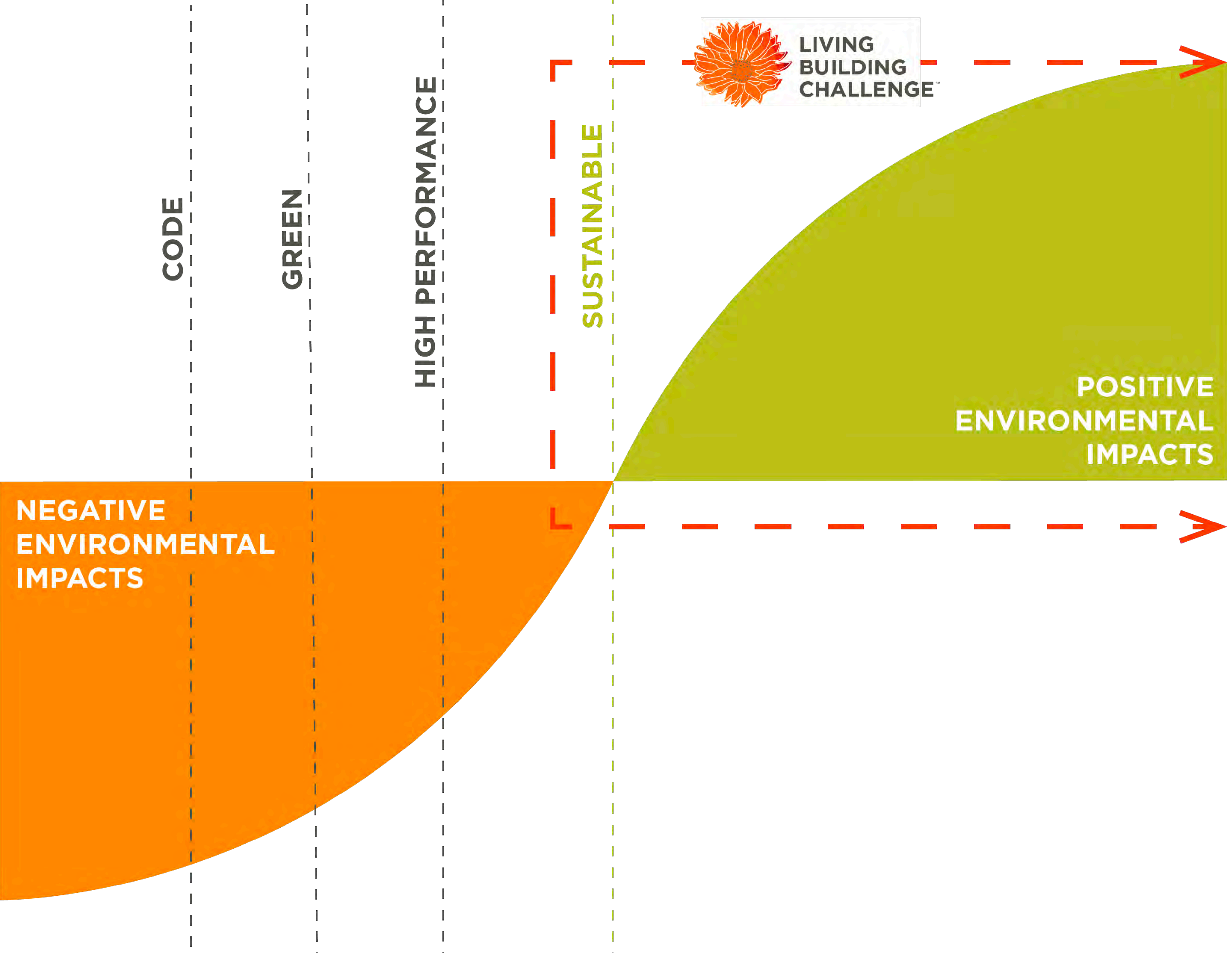
HIGH PERFORMANCE

SUSTAINABLE



LIVING BUILDING CHALLENGE™

POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS



Living Building Challenge



Singapore National Library



Baitou Branch, Taipei Public Library



Alpine Branch
Library, San Diego





Green
Square
Library,
Sydney

Sustainable living

- Workshops
- Festivals and events
- Power saving kits
- Home sustainability kits
- Inspiration, e.g. green walls



Next Workshop
 Wed 21st June
 12.30 to 1.30pm
 Ballarat Library

178 Doveton St Nth,
 Ballarat Central VIC 3353

Sustainable Building & Design 10 things you must get right

Considering sustainability when building or renovating a home

Free 3rd Wednesday Event - A presentation & discussion
 with guest Eco Building Designer, Matt Turner



**BALLARAT
 RENEWABLE
 ENERGY
 AND ZERO
 EMISSIONS inc**

Initiative of BREAZE Inc.
 Supported by City of Ballarat



2. Knowledge democracy



**Getting information off the
Internet is like taking a drink
from a fire hydrant.**

Mitchell Kapor



TV

I WISH THIS WERE FAKE NEWS.

THIS SHAN PAS 3:11:21

NO WALLS NO BANN!

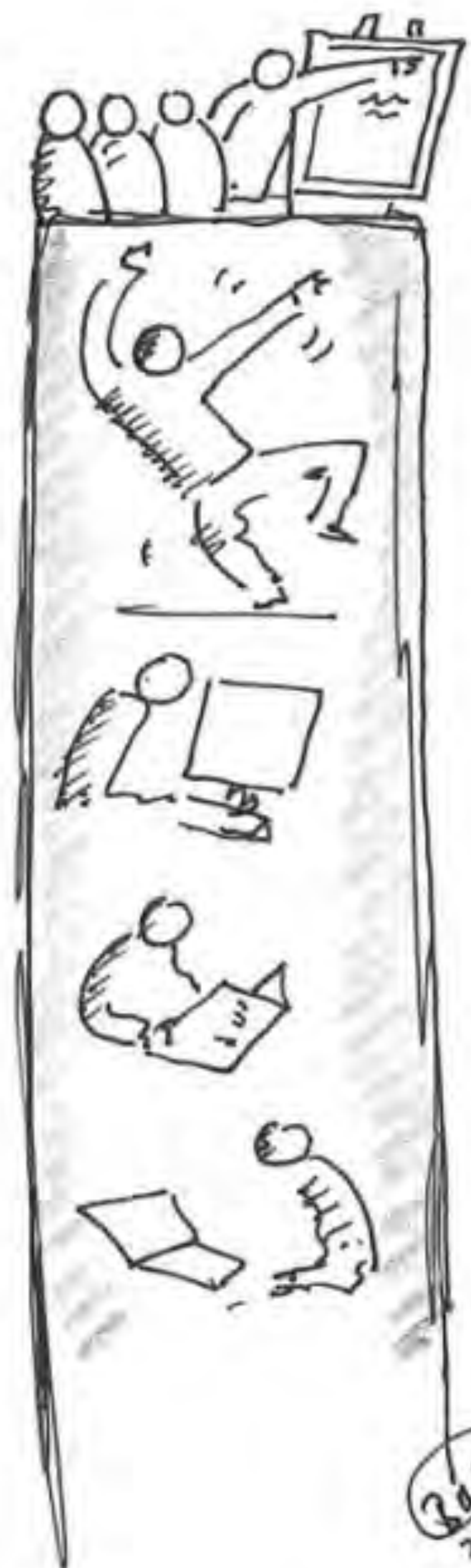
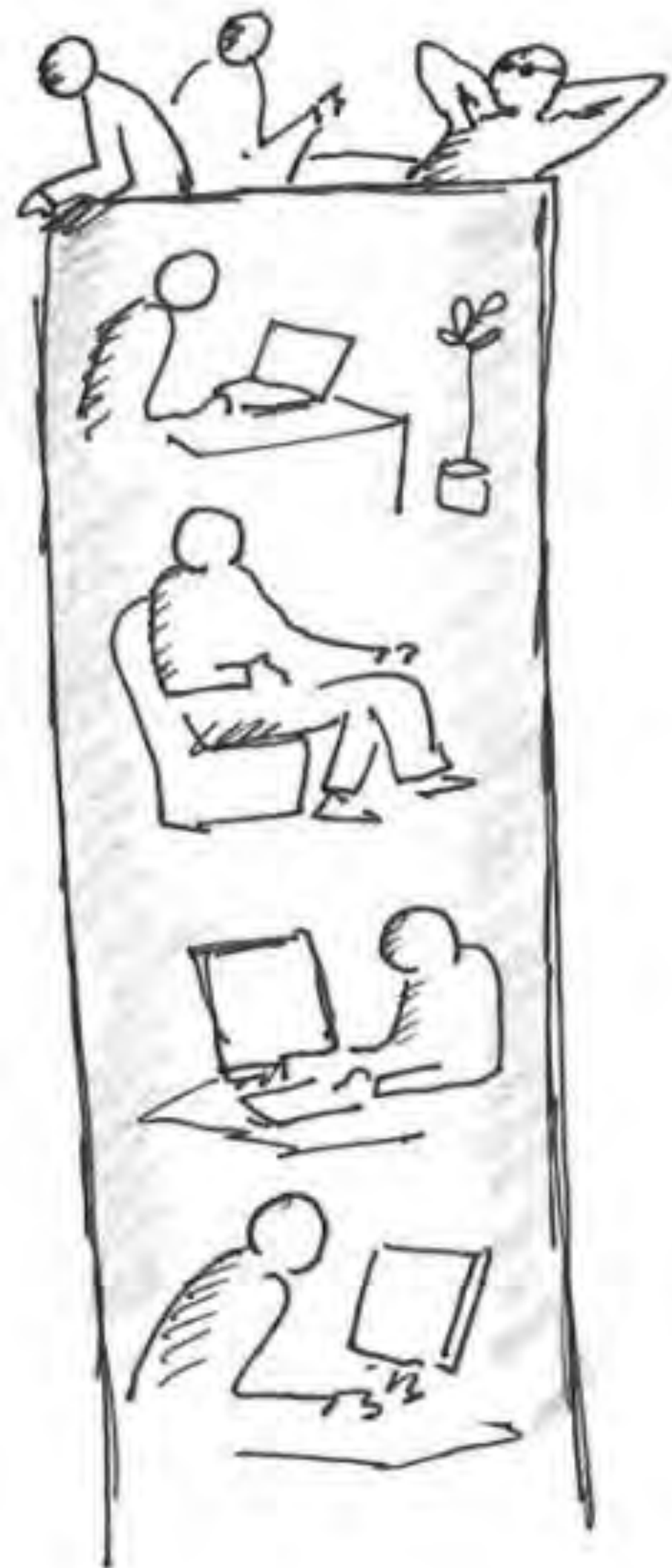
doesn't... away those in need

We Are White more

thay Pacific







"SILO SITUATION"



Cambridge
Analytica

 creative
commons

 creative
commons

 creative
commons

 creative
commons

 creative

 creative



CLARITY

When a statement is vague or fuzzy we can't tell if it's accurate or relevant.

We should ask for clarification:
Can you elaborate? Can you give me an example?



DEPTH

Statements lack depth when they fail to deal with the complexities of the issue.

Ask: Does that address the complexity of this issue/problem?



ACCURACY

A statement can be clear but inaccurate.

Check for accuracy: Is that really true? How can we verify that?



BREADTH

An argument that considers only one viewpoint but ignores other perspectives lacks breadth.

Ask: What others points of view might we be missing?



RELEVANCE

A statement can be clear, accurate, precise but irrelevant to the issue.

Ask: How is that related to this issue?



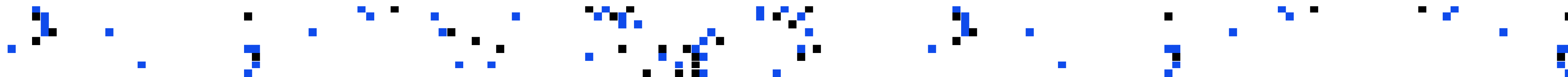
LOGIC

When the combination of thoughts is mutually supporting and makes sense in combination, the thinking is logical.

Ask: How is it possible to be both X and Y? Isn't there a contradiction there?

Democratising knowledge

- Information literacy workshops
- Data privacy workshops
- Democratic dialogue sessions
- Participatory design
- Civil society support - bridge-building between citizens, technology and knowledge
- Accessibility - free and equal access



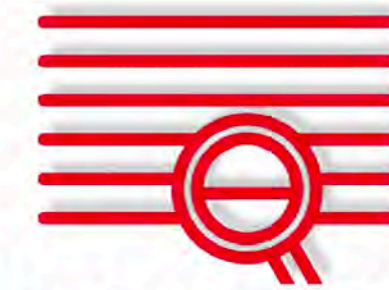
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS



CONSIDER THE SOURCE

Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.



READ BEYOND

Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What's the whole story?



CHECK THE AUTHOR

Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?



SUPPORTING SOURCES?

Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.



CHECK THE DATE

Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.



IS IT A JOKE?

If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.



CHECK YOUR BIASES

Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.



ASK THE EXPERTS

Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.

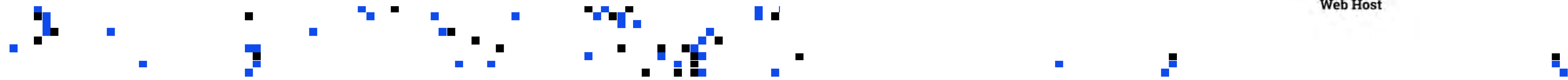
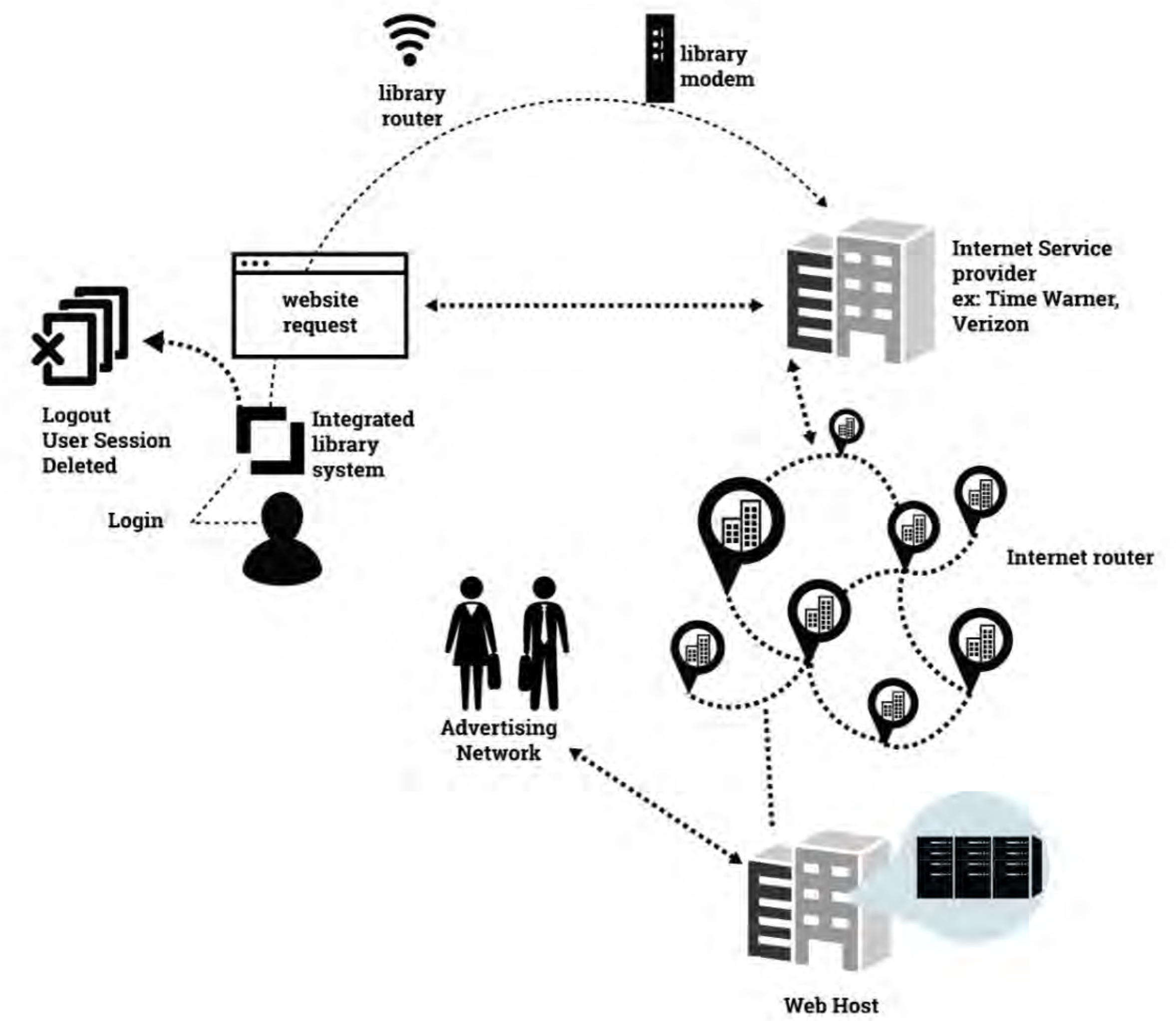


Dokk1, Aarhus,
Netherlands

Our cultural ambition...[is] to open up all branches of knowledge to every generation and social class – Bertel Haarder, Minister for Culture

Data Privacy Project, New York City Library

The Digital Privacy and Data Literacy Project (or “Data Privacy Project”) teaches NYC library staff how information travels and is shared online, what risks users commonly encounter online, and how libraries can better protect patron privacy. Its trainings help support libraries’ increasing role in empowering their communities in a digital world.



Civic Lab, Skokie Public Library

- Pop up space to encourage civic dialogue
- Kitchen table dialogue and issue voting
- Supported by fiction and non-fiction book lists on key topics
 - Black lives matter
 - Climate change
 - Immigration
 - Income inequality
 - Reproductive justice

Let's Talk About Food Waste

December 15, 2017 by Chris Auman in Civic Lab

The Civic Lab explores resources on food waste and creative ways to use up what's in your fridge and pantry.

[Read more ▶▶▶](#)

Whose Land is This Land?

November 14, 2017 by Mimosa Shah in Civic Lab

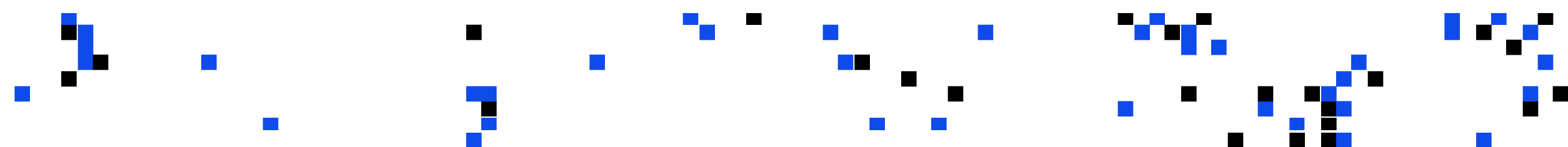
Civic Lab explores how identity shifts when ownership and the right to carry on one's heritage is denied.

[Read more ▶▶▶](#)

Coming to America

August 7, 2017 by Ayesha Khan in Civic Lab

People emigrate to the U.S. for many different reasons and the transition can be difficult. The Civic Lab recently discussed what is lost and gained by new arrivals to this country.



3. Sharing and collaboration

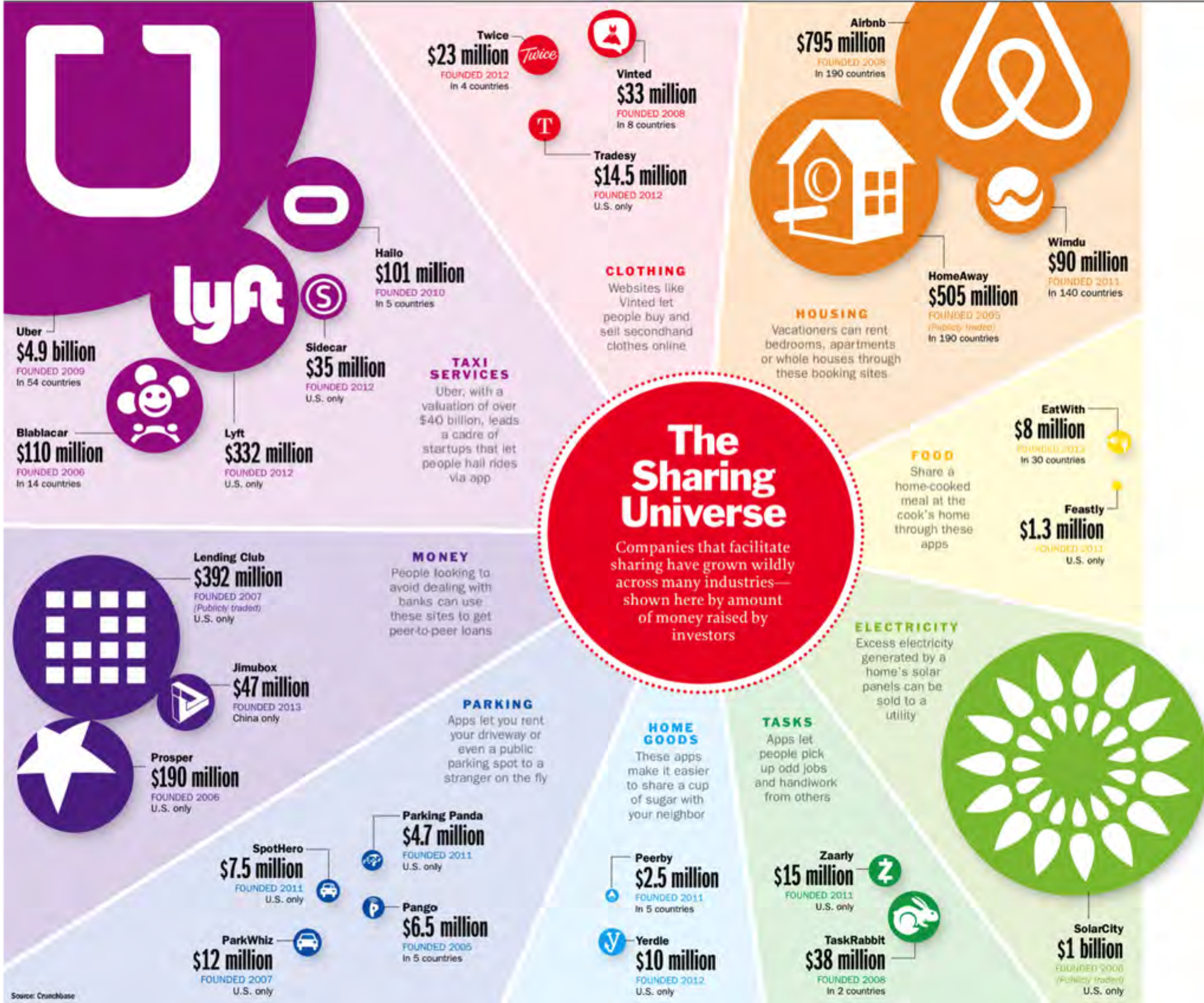


FOUR DRIVERS



Massive paradigm shift in how we live, work, play, travel, create, learn, bank and consume.





DISTRIBUTED POWER CHANGES

THE ROLE WE CAN PLAY IN OUR ECONOMY & SOCIETY

20th Century

Industrial Economy

PASSIVE CONSUMERS



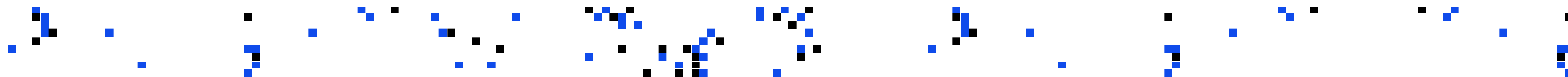
21st Century

Collaborative Economy

**CREATORS
COLLABORATORS
FINANCIERS
PRODUCERS
PROVIDERS**

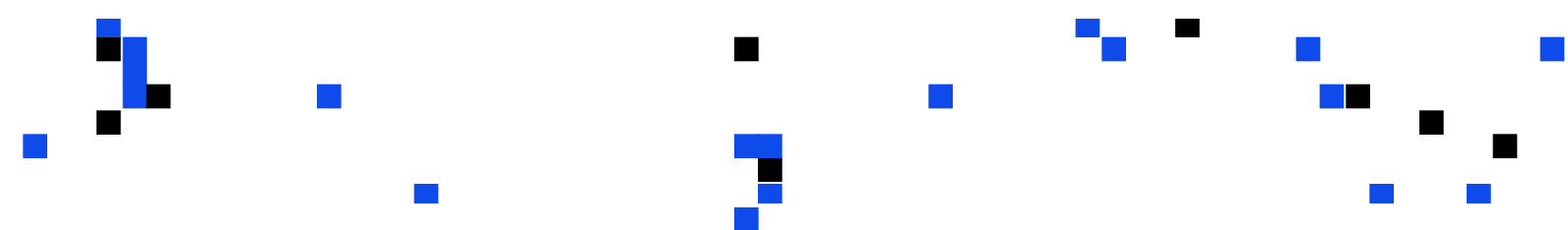
The sharing economy experience

- Easy to use online platforms that provide guidance
- Accessible anywhere
- Instant (or at least rapid) access to what you need
- The ability to access reviews by people like you
- A social experience that connects you with others using the platform
- A two-way exchange
- Reputational rewards for being a good participant
- Cost savings over traditional models
- A more authentic experience



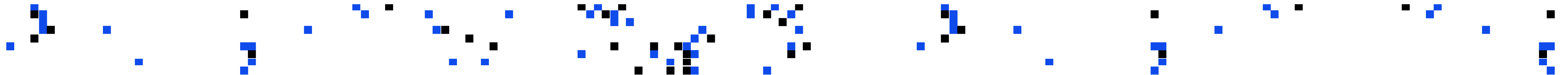
Beyond books...

- Tool libraries
- Toy and game libraries
- Instrument libraries
- Sling libraries
- Kitchen appliance libraries
- Seed libraries
- Fishing gear
- Camping equipment



Sacramento Public Library – Library of Things

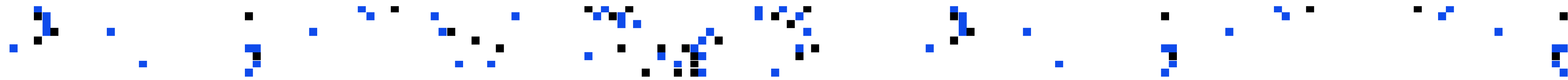
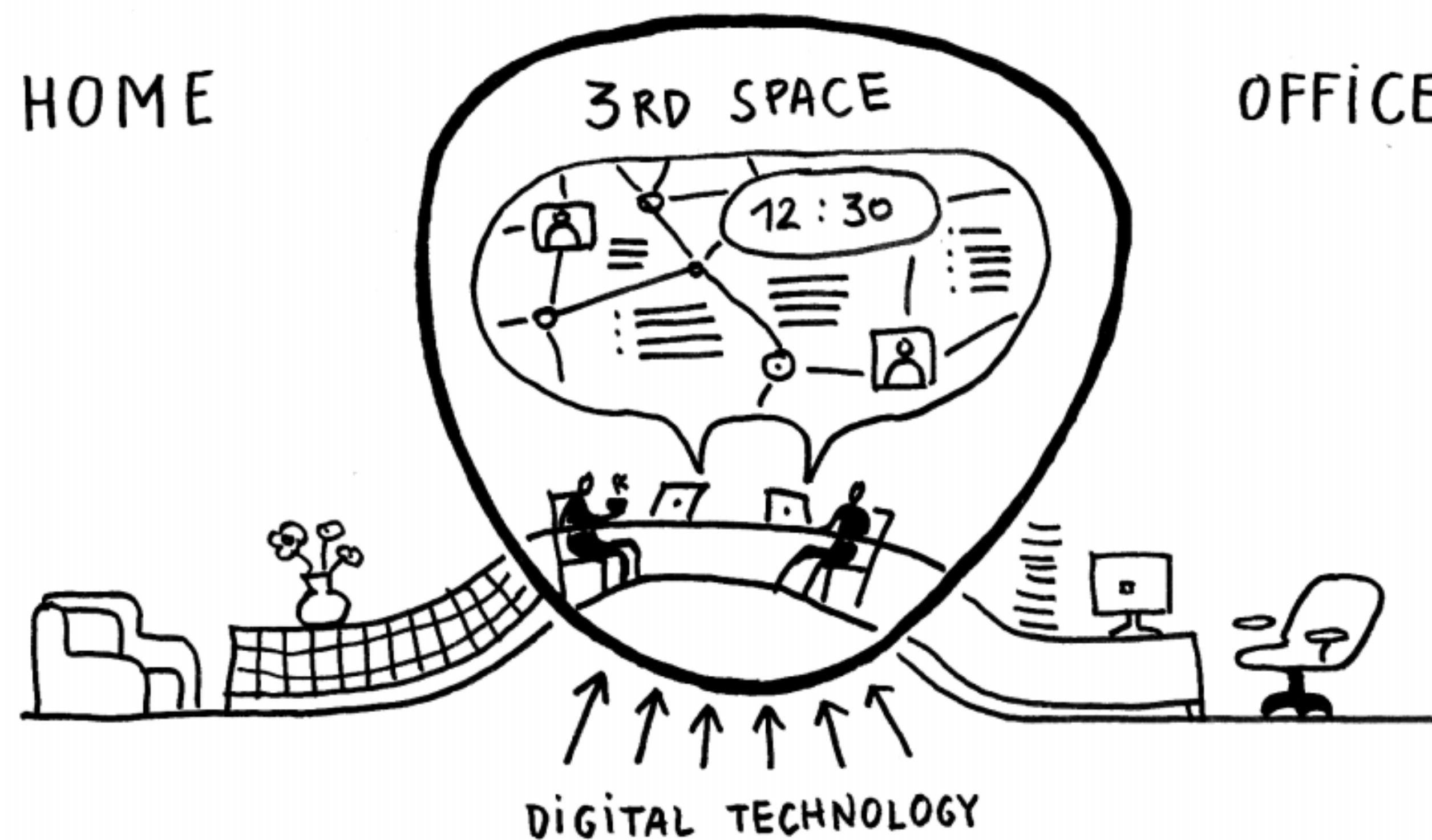
- Musical instruments
- Tools
- Sewing machines
- Screen printers
- GoPro camera
- Video games
- Laminator
- Crafting tools
- In-house bike repair station
- 3D scanner
- Serger for professional quality stitching.





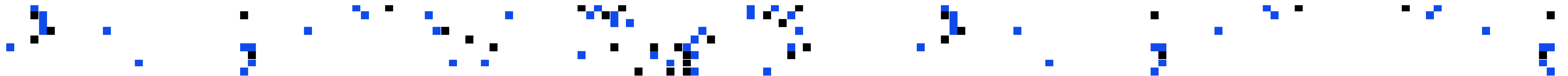
Community hubs

- Workshops and courses
- Learning centres
- Meeting spaces
- Computer literacy training
- Social and cultural programs, performances
- Makerspaces
- Coworking spaces
- Computer and Internet access
- Business incubators and networking
- Digital media labs
- Recording studios



The New Library (Almere, Netherlands)

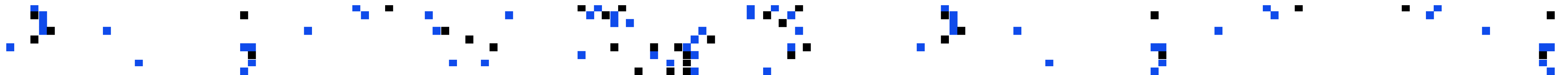
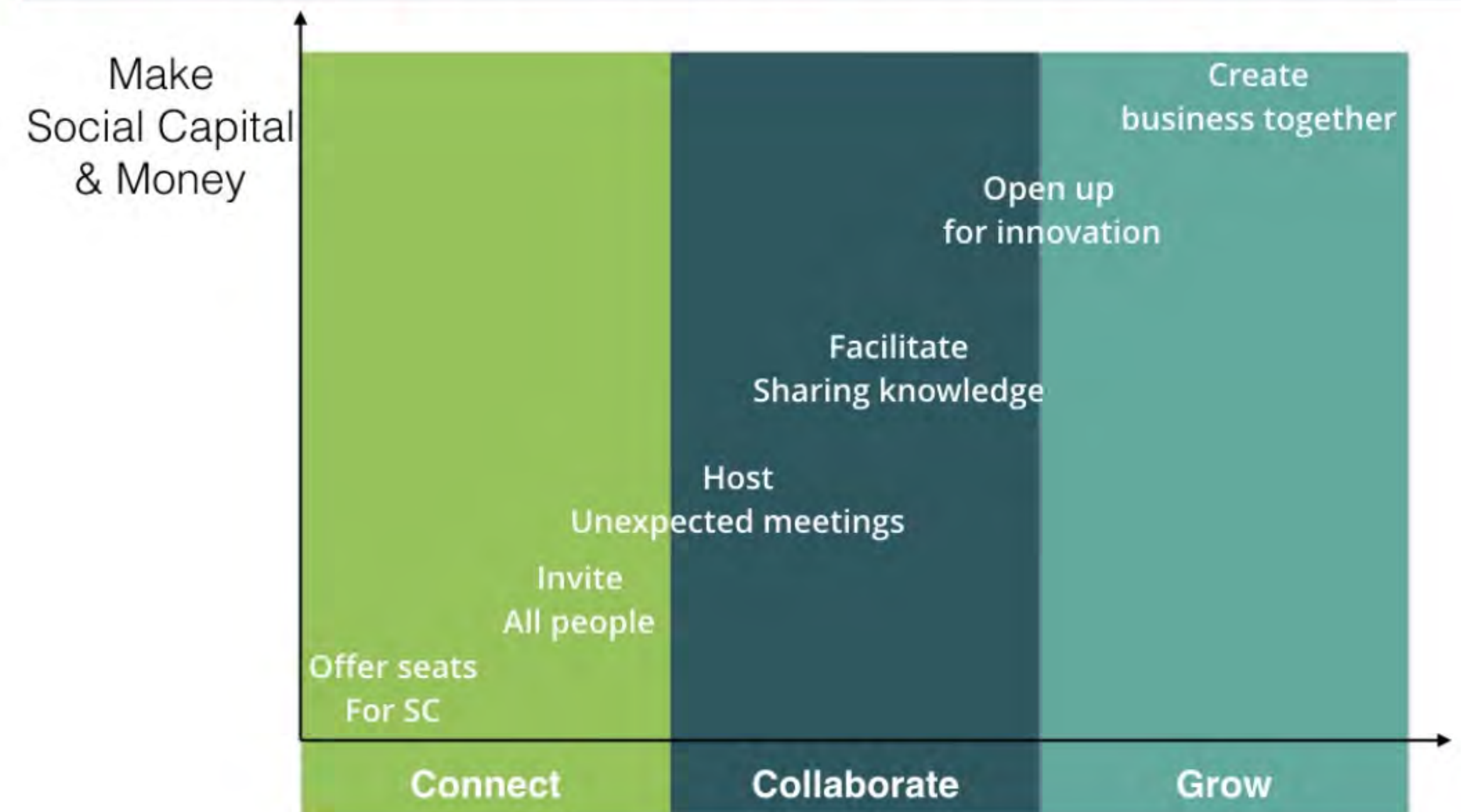
- Grouping books by areas of interest, blending fiction and non-fiction
- Books displayed face out like a book store
- Strong focus on a seamless customer experience
- 'Sticky' space with café etc to encourage longer visits
- Seats2meet location



Seats2meet

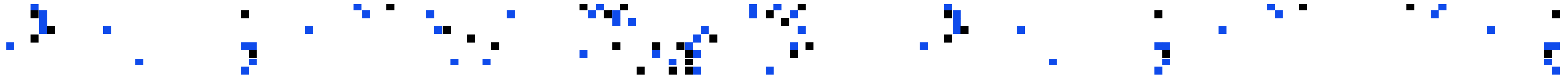
- Virtual layer for locations, including libraries
- Coworking spaces, which can be paid for using money or social capital (offering skills to help others)
- Serendipity Machine – app to match up people with complementary skills and experience
- Question making – asking for help from people around you

HOW TO BE A RELEVANT/GENIUS LOCATION



Denver Public Library – meeting the needs of homeless people

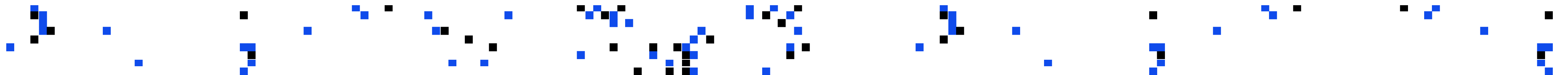
- Weekly ‘Hard Times’ workshops – writing, meditation, arts education, yoga
- Laundry Truck
- Staff training in anti-overdose medication administration
- Social workers with drop-in hours
- Coffee Connections – monthly staff and patron social event



Bibliocommons – online catalogs inspired by the sharing revolution

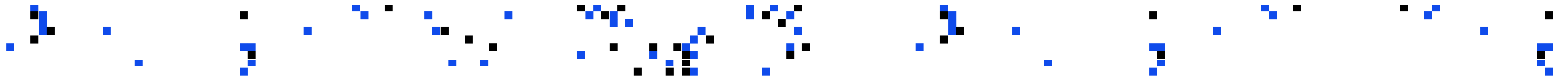
- Seamless, mobile responsive online platforms, linked to other libraries
- Library patrons can rate, recommend, review, tag and discuss books online
- Library staff can develop recommendation lists that are easily accessible
- Human-centred design

I am so in love. Navigating is easy. **I've been telling friends how great the library website is.** This site is fantastic. **So seamless, smooth and quick.** I really appreciate it. Far easier and faster. More sophisticated. Easy to manage. What a great feature. **This is what I have wanted for years.** A game changer. **Kudos to your staff and administration.** Modern and cool. I find the experience delightful and relaxing. **I visit daily.** This site is very fun. I'm in awe of the quality. Extremely impressed. So easy and convenient. What an improvement. **This is the best service.** Fastest and slickest renewal process I've had. I was thrilled. I look forward to exploring more. **Awesome.** What a great search experience. Answers questions I didn't even realize I had. The online library is awesome. **Thank you.**



Maker spaces

- Sharing of knowledge and skills
- Repair workshops
- Archiving services for personal media
- 3D printing and scanning
- Electronics kits
- Sewing circles





4. Story and imagination

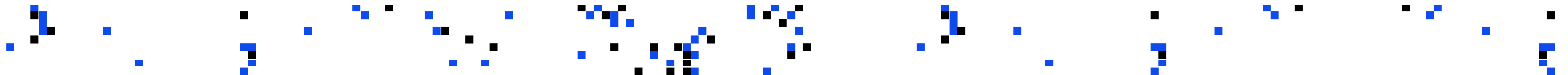
A digital illustration on a dark blue background. On the right, a hand is shown in a wireframe style, rendered in glowing red and orange lines. The hand is holding a globe, also in a wireframe style, which is covered in numerous small, bright white and yellow light points. To the left of the hand, several translucent, 3D geometric shapes, including triangles and pyramids, are scattered and appear to be floating or falling. The overall aesthetic is futuristic and technological.

PLANTING SEEDS
OF THE FUTURE

Seeds of a Good Anthropocene

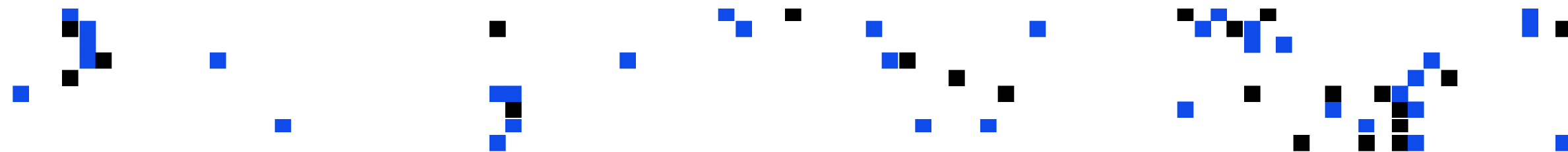
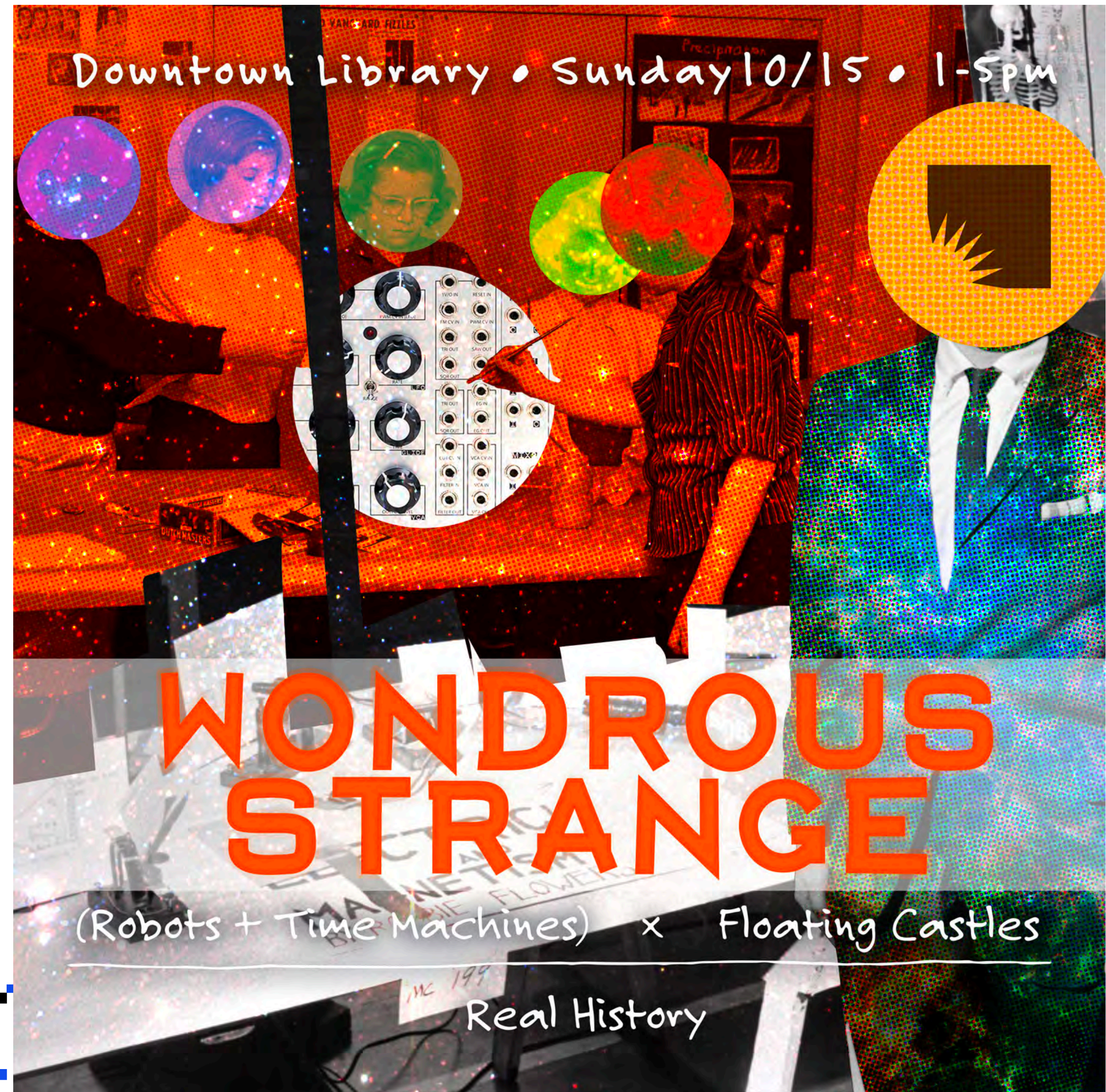
Idea Exchange

- The Cambridge public library service in Ontario, Canada is now called the Ideas Exchange
- It collects ideas and stories from its members and shares them through its platforms
- Around the World in 30 stories – stories by members



Libraries as Institutions of Foresight

- Futures thinking and experimentation
- Scenario planning
- Exploring utopian and dystopian stories of the future



Libraries as transformative hubs

- Libraries can seed a transformative Story of Interbeing and provide spaces to explore alternative futures



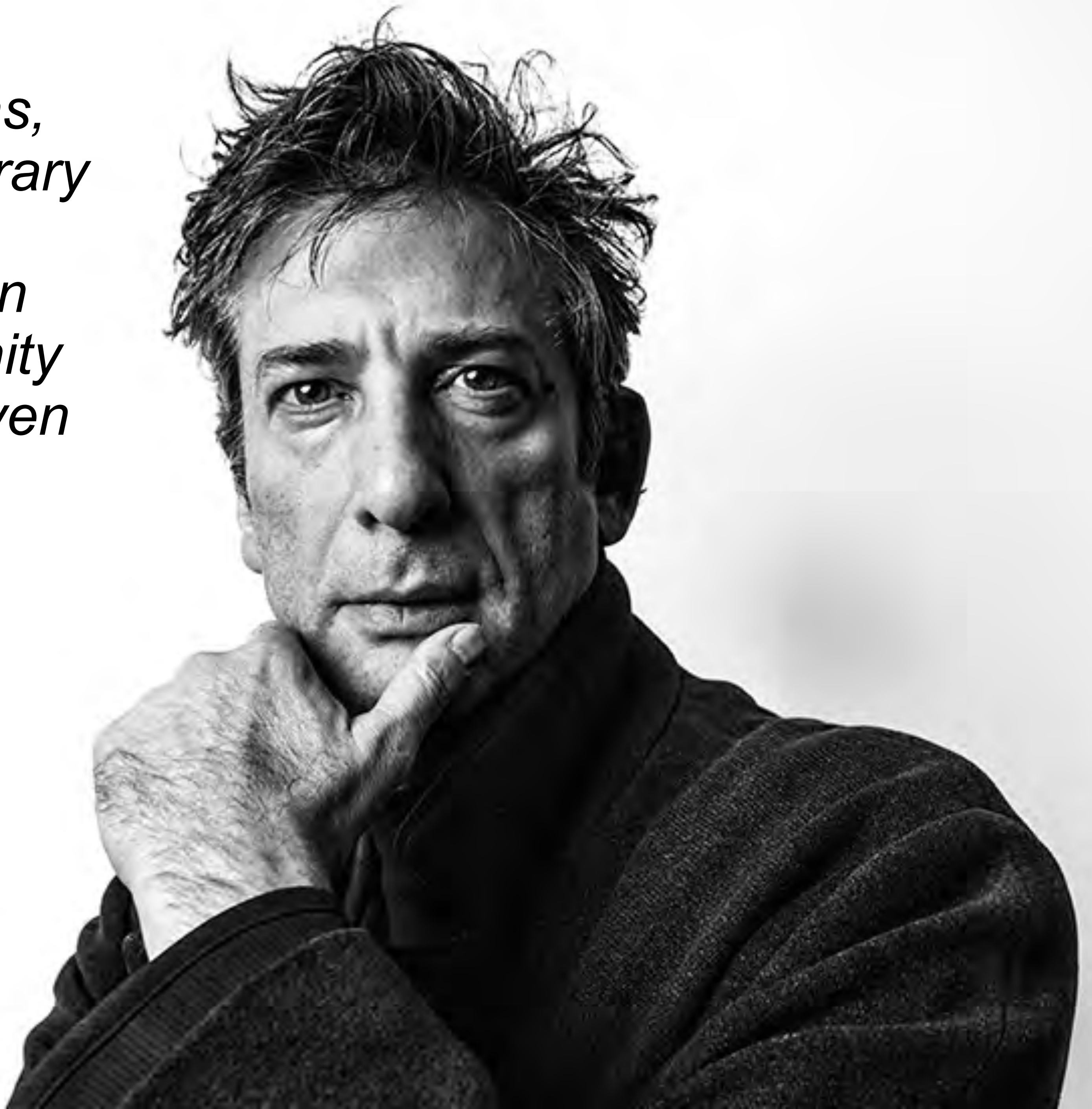
- Leading by example with regenerative buildings and sustainable living advice

- Knowledge needs to be freely shared to support a healthy democracy
- We need to share the skills to think critically in a sea of information and misinformation

- Libraries are expanding what they share, drawing inspiration from the sharing revolution and becoming platforms for peer to peer exchange and collaboration

*Libraries are about freedom.
Freedom to read, freedom of ideas,
freedom of communication...A library
is a place that is a repository of
information and gives every citizen
equal access to it...It's a community
space. It's a place of safety, a haven
from the world.*

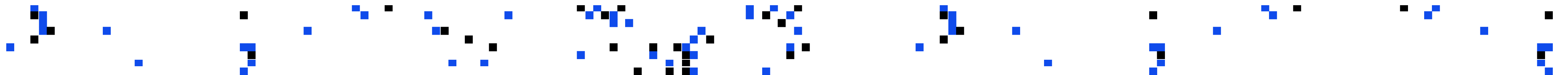
Neil Gaiman



Free and equal access to that which is otherwise hard to access

- Books were once rare outside libraries and inconvenient to lug around, so libraries were needed to house them
- eBooks are not rare but are locked behind pay walls, so a role for libraries in providing access remains
- The recent embrace of makerspaces and coworking makes sense – 3D printing, tools and space are in demand but difficult for everyone to access

What is the new frontier for libraries? What things will become harder to freely access in the future?

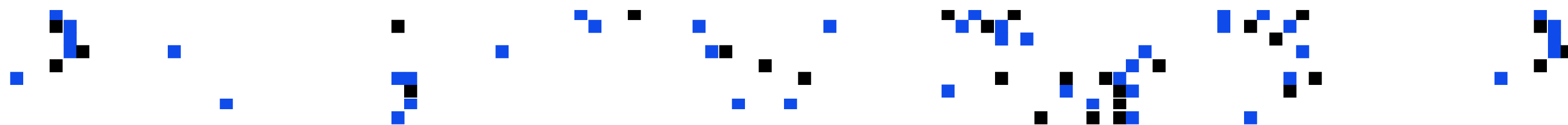


Some speculative ideas...

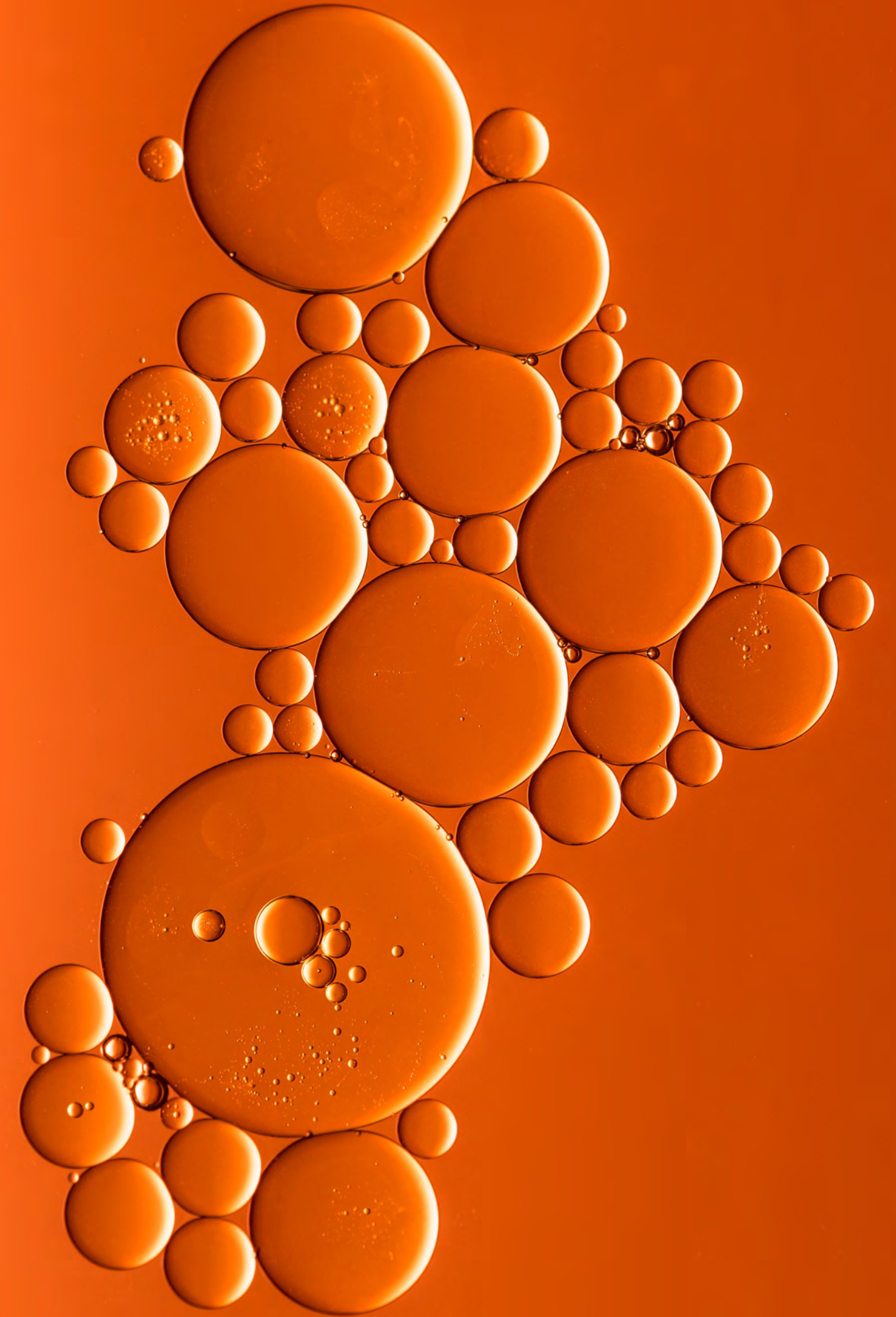
- Computer code
- Virtual reality equipment and experiences / check out new realities and new futures
- 3D printer patterns
- Heirloom seeds
- Marginalised voices and stories
- Genetic information
- Wisdom / sensemaking

Google can bring you back 100,000 answers. A librarian can bring you back the right one."

- Neil Gaiman



- The transformations that lie ahead require sites of disruption or catalysis, around which sustainable cities can grow and crystallise. Libraries can and should play this role.
- Libraries are community knowledge hubs and nodes in new learning networks. In these evolving spaces, citizens can connect with each other and learn new stories and practices of sustainable living, democracy and sharing that radiate out into the world.
- It does require evolution of our notions of what a library is, but the evidence from around the world (and from the Tomorrow's Libraries report) is that libraries are confidently taking this next step.
- And we will always need guides to help us navigate the sea of knowledge, no matter what form that knowledge is stored in.



Thank
you

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