



LEIDing Edge Library Trends



Library patrons used to visit their local libraries to borrow a book or perhaps do some research where they could get lost in the library's quaint, quiet rooms and hallways. Today, like many other aspects of the world, libraries need to become more connected and available. But for some communities, funds are in short supply and the community library must be creative to meet these changing needs. We are seeing librarians stepping 'out of the box' to make the library a community hub and more accessible to outlying communities.

In our work with libraries, a notable trend is expanding services to allow patrons to experience their community and learn new skills. As a community hub for example, some libraries are offering workshops on resume writing and computer skills such as excel. Some are offering free passes for patrons to try out their local YMCA or recreational buildings and/or clubs before they have to commit to membership. Some libraries are even loaning items such as fishing poles for patrons to go fishing in the communities they reside in.

Beyond the effort to serve as a community hub, libraries are rising to the challenge to provide patrons better access in terms of pickup locations and hours. LEID Products iLibrary System empowers libraries to give patrons access to library materials 24/7. Often times, these iLibrary Systems are set up in locations remote from the actual library, which helps alleviate issues related to a library being located too far away from a patron in the community. When libraries expand using the system, they do it at no cost to their patrons. The self-service solution is an innovative and affordable option to provide library access where demand is insufficient to support a traditional 'brick and mortar' library.

The system breaks through traditional 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. business hours, enabling self-service accessibility regardless of the time of day. All patrons need are a library card and a valid email address to request materials from the catalog on the iLibrary kiosk or online. They receive notification of delivery and can pick up materials from the system's electronic lockers at any time of day by swiping their library card and/or entering a code into the keypad.

Earlier this month, we displayed our revolutionary self-service mini library branch featuring [Access.it Electronic Lockers](#) and the innovative [iLibrary Kiosk](#) in Indianapolis, Indiana at the Public Libraries Association (PLA) Conference. From Kentucky to California, the award winning iLibrary System is installed across communities to provide expanded services with new locations, extend hours and increased circulation.

Looking ahead, we'll have some exciting new functionalities for the iLibrary System that we will showcase at the [American Libraries Association \(ALA\) Conference](#) in June. Stay tuned for more information!

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