



# **Changes, Trends, and Values: Telling Stories About the Library of the Future**

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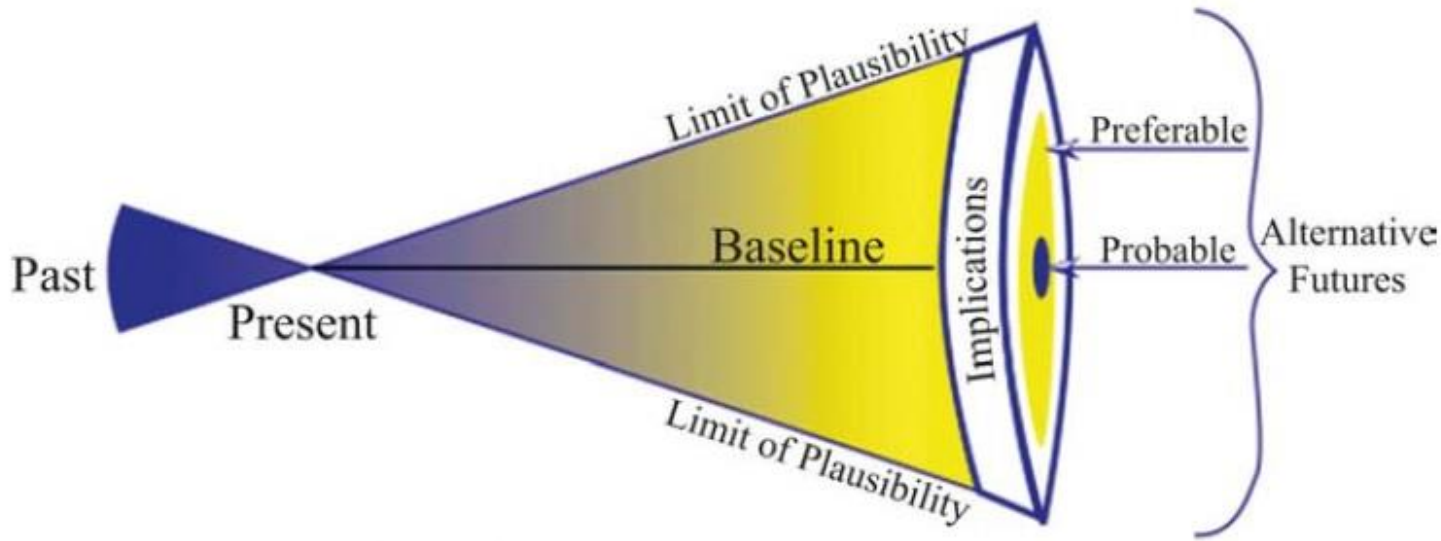


# **A Quick Review**

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**Foresight is  
fundamentally about the  
study of change.**

**We can learn a great  
deal about the future by  
looking at what is  
happening now.**



The future is many, not one

Source: Bishop (2007)

**There are many futures, not just one.**

**The goal is not to know what will happen in the future, but to be ready whatever does happen and to have some sense of preparation.**

**“Foresight is thinking ahead to how trends, issues, and developments that can be observed in the present are likely to shape alternative futures**

- **What are the key forces that are shaping the future?**
- **What might be their possible outcomes?**
- **What implications could they have for the learning and actions that must happen in the present?”**



**Collect signals from the future.**

**Combine signals into forecasts.**

**Create personal foresight.**

**Play with the future.**



# **A Repertoire of Information: Signals from the Future**



**Organizational Context**

**Environmental Context**

**Global Context**



**“Scanning is a technique for detecting early signs of potentially important developments through a systematic examination of...novel and unexpected issues as well as persistent problems and trends.”**

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. “Overview of Methodologies.” Schooling for Tomorrow Knowledge Base.  
<https://www.oecd.org/site/schoolingfortomorrowknowledgebase/futurethinking/overviewofmethodologies.htm>

**SOCIETY**

**TECHNOLOGY**


**EDUCATION**

**ECONOMICS**

**POLITICS  
&  
GOVERNMENT**

**ENVIRONMENT**

**DEMOGRAPHICS**



# Scanning helps us formulate questions...

**Why is it** \_\_\_\_\_,

**but** \_\_\_\_\_?

**“Envisioning and making the future must be a massively public endeavor....everyone needs to be a part of the conversation about the future and become actively engaged in making that future.**

Gorbis, Marina. (2016). "The Future as a Way of Life."  
<https://medium.com/@mgorbis/the-future-as-a-way-of-life-4bc314ec97de>

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# **A Repertoire in Action: Signals into Forecasts**



**Smithsonian Magazine  
"Chicago's Newest Library Is  
on a Train" (2015)**

**Paris with a View**  
★★★★★ Hosted by Alexandre

[Book Now](#)

Live there. Even if it's just for a night.

The advertisement features a woman with long red hair sitting on a balcony, reading a map. In the background, the Eiffel Tower is visible against a blue sky with some clouds. The balcony has a metal railing. The overall scene is set in Paris.

**AdWeek "Put Away the Selfie  
Stick, Live Like a Local, Urges  
Airbnb's New Campaign" (2016)**





**AdAge "What Amazon Go Means for the Future of Retail" (2016)**



**BBC "Actor Emma Watson launches Book Fairies worldwide" (2017)**



**Chicago Tribune "Order ahead' catches on, making Starbucks victim of success" (2017)**


**NextCity "Bird Drops Scooters Without Warning in Three New England Cities" (2018)**




**Fast Company "Amazon Boldly Invents the Library" (2018)**



**ArsTechnica "City has a vision for mass transit that doesn't involve city buses" (2018)**




**A forecast isn't a prediction – it can just be one way of thinking about what may happen in the future.**




**Forecasting takes what was generated in scanning to create scenarios for both the baseline future (present trends continue) as well as alternative futures.**

	Likelihood	Impact
Automation in the workplace will lead state and local governments to experiment with basic income proposals.		
Virtual reality (immersive or 360 video) will become the dominant instructional media format in K-12 education.		
Local governments will replace tax-funded transportation services with subsidized partnerships with on-demand transportation services.		

**Order-ahead and unmediated check-out become the norm for retail transactions, especially among more affluent and educated consumers. Staffing and square footage shrinks at most outposts. High traffic “flagship” locations focus on experiences and entertainment.**

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**Ride hailing services, having transitioned to autonomous cars, seek expanded business opportunities, including a new service that takes Little Free Library's "Take a Book, Share a Book" philosophy on the road, autonomously driving books, on-demand, across cities and towns.**








**"Dockless" and "floating" become the buzz words in civic innovation.**


**One startup explores subscription access to floating book and media collections – adapting Yondr's locking pouch to secure materials across cities, accessible only to subscribers.**

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**The reactions and interactions of people to forecasts can help us understand possible solutions, tensions, concerns, and opportunities for the future.**



# **Some Things to Remember**

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**The signals for the future arrive as inbound change (change that happens to us), but we build our future through outbound change (change that we create ourselves).**

**“If we shape our vision around only what seems possible today, we surrender our opportunity to structure a really great life for ourselves. Big changes and compelling visions require some leaps of faith.”**

Ryan Gravel. *Where We Want to Live: Reclaiming Infrastructure for a New Generation of Cities*. St. Martin's Press: New York, New York. 2016.

# Thank You

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