



## The Emerging Church Library in Today's Church Culture

### Listening Guide

#### Description

The church library is much more than a room of books. Let's look at the social library approach as a strategic way churches are transforming their libraries to become major players in carrying out their churches' vision, mission, core values, and disciple making processes.

#### Logistics

1. Did you find the handout?
2. Please mute when you are not talking due to background noises.
3. When you want to talk, unmute yourself and talk and/or wave.
4. Keep in mind public libraries come in all sizes. Same is true for emerging church libraries.
5. Thank you for being with us today! And thank you to those of you who will be watching the recording of this webinar in the future.

#### Let's Talk

##### 1. Let's define our terms.

###### A. Emerge

What comes to your mind with the word "emerge"?

###### B. Culture

What is one word for the culture of your church family?

##### 2. What do you see your public libraries doing these days?

##### 3. Let's focus on the following characteristics of public libraries.

A. The collections are continually refreshed with new books and DVDs. (Can we do such?)

B. As bookstores close, libraries are the discovery places to pick out books people will end up purchasing online. All kinds of libraries have been doing this for years! (True for us too?)

C. Most if not all public and school libraries are automated. (Is this one a game changer?)

Sources of funding for software:

See page 3 for shopping questions about library software.

- 4. Public libraries use an Online Public Access Collection (OPAC) where people can reserve books online then just pick them up. Are you using that in your church?**

Example: [Central Baptist Church online catalog](#)

- 5. Are any of these roles of public libraries possible for church libraries?**

- A. Information: \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Education: \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Entertainment: \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Fellowship: \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Reflection**

- A. From what we have done today, what is on your mind?
- B. Why did we spend our time today looking at our local public libraries?
- C. Does the culture of your community influence your local public library?
- D. Does the current size of your library space and budget prevent you from considering what we have discussed today?

**7. How about following up on what we just did today?**

- A. Ask your pastor or the church staff member who serves as your liaison to the staff how he or she describes the culture of your church family.
- B. After you talk with him or her, write down implications of the church culture for the library ministry.

**8. Appreciation and prayer.**

## LIBRARY AUTOMATION SOFTWARE

### What to look for . . .

1. Is it user friendly?
2. Will it handle all types of media?
3. Is there a place for all the information you want to keep up with?
4. Minimum computer requirements?
5. What functions will it accomplish?
  - a. Password – workers/users
  - b. Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC)
    - 1) Easy word search
    - 2) Search by author, title, subject, and/or key word
  - c. Mediagraphy
  - d. Cataloging
  - e. Circulation
    - 1) Check in/check out
    - 2) Reserve
    - 3) Print receipt
    - 4) Statistics reports
    - 5) Overdue/fine notices
    - 6) Form letters – standard and create your own
    - 7) Patron reports
    - 8) Control by media type and/or teacher class
    - 9) Override control
    - 10) Assign special due date
  - f. Other reports
    - 1) Accession list
    - 2) Holdings report
    - 3) Title list
  - g. Inventory
    - 1) Print shelf list
    - 2) Lost media report
    - 3) Use barcodes
6. Technical support available? Cost?
7. What kind of supplies needed and where to purchase?
8. Will it accept Dewey Decimal System or the Library of Congress call numbers?
9. Can you use MARC records?
10. Conversion of current data?

11. Are there multiple locations?
12. Can you upgrade?
13. How often is the software updated with new features?
14. Add your own requirements...

### **Recommended Software for Church Librarians**

Concourse and Atrium Distributed by Book Systems, Inc.  
721 Clinton Avenue Suite 11  
Huntsville, AL 35801  
Website: [www.booksys.com](http://www.booksys.com)  
Email: [sales@booksys.com](mailto:sales@booksys.com)  
Phone: 800.219.6571

PC Catalog Distributed by Library Concepts  
P.O. Box 330001  
Ft. Worth, TX 76163-0001  
Website: [www.LibraryConcepts.com](http://www.LibraryConcepts.com)  
Email: [Info@libraryconcepts.com](mailto:Info@libraryconcepts.com)  
Phone: 800.519.7537

## **Resources**

**Website: [Church Librarians Network](#)**

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**Phone: 615.618.9459 (leave a voicemail for me to call you back)**