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Keywords

Protests, Libraries, Community, Safe Spaces, Crossfire

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Communities in the Crossfire: Models for Public Library Action*

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Abstract

From mass shootings in churches, nightclubs and schools to protests of statutes, discrimination and police brutality, civil unrests have become a part of our everyday life. Over the last decade, communities across the country have experienced an unprecedented number of crises that have been particularly hard-felt. Libraries in these towns often serve as safe spaces. However, not all libraries have risen to this challenge. This paper offers exemplary models for public library action during times of crisis and contends that based on the current social climate, there needs to be a new paradigm for public library services.

Keywords: protests, libraries, community, safe spaces, crossfire

Introduction

"Sacramento Librarian Shot, Killed by Man Banned from Library."[1] Unfortunately, incidents of shootings like these are all too common in our society (see Appendix 1). This incident occurred on December 12, 2018 in the parking lot of the North Natomas Public Library. Unfortunately, this was not the first time a senseless shooting impacted the library world. Just three years earlier in January 2015, a librarian attending bible study at the Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church – a block away from Charleston, South Carolina's main library - was a victim of a mass shooting when a 21-year old white supremacist murdered nine African Americans.

Not only do these tragic events speak to the fact that library employees are confronted with certain dangers when dealing with the public, it also speaks to the times in which we live, where public libraries often find themselves in the crossfire. Regardless, if it's a mass shooting or a protest in response to a shooting or protest of a white supremacy rally of statutes and monuments, in many ways they impact libraries.

It is unlikely that when Michael Harris theorized his revisionist interpretation on the purpose of the American public library, he would have predicted the socio-political crises of today. According to Harris, public libraries were established by politically motivated elitists as a means of controlling the beliefs and actions of the middle class as well as a way of indoctrinating immigrants to the American way of life.[2] Although Harris' theory was shocking and dynamic at the time, his research shifted the paradigm and offered a new way of thinking about libraries and their services to communities. It ultimately forced librarians to think differently about their work and their institutions. It is time to do this once again! Based on societal trends today, I

contend that we need a new paradigm. A new way of thinking about the services we provide to communities. In the *Mission Statement and Imperatives for Services: Guidelines for Public Libraries*, published by the Public Library Association (PLA) in 1979 and revised in 2017, the PLA articulated a rapidly changing society- one that had evolved from the prior century where the goal was once to standardize American values to one that emphasized the cultural diversity of its users.[3] The revised mission called for libraries to serve the public as a whole. Rather than setting one standard for all libraries, the PLA encouraged these institutions to look at the community they served to develop services.[4] We now live in world where nearly every day there are acts of terrorism. This is something that was not included in the PLA revised mission. This rapidly changed society warrants a re-thinking of the mission and the role and purpose of the public library.

It has been well documented that in times of crisis, libraries and other information centers have engaged communities and provided information. For example, contested space was the focus of Archie Dick's investigation of the role libraries played during South Africa's struggle to end apartheid.[5] Contrary to the belief that public libraries on the Cape Flats were "inadequate, passive, and politically indifferent to social change in South Africa in the 1980s," Dick finds that township libraries were "places for ideas and debate, *spaces* [emphasis added] in working-class areas with low levels of literacy where the books, as props, supported oral discourse."[6]

In their book, *The Library as Place: History, Community, and Culture,* co-editors Buschman and Leckie shift the focus from the library as *space* to an exploration of the library as *place*.[7] Grounded in theory and presented through an impressive collection of papers from practitioners and scholars, the book is concerned with the impact of the physical library on cultures, individuals, and communities. This type of engagement is also evident in many modern-day community crises, where libraries were the only public centers that remained open to the community during and following devastating events. In some instances, such as in Ferguson, Missouri, following the grand jury verdict of Michael Brown, which ignited protest, looting and rioting, public schools were closed, and students were moved to libraries, so that classes would not be interrupted.[8]

Nevertheless, these difficult topics are rarely addressed in Library and Information Science (LIS)—despite the fact that the expedient nature of information sharing is a significant aspect of this issue. While there is a plethora of LIS literature that has focused on information services during community disasters, [9][10][11] little research explores recent events, such as the impact of the fatal shooting of Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Florida or the shooting of twelve-year old, Tamir Rice in Cleveland, Ohio. Both of these shootings highlight the travesty of systemic racism in our communities. The Unite the Right Rally, a white supremacist demonstration in Charlottesville, VA in August 2017, is another example.

Is the library profession being true to community engagement if we avoid tackling these issues? If we position ourselves as stewards of social justice, do we owe it to these communities (and ourselves) to address these hard issues? Since urban communities often bear the burden of the fallout when chaos occurs, should libraries in urban communities position themselves as sources that inform responses to civil unrest? The ongoing debate on libraries as neutral spaces is an interesting framework to explore these questions.

A Bit of History: Public Libraries Have Never Been Neutral

The profession was founded in 1876 by Melvil Dewey and five other notable men on the core principles of democracy and egalitarianism. The goal for the library was that it would be free and open to everyone - users can come at their leisure and use the library and not be questioned on their reading preference. Libraries would be safe places where individuals could come and have free access to all information regardless of their ideologies, beliefs or ethics. Accordingly, librarians are taught not judge or take a partisan stance on any issues as they relate to library services. In other words, remain neutral! While this is noble, it's neither pragmatic nor realistic. Libraries have never been neutral. The library as an institution reflects mainstream society and the profession has chosen to take partisan positions, whether it is by remaining silent or otherwise. That debunks the whole neutrality argument. For example, the public library has not always been free and open to everyone. America's history tells us that it was not until the landmark 1964 Civil Rights Act that led to the dismantling of segregation and overt racism in American public facilities and institutions. Moreover, the profession chose to remain silent when Black librarians could not fully participate in conferences and when Blacks were not permitted to use libraries in the Jim-Crow south.

It was not until the 1936 Annual Conference held in Richmond, Virginia that ALA took a stance on discriminatory practices. In an effort to obtain a large turnout, Black librarians received invitations from the Richmond Local Arrangements Committee to attend the conference. It was not conveyed, however, that the participants would have to endure the segregated conditions of the city. Although African Americans were permitted to use the same hotel entrances as white conferees, they were not allowed access to conference halls or meetings that were held in dining areas in conjunction with meals. Additionally, Black members of the Association were given reserved seating in a designated area of the meeting hall, thereby diminishing their capacity to fully take part in the conference. The organization's decision to comply with federal and state laws that denied Black librarians' equal access to their profession was an obvious example of library neutrality.

With the rise of the civil rights movement, Blacks would no longer settle for being second-class citizens. African American librarians participated in sit-ins in libraries throughout the South. These events not only influenced the national mood, but also motivated library professionals to fight for equality with the goal of ending segregation in their profession. Blacks, along with sympathetic whites, placed pressure on the legal and political system to bring an end to state-supported segregation in all public places—including libraries. In fact, several southern library associations refused membership to African Americans until 1964 when activist librarian E.J. Josey forced the ALA to own up to their own values of democracy by successfully passing a historic resolution that led to the integration of southern chapters of the ALA[12]. Josey described the victory as "being the beginning of a revolution in the ALA to make the association responsive to all its members."[13] Josey was inspired by Martin Luther King, Jr. He believed that if King could fight for civil rights within the broader social movement, then he certainly could lead the challenge against segregation in his profession.[14]

Although racial tensions in the ALA have diminished significantly since the 1960s, the library profession continues to struggle with addressing issues of diversity, inclusion, and social justice in consistent ways.[15] Efforts have included establishing an office of Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services, and recruiting members from underrepresented groups to the profession. However, it is not clear how much the

field has progressed. According to their most recent demographic survey, 86.7% of their members are white.[16] Despite these efforts, ALA continues to struggle with race within the organization. Recently, at ALA Midwinter, a Black librarian complained that a white ALA Council colleague berated her during a meeting. She was encouraged to remain quiet about the incident by ALA Legal, which ultimately led to chaos. Although ALA apologized, the Black librarian insists, "It seems I will never be able to attend an American Library Association meeting without encountering some kind of racist, sexist trauma."[17]

Notwithstanding libraries' continued value as essential community centers, the American library profession has long had a difficult relationship with actively engaging communities of color. According to Cheryl Knott, racial tensions in librarianship have resembled larger public battles over race and racism, with national governing bodies pushing local library systems to be more inclusive.[18] Despite the profession's reluctance to address many of these contemporary issues related to race, many LIS professionals and researchers have begun to address social justice and human rights issues such as race and feminist rights in their research by challenging the concept of neutrality.[19][20][21]

From the beginning, the ALA touted neutrality as one of the hallmarks of the profession. The professional ethics and values of the ALA are enshrined in the *Code of Ethics of the American Library Association,* adopted in 1939 and amended in 2008.[22] It has been seen as a virtue among librarians who pride themselves on not being guided by their own personal viewpoints, but rather to make available to library users resources covering a broad range of perspectives. "We distinguish between our personal convictions and professional duties and do not allow our personal beliefs to interfere with fair representation of the aims of our institutions or the provision of access to their information resources."[23]

Through intellectual freedom, librarians espouse that libraries should be places where citizens can have access to materials, including those that have minority or controversial views. In other words, libraries support diverse collections of reading materials, and the creation of reading guides on topics like anti-censorship, privacy rights, FOIA, First Amendment, and the like. Yet libraries have been slow to engage in contemporary societal issues like police brutality and the Black Lives Matters (BLM) movement. The author argues that librarians and the institutions for which they work have never been socially or politically neutral.[24][25] So why is the profession resistant to tackling these issues? And is neutrality an option given the impact of these issues on our communities? Meredith Farkas contends that neutrality is not only unachievable, it is also harmful to oppressed groups in our society.[26]

This challenge contends that neutrality is a form of disengagement from crises in urban communities. When neutrality is framed as disengagement, libraries can recuse themselves from engaging with social movements and other crises that occur in communities of color. In recent years, the stance of neutrality, has become a burgeoning concern for LIS professionals. In 2015, the ALA Annual Conference featured a program that debunked the ethics of neutrality. [27] Meredith Farkas, wrote a bristling editorial in *American Libraries* asserting that libraries have never been neutral.[28] During the president's program at the ALA Midwinter meeting posed questions: Are libraries neutral? Have they ever been? Should they be?"[29]

The author contends that given the times we live in—where civil unrests have become a part of our everyday life—silence or neutrality on critical issues facing communities is not prudent, nor is it consistent with advocacy and activism

that the library profession experienced historically.

Libraries as Safe Spaces

In the 21st century, African Americans are still experiencing many of the same discriminatory practices they did in the 1900s. Racial profiling, voter suppression, mass incarceration, and shootings by overzealous police officers of unarmed African Americans are pervasive in today's society.[3031] Over the last several years, such shootings have become an everyday act of violence. The Black Lives Matter movement (BLM) was founded in 2012 by Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi after "Trayvon Martin's murderer George Zimmerman was acquitted for the shooting and the 17-year-old was posthumously placed on trial for his own murder."[32] Opponents of the Black Lives movement have questioned if the movement squashes their rights to free speech. One example is at the University of Houston in March 2016 following the Dallas shooting of police officers. The confluence of mass shootings by vigilantes and police officers, and the rise of protests groups like BLM have created crises in communities and the need for public institutions like libraries to play a major role in helping communities during challenging times.

Since the founding of the American public library movement by Samuel Swett Green in 1876, libraries have been considered as safe spaces for civic engagement and public discourse. These public spaces continue to serve as centers "for debate, the exercise of rights as citizens, and a place where people of diverse backgrounds can meet as a community."[33] However, for many individuals the public library as a physical space has been more:

> A public library is free, non-judgmental, and safe. It is open evenings and weekends, centrally located, open to all ages, socioeconomic backgrounds, political and sexual orientations, and interests. It is a true public space and an ideal setting for expression of diverse opinions on political and social issues.[34]

This perception of the library as a physical space that remains open for all members of the community in times of crisis reflects a broader understanding of the library as protecting equal access and fulfilling social responsibility. Here again, *neutrality* (or *disengagement* from community crises) is placed in opposition to active engagement. When a library chooses to remain open and actively support the community with space and information through crisis (rather than closing), the library has chosen to remain nonpartisan, and to actively engage with the community during difficult times. As mentioned previously, one example of this can be seen in Archie Dick's analysis of the role libraries played during South Africa's struggle to end apartheid where the libraries facilitated meetings, covert actions, and became safe places for political education and meetings in addition to providing traditional library services. The residents used these libraries "and invested them with meaning and identity to cope with memories of forced removals, to confront state-imposed violence, and to foster a sense of community."[35] As a result, these public libraries became shared, though contested, safe spaces.

The public library, "as a physical place, exemplifies the public sphere."[36] This was certainly true of the Ferguson Municipal Public Library and the Baltimore Public Library following the police shooting of Michael Brown and the death of Freddie Gray. During the weeks-long protests in both urban communities, civil unrest ensued, and each respective library remained open.[37]

Rather than take the typical *neutral* approach when confronted with challenges in the library, the following three cases are examples of how libraries and library professionals can not only be vocal about the inequities they witness, but they can also take action in times of crises.

Ferguson, Missouri

Ferguson, Missouri is located in what is considered a suburban town outside of the city of St. Louis. The community has a long history of racial tension stemming back to the civil rights era. According to the United States Census Bureau (2010), the racial makeup of the city is Black 67.4%, White 29.3%, Hispanic 1.2% and Asian 0.4%.[38] Ferguson is geographically located in the outlying areas of St. Louis County. The community is a primarily black community with approximately 23 percent of its residents living below the poverty level.

Table 1. Ferguson Community Statistics Based on 2010 Census

Population	21, 203
Median Income	$40, 660
Persons in Poverty	22.7%

On August 9, 2014, Ferguson received national and global attention in the news when Michael Brown, a young black male, was shot and killed by a white police officer, Darren Wilson. For about two weeks following the murder, the entire community of Ferguson was shut down, including schools and businesses. Police established curfews and deployed riot squads to maintain order, and the city was designated a national emergency. A grand jury voted not to indict Wilson in November, resulting in intensified conditions that month. The unrest sparked a vigorous debate in the United States about the relationship between law enforcement officers, African Americans, and the militarization of the police.

The event and how the police handled the situation after the shooting were highly controversial. The case ignited protests and vigils as well as looting and rioting, with skirmishes between protesters and police, on-the-scene media, and others in authority. Governor Jay Nixon imposed curfews that were sometimes ignored and called in the National Guard.[39] This ultimately led to the shutdown of the entire city. Nearly every public institution was closed, except for the Ferguson Public Library.

The Ferguson Municipal Public Library was established in June 1930 as a community library and later joined the Municipal Library Consortium of St. Louis County.[40] The library is located in the heart of Ferguson and, up until 2014, was unknown to many who lived outside of the city. The staff of the library consisted of part-time employees, volunteers and the director of the library, Scott Bonner.[41] Although schools and most businesses were forced to close during the rioting and looting after the Wilson decision was announced, the library, with limited staffing, remained open and served as an "ad-hoc school" for the people of Ferguson.[42] "The library quickly became a safe haven and expressed a peaceful resolve, becoming a critical community anchor."[43]

Bonner explained that he planned to continue building a safe space for the community in the future. "I am hoping to expand the library's offerings to better meet the public library mission of supporting continuing education, enhancing cultural literacy, and serving as a center or nexus for the community itself."[44] Because of Bonner's choice to keep the library open, teachers were able to hold classes in the library, and individuals from the community were able to obtain information about housing, and general information. Community members were able to gather and be in a *space* and *place* where there was calm even though there was turbulence going on directly outside the library's doors. It essentially became a safe haven to all. In an interview following the Ferguson crisis, Scott Bonner said, if you can keep open and keep doing what

you're doing, you are going to be a safe haven."[45] In 2015, the Ferguson Public Library was named by the *Library Journal* as the Gale Cengage/LJ Library of the Year for its service to Ferguson during the crisis. Today, Ferguson serves as a model for other libraries around the nation. It is a great example of how libraries have become spaces where they not only provide traditional services, but has increasingly become a place of refuge for communities in the midst of crisis.

Baltimore, Maryland

Baltimore is the largest city in Maryland; it has been dubbed "the city of neighborhoods" because of the numerous districts that are contained in the city. According to the 2010 Census, the racial makeup of the city is Black 63.7%, White 29.6%, Hispanic 4.2%, and Asian 1.8%.

Table 2. Baltimore Community Statistics Based on 2010 Census

Population	620, 961
Median Income	$38, 731
Persons in Poverty	19.3%

Baltimore has a longstanding history of racial tensions that dates back to the days of Reconstruction. After the civil war, many African Americans congregated to the city with the hopes of securing jobs. However, they were confronted by whites who feared competition, and African American labor was downgraded to unskilled or no work at all. Jim Crow laws were put into place to suppress and oppress the black citizenry. As a result, there were violent protests in 1968 marked the beginnings of a deep divide between African Americans and the police, a divide that continues to the present. Given the racial tensions of the past, it was no surprise that the streets of Baltimore looked like a war zone in April 2015 after the funeral of Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old African American man who died when he was transported in a police van after being arrested for possession of a knife. Massive protests against police brutality, some turning violent, plagued the city for days.

Protests of Gray's murder occurred near the Pennsylvania Avenue branch of Baltimore's Enoch Pratt Free Library. The now CVS drugstore that burned during the demonstrations was directly across the street from the library. Through it all, the library stayed open, a decision that received a lot of attention and praise.[46] Understanding the pivotal role that the library plays in the community as a resource and with the Baltimore city schools closed, as well as other public institutions, Melanie Townsend Diggs, Pennsylvania Branch manager and Enoch Pratt Free library CEO Carla Hayden declared that the library would be open the next day. Diggs describes what she witnessed the day after the verdict, Tuesday, April 28th:

> "…in some ways it was a typical day, with people coming and going. But you also would have seen customers and community leaders coming in and thanking us for being open. A woman bringing us flowers, pastries. The media coming in to charge up their batteries, use the restrooms. You would have seen a young man coming in to fill out a job application online, and then coming back the next day to say that he had an interview scheduled for May 5. All of these things happened. If we had not opened our doors, we would have missed all those things."[47]

This quote by Diggs captures the sentiments of what it meant to the community to have the library remain open during this challenging time.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library is a part of the free public library system in Baltimore, Maryland. The library is one of the oldest free public

library systems in the United States. It serves the residents of Baltimore with locations throughout the city, and serves the residents of Maryland as the State Library Resource Center. The library was established in 1882 when philanthropist Enoch Pratt offered the city of Baltimore a gift of a central library, four branch libraries and an endowment of over a million dollars. His objective was to establish a public circulating library that "shall be for all, rich and poor without distinction of race or color, who, when properly accredited, can take out the books if they will handle them carefully and return them."[48] The Cathedral Street Main Library is the headquarters of the entire Enoch Pratt Free Library system, which includes 22 community and regional branches. Up until August 2016, Dr. Carla Hayden was the CEO of Enoch Pratt Free Library and is now the 14th Librarian of Congress.[49] Hayden and the staff of the Pennsylvania Avenue branch were lauded for keeping the library open in April 2015 during the protests over the death of Freddie Gray. Hayden describes her motivation for keeping the library open:

> "I knew that the libraries are community resources. I knew that they are anchors in so many communities. In a lot of communities in Baltimore, especially challenged ones, we are the only resource. If we close, we're sending a signal that we're afraid or that we aren't going to be available when times are tough. We should be open especially when times are tough."[50]

Citizens need to feel safe in their communities. Given that Baltimore has a history of racial tension stemming back to the 1960s, it was crucial that the Enoch Public Free Library remained open during this time of unrest. As one of the highest crime rates in the nation, it is especially important that there are safe spaces within the city of Baltimore for people to congregate during crises. Librarians working in Baltimore and cities like Baltimore cannot afford to uphold the status quo of being neutral by being passive and impartial as social issues encircle around them – fortunately for Baltimore, Carla Hayden and Melanie Townsend Diggs refused to be neutral.

Charleston, South Carolina

First established in 1670 as Charles Town, Charleston, South Carolina is the oldest city in the state. Known as the "Holy City" because of its pervasively religious culture, the city has a population of 138, 036.[51] According to the 2010 U.S. Census, Charleston was 70.2% White, 25.4% African American, 1.6% Asian, and 1.5% of two or more races; in addition, 2.9% of the population was Hispanic or Latino.[52]

Founded in 1816, The Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church is the oldest African Methodist Church (AME) in the southern United States. It is located in Charleston, South Carolina and was established so that Blacks could feel free to worship without racism. Unfortunately, this was not well received by Whites, and the church was raided several times during its early history out of retaliation. The most egregious act occurred on June 17, 2015 when a young White supremacist entered the church and killed 9 parishioners and injured 3 others. According to Mayor John Tecklenburg, "This tragedy highlighted issues that are, and have been, long-standing in our community and in our world—issues of race, equity, and social justice—the things Rev. Pinckney was passionate about."[53] It also mirrored other tragic issues in a time of racial unrest that was more broadly marked by violent protests in Ferguson and Baltimore.[54] President Obama would later refer to Emanuel AME as, "a sacred place in the history of Charleston and in the history of America.[55] Among those killed was Cynthia Graham Hurd, Branch Manager and Regional Director at the St. Andrews Regional Library in Charleston, South Carolina.

The mass shooting at Emanuel AME was devastating to the entire community of Charleston. Although the library closed for two days following the shooting, it quickly became a resource soon after its opening. Just like in Ferguson and Baltimore, the library became an oasis for people to gather and console each other over the devastating tragedy. The library also assisted in helping their constituents address their acrimonious racial history. According to Malcolm Graham, brother to slain librarian, Cynthia Graham Hurd:

> "In addition to embracing my family, the library helped us further by helping us educate the community on a variety of issues, as the staff understood they needed to play a role in the educating and healing within the Charleston community. The library organized book drives and held workshops on various issues, but the breakthrough was the community became willing to talk about the past, and the library played a central role in that conversation happening. but once you start peeling back the layers you have this raw history that people had a hard time dealing with, the history of slavery and discrimination and racism. I think the breakthrough that came about because of the tragedy was that people were now willing to confront their past to shape a better future.[56] He further asserts, "The crisis enabled the community to have a public conversation on a wide variety of unpleasant topics, such as whether or not to remove the Confederate flag from the S.C. State House. Conversations that people had been having within the walls of their homes were now happening community-wide, and the library played a role in facilitating those conversations and providing the resources for where those conversations could exist, places where people were empowered with information to guide their discussion."[57]

On June 21, 2016, the Cynthia Graham Hurd St. Andrews Regional Library branch was renamed in honor of the beloved librarian.

Conclusion

In the last decade, we have witnessed an incredible number of mass shootings, protests and civil unrest. The Ferguson Public Library, the Enoch Pratt Free Library and Charleston County Public Library are good exemplars of how critical libraries are in times of crises. The profession of librarianship in the United States has a long and complex relationship with race. Since the founding of the profession, information professionals have grappled with advocacy efforts toward diversity and multiculturalism. On the one hand, the field fervently argues for democracy and social responsibility. On the other hand, there are undertones of the history that plagued the profession in the '50s and '60s. It is argued that we are seeing today many of the same civil rights issues the United States experienced in the past. African Americans are still being racially profiled, efforts to restrict voting are ongoing, and the rates of mass imprisonment of African Americans are in large numbers. The situation has been characterized as the New Jim Crow. [58] Moreover, the percentage of librarians of color in the profession pales to the majority. In 2015, just 8.5 percent of librarians were Black or African American, 4.8 percent were Hispanic or Latino, and 2.8 percent were Asian.[59]

Given the history of the library profession, it is no surprise that there are debates about the role of libraries in responding to recent police shootings and protests. Some have questioned whether the library should be a "safe place" or a "neutral space" during times of crisis[60]. When we look at all of the turmoil that is going on in our communities, it is hard to watch and simply do nothing. Fortunately, libraries like Ferguson, Enoch Pratt and Charleston did not "turn a blind eye" to their communities when they were confronted with unrest. They serve as models

for other libraries and prove what many in the library profession already know: libraries are pivotal American institutions, always willing to go the extra mile for their users, in times of crisis.

Due to the current social climate, librarians cannot afford to be neutral. They must be bold and take a position on these issues just like they have done in the past with censorship and other types of advocacy. Based on data for 2018 alone, there have been 307 recorded mass shootings to date.[61] Libraries need to be prepared and equipped to deal when crises occur. If change in our society does not happen now, when will it? Until then, we will continue to have shootings in schools, churches, temples, social gatherings, Trader Joes, nightclubs, movie theaters, workplaces, and sadly, in library parking lots.

Just as librarians must be prepared when disaster occurs, they must also be prepared when there is a crisis in their communities. Libraries shouldn't be reactionary. They should be proactive. This involves preparing their staff, by training them on how to deal with adverse situations in addition to keeping open the physical space to accommodate citizens. We have three excellent examples in Ferguson, Baltimore and Charleston -- let us learn from them. Harris' revisionist interpretation was not wrong for the time, but it is not adequate for this time. It is time to re-think the purpose of the public library, given that public libraries are often caught in the crossfire.

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Appendix: Shootings and Protests, 2008-2018

Case	Date	Location	Fatalities
Mercy Hospital shooting	11/19/2018	Chicago, IL	3
Thousand Oaks nightclub shooting	11/7/2018	Thousand Oaks, CA	12
Tree of Life synagogue shooting	10/27/2018	Pittsburgh, PA	11
Rite Aid warehouse shooting	9/20/2018	Perryman, MD	3
T&T Trucking shooting	9/12/2018	Bakersfield, CA	5
Fifth Third Center shooting	9/6/2018	Cincinnati, OH	3
Capital Gazette shooting	6/28/2018	Annapolis, MD	5
Santa Fe High School shooting	5/18/2018	Santa Fe, TX	10
Waffle House shooting	4/22/2018	Nashville, TN	4
Yountville veterans home shooting	3/9/2018	Yountville, CA	3
Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting	2/14/2018	Parkland, FL	17
Pennsylvania carwash shooting	1/28/2018	Melcroft, PA	4
Rancho Tehama shooting spree	11/14/2017	Rancho Tehama, CA	5

Texas First Baptist Church massacre	11/5/2017	Sutherland Springs, TX	26
Walmart shooting in suburban Denver	11/1/2017	Thornton, CO	3
Edgewood business park shooting	10/18/2017	Edgewood, MD	3
Las Vegas Strip massacre	10/1/2017	Las Vegas, NV	58
San Francisco UPS shooting	6/14/2017	San Francisco, CA	3
Pennsylvania supermarket shooting	6/7/2017	Tunkhannock, PA	3
Florida awning manufacturer shooting	6/5/2017	Orlando, FL	5
Rural Ohio nursing home shooting	5/12/2017	Kirkersville, OH	3
Fresno downtown shooting	4/18/2017	Fresno, CA	3
Fort Lauderdale airport shooting	1/6/2017	Fort Lauderdale, FL	5
Cascade Mall shooting	9/23/2016	Burlington, WA	5
Baton Rouge police shooting	7/17/2016	Baton Rouge, LA	3
Dallas police shooting	7/7/2016	Dallas, TX	5
Orlando nightclub massacre	6/12/2016	Orlando, FL	49

Excel Industries mass shooting	2/25/2016	Hesston, KA	3
Kalamazoo shooting spree	2/20/2016	Kalamazoo, MI	6
San Bernardino mass shooting	12/2/2015	San Bernardino, CA	14
Planned Parenthood clinic	11/27/2015	Colorado Springs, CO	3
Colorado Springs shooting rampage	10/31/2015	Colorado Springs, CO	3
Umpqua Community College shooting	10/1/2015	Roseburg, OR	9
Chattanooga military recruitment center	7/16/2015	Chattanooga, TN	5
Charleston Church shooting	6/17/2015	Charleston, SC	9
Trestle Trail bridge shooting	6/11/2015	Menasha, WI	3
Marysville-Pilchuck High School shooting	10/24/2014	Marysville, WA	5
Isla Vista mass murder	5/23/2014	Santa Barbara CA	6
Fort Hood shooting 2	4/3/2014	Fort Hood, TX	3
Alturas tribal shooting	2/20/2014	Alturas, CA	4
Washington Navy Yard shooting	9/16/2013	Washington, DC	12
Hialeah apartment shooting	7/26/2013	Hialeah, FL	7

Santa Monica rampage	6/7/2013	Santa Monica, CA	6
Pinewood Village Apartment shooting	4/21/2013	Federal Way, WA	5
Mohawk Valley shooting	3/13/2017	Herkimer County, NY	5
Sandy Hook Elementary massacre	12/14/2012	Newtown, CT	27
Accent Signage Systems shooting	9/27/2012	Minneapolis, MN	7
Sikh temple shooting	8/5/2012	Oak Creek, WI	7
Aurora theater shooting	7/20/2012	Aurora, CO	12
Seattle café shooting	5/20/2012	Seattle, WA	6
Oikos University killings	4/2/2012	Oakland, CA	7
Su Jung Health Sauna shooting	2/21/2012	Norcross, GA	5
Seal Beach shooting	10/12/2011	Seal Beach, CA	8
IHOP shooting	9/6/2011	Carson City, NV	5
Tucson shooting	1/8/2011	Tucson, AZ	6
Hartford Beer Distributor shooting	8/3/2010	Manchester, CT	9
Coffee shop police killings	11/29/2009	Parkland, WA	4
Fort Hood massacre	11/5/2009	Fort Hood, TX	13

Binghamton shootings	4/3/2009	Binghamton, NY	14
Carthage nursing home shooting	3/29/2009	Carthage, NC	8
Atlantis Plastics shooting	6/25/2008	Henderson, KY	6
Northern Illinois University shooting	2/14/2008	DeKalb, IL	5
Kirkwood City Council shooting	2/7/2008	Kirkwood, MO	6