Community College Library 2030 Pre-Focus Group Activity

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Community College Library 2030: Stakeholders Co-Creating the Future
Focus Group Background Information & Activity

The following information was provided to students, faculty, staff, administrators, and librarians before constituent focus groups were held.

“Any useful idea about the future should appear to be ridiculous.”
Jim Dator
Director, Hawai’i Research Center
for Future Studies

Thank you for volunteering to participate in a focus group for the research project Community College Library 2030.

To structure the discussion, we will be using backcasting, a method employed in futures studies, which involves starting with a desired outcome and identifying the steps, processes, and activities that would be necessary to achieve the outcome.

The desired outcome we are positing is that the community college Library will be an essential, integral partner in the success of students, faculty, and the institution in 2030. In other words, students and faculty will say, “I could not have succeeded at the college without the Library’s resources and services. They were crucial to me in my learning, work, and life.” Or as an administrator, “The Library is a vital player and crucial to the college achieving its strategic priorities.”

During the focus group, there will be opportunities to discuss the current state in 2016, the goal itself, as well as the actions and steps necessary to achieve the desired outcome in 2030.

Before the focus group, please take some time to think about the following:
• What is your perception of the community college library of today?
• Without constraints and preconceptions, what could a community college library be in 2030?
• Thinking holistically, what are your needs as a student? What might needs of a student be in 2030?
• In 2030, what could the library look like in the life of the student/faculty member/administrator?

After considering the questions above, share your conception of the community college library in 2030 through writing (a paragraph or two) or drawing in the space below.