NEXT LIBRARY® event is an international gathering of forward-thinking library professionals, innovators and decision-makers who are pushing boundaries and making changes that support learning in the 21st century. Created by Denmark’s Aarhus Public Libraries and first presented in 2009, the purpose of a NEXT LIBRARY® event is to look ahead and explore the continuously evolving nature of the public library in the 21st century.

The conference grant, sponsored by Global Libraries of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has made it possible to extend the program for Next Library Festival 2017 from 1½ day to 3 whole days. Also, the grant is funding Next Library Scholarships with a focus on supporting participants from developing and transitioning countries with the goal of making connections to support innovations and strengthen the library field.

The Next Library 2017 festival program presented:

- 3 days of conference program
- 4 key note speakers:
  - Princess Laurentien, Reading & Writing Foundation, Holland
  - Deborah Jacobs, Director of Global Libraries
  - Peter MacLeod, Principal, MASS LBP, Toronto
  - Phillip Schmidt, Director of Learning Innovation at the MIT Media Lab & cofounder of Peer 2 Peer University (P2PU)
- 15 interactive sessions, doubled each day
- 40 Next Library Ignite Talks
- Seven scholarship grantees:
  - Charles Kamdem Poeghela, director of the Centre for Reading and Cultural Activities (CLAC) in Yaounde, Cameroon
  - Purity Kavuri-Mutuku, Senior Librarian at Nakuru Public Library in Nakuru, Kenya
  - Bright Ofori, assistant librarian at Volta Regional Library in Ho, Ghana
  - Bonile Nyoka, manager of eLearning Programmes in public libraries in Johannesburg, South Africa
  - Petar Lukacic, head of Services for Adult Users at Public Library Fran Galovic, Croatia
  - Kemberley Constable, library assistant at Ti Rocher Library in Micoud, Saint Lucia
  - Biljana Kociska, PI City Library Braka Miladinovci Skopje, Macedonia
- Pop-up shops on design thinking, community engagement, robots, new technologies and surprises
- Networking evening events 11, 12 and 13 June
- Site visits to other libraries, CAVI Centre for Advanced Visualization and Interaction at Aarhus University, LEGO Idea Studio etc.
The program was co-created by participants and partners.

38 countries were represented at Next Library 2017:
Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroun, Canada, China, Columbia, Croatia, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Kenya, Lithuania, Macedonia, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Romania, Saint Lucia, Switzerland, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, UK and USA.

Archive:
www.nextlibrary.net/next-library-2017
All about Next Library 2017: speakers’ videos and slides, Next Library Daily, articles about Next Library and much more: www.nextlibrary.net/all-about-next-library-2017

Organizers:
Aarhus Public Libraries organize Next Library 2017 in cooperation with partners and sponsors:
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Knight Foundation
EiFL: Electronic Information for Libraries
Danish School of Media and Journalism
Alexandre Institute
Berlin Central & Regional Library
Billund Library
Herning Libraries
Silkeborg Libraries
CAVI – Aarhus University
The Nordic Halmstad Conference Group
Systematic
Ramboll
Redia a/s
Wizefloor
Arkitema Architects
EBLIDA: The European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations
Danish Library Association
Lammhults Biblioteksdesign / BCI
Aarhus 2017 European Capital of Culture
DBC is Main Sponsor

We appreciate the collaboration with the Next Library Advisory Board with 13 of the best international thinkers and innovators: www.nextlibrary.net/advisory-board

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Volker Heller, Chairman/Management director, Zentral- und Landesbibliothek Berlin, Germany.

The webpage www.nextlibrary.net presents program, partners, memories from the previous five Next Library conferences as well as the Next Library community of more than 1200 international members from 93 countries.

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