Framing the Concept: Questions for Consideration
Worksheet #1

What are the aspirational goals of the community?

- Pretend that you’ve each just taken a tour of your community. What did you see and hear on the tour?

- What would your community aspire to be, and what would change from what you saw and heard?

- In this picture of your envisioned community, what’s different about the library?

What do we need to do to transform libraries and librarianship?

- In your envisioned community of the future, what will be different about library service?

- What tools will librarians need for this “trip” to the future? What will you put in your backpack?

- What will need to change about our assumptions about libraries and librarianship?
My Library and Its Community
Worksheet # 2

1. Describe your library’s community (Public library community: size, urban/rural/suburban, kinds of business & industry, housing, employment; School library community: grade levels, size, location; Academic library community: 2-year or 4-year, size, location, etc.).

2. What are the personal characteristics of your community? (age, ethnic affiliation, language in the home, occupation, income level, education level, own/rent, etc.)

   Is this changing? How?

3. What kinds of “clues” might a visitor pick up that would reveal information about your community and its values, priorities, challenges, and residents?
The Intersection of My Library and its Community
Worksheet #3

1. Every community is made up of numerous smaller communities – people who affiliate with each other because of shared characteristics or priorities. How would your library’s community members cluster themselves? What is the relative size of each cluster group? How are those groups connected to each other (or are they)?

Draw a web of the groups within your library community, varying the size of the circles by the size of that group in your community. Draw lines between the groups that are connected in some way to each other.
2. Now place your library within this web of community groups. Are you closer to one group than to another? Are there groups to which you have no connections?

3. In the space between your library and each community group, write the services that the library offers to help each group meet its priorities. Are there service gaps?

4. On the lines that connect your library to your community groups, write the communication vehicles that you use to communicate with each group. Are there communication gaps? Is the communication two-way or only from the library out to the community?

   You might consider the following communication vehicles:

   - Library’s website
   - Flyers, bookmarks, and other printed materials
   - Library programs
   - Media (print, radio, TV, other)
   - Partnerships with community organizations
   - Word of mouth
   - ______________________
   - ______________________
   - ______________________

5. What more can the library do to:

   Connect with all community groups?

   Fill gaps in services to community groups?

   Communicate about the value of libraries to all community groups?