

From What is
to What if...

What would you do on Monday if...

INTRODUCTION

Libraries, Shark and public toilets

You are reading a book.

The main character is entering a library.

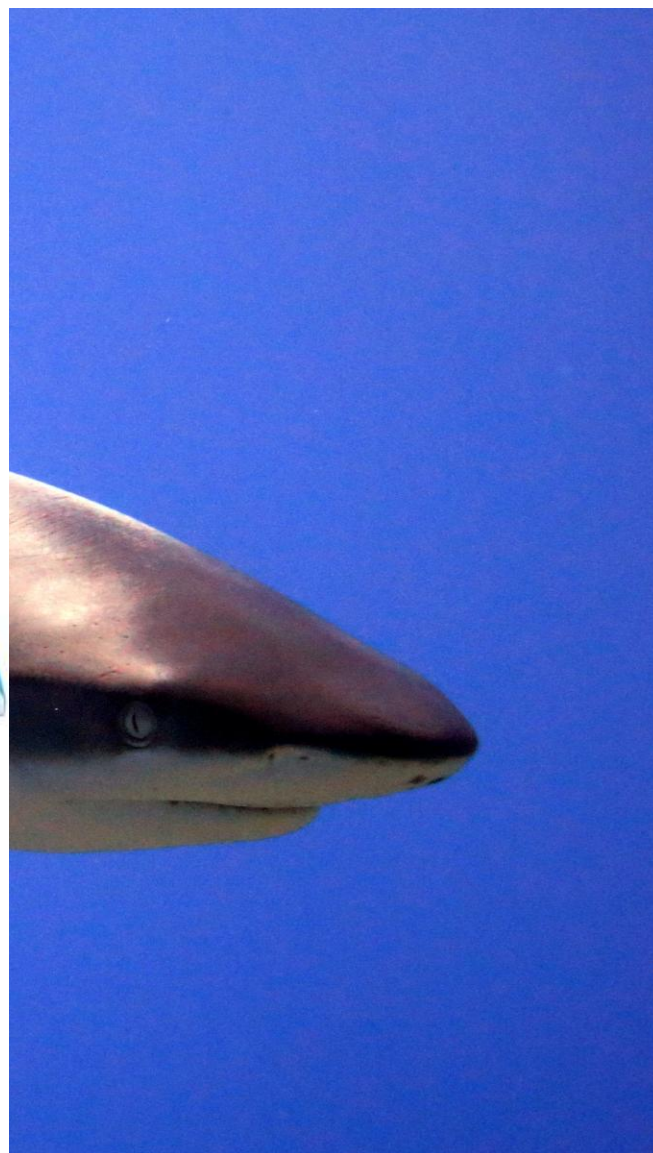
How does this library look like?



The Long Room, Trinity college Dublin, Ireland.



The AET library in University of Texas opened in 2010 in San Antonio





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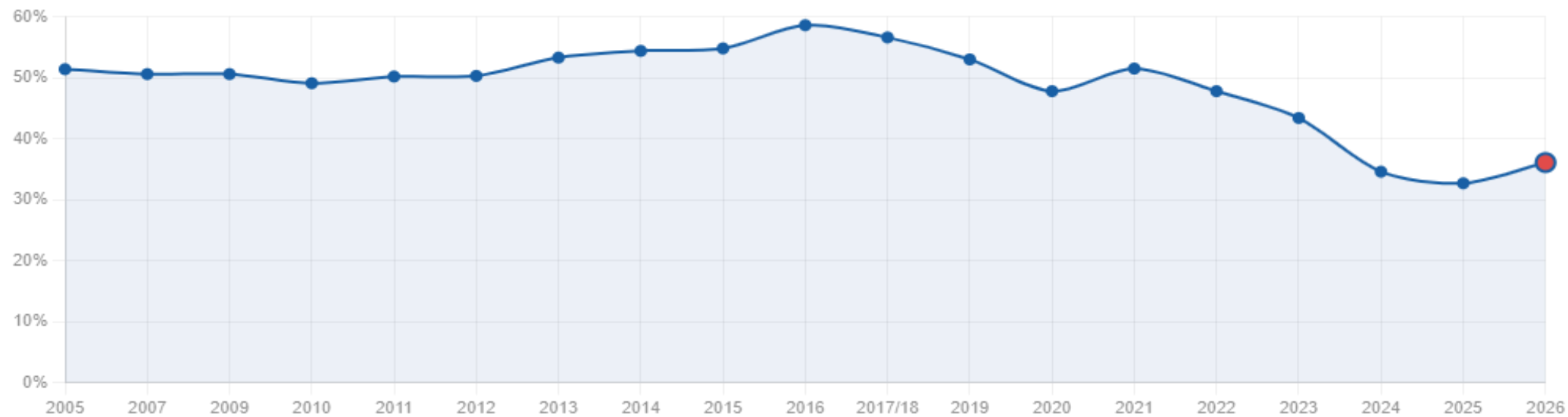
PART I

What is

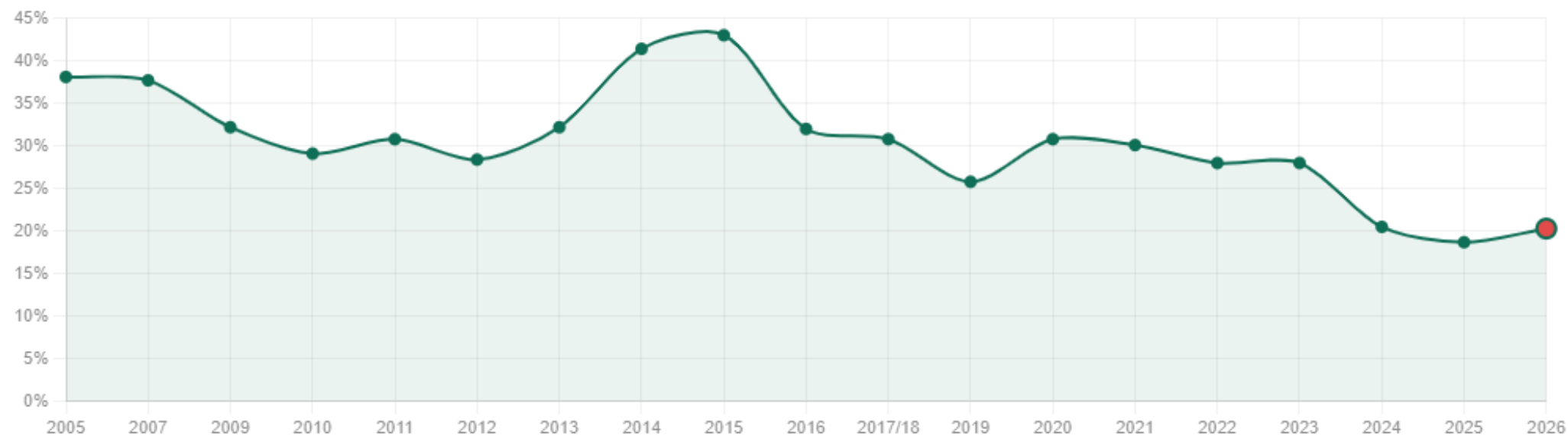
The story so far...

What is?

- Tightening budgets lead to reduced staff and access to resource.
- Commercial publishers impose models that are "increasingly divorced from the academic communities they were meant to serve".
- Libraries are facing "continually evolving user expectations". In other words, being told what they should be.



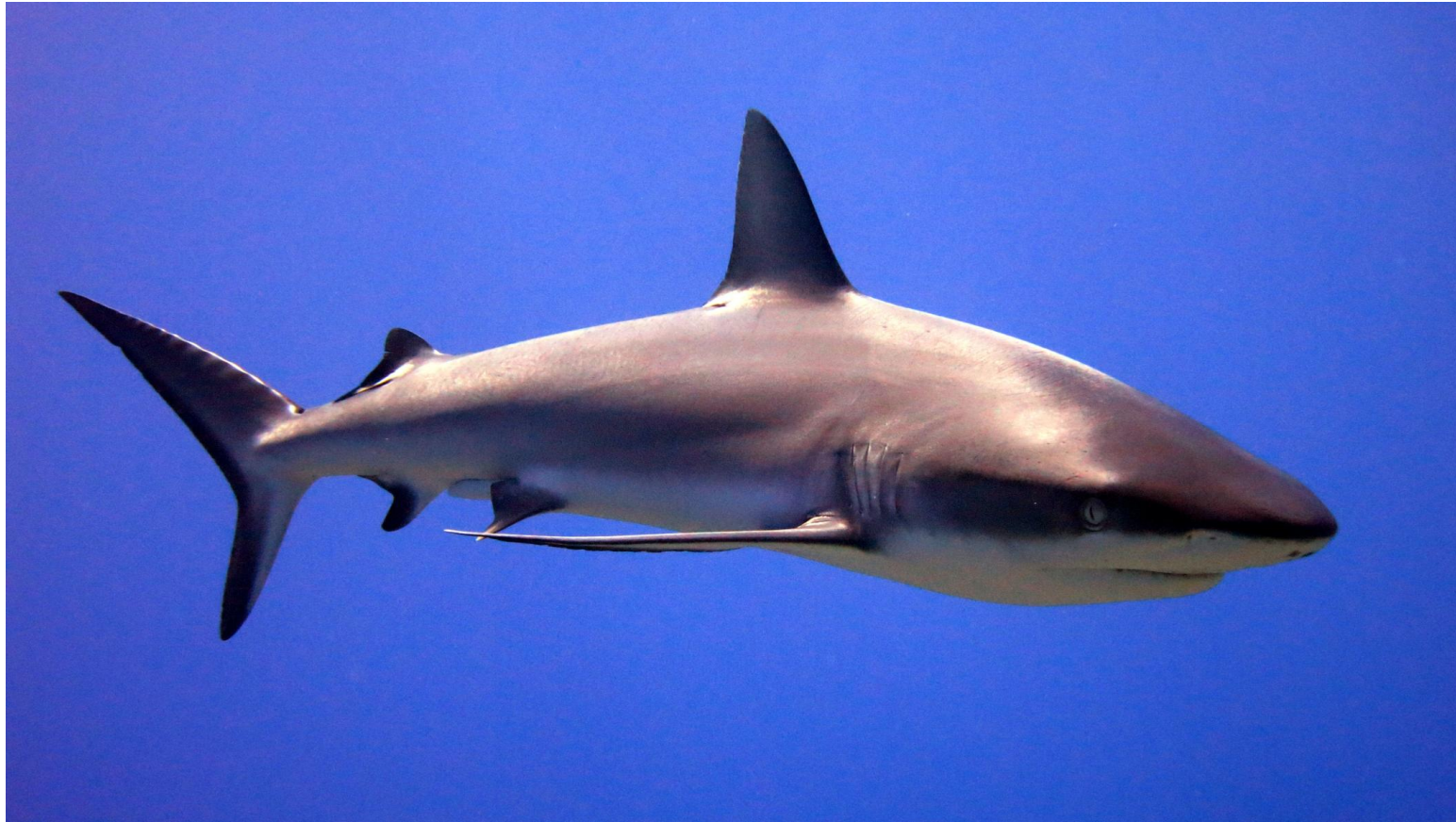
% who enjoy reading very much or quite a lot in their free time



% who read something daily in their free time

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- Libraries a constantly asked to evolve, change, improve to adapt to news policies as well as maintaining their services.
- Change, like progress, seems inevitable.



But...
"I can't do
any
more with
less"



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- Change, like progress, seems inevitable.
- "There is nothing we can do"

“It seems as though most of us have less and less space to think creatively or imaginatively, if at all.

Even among people who work within the ‘creative industries’, their imagination seems increasingly harnessed to create demand for things nobody really needs, whose production is increasingly pushing our human and ecological systems to the brink of collapse

– almost as if imagination has been coopted in the service of our own extinction.”

— Rob Hopkins

PART II

What if...

Nothing special, just time travelling and Magic

We need better stories...

- Stories are known to help us look through others' eyes, to develop empathy, but this not their only power.
- They can also project us in alternate realities, help us exploring possibilities (and consequences) without having to experiment them firsthand while avoiding judgement from 'realists'.
- *"I believe that magic is art and that art, whether it be writing, music, sculpture, or any other form is literally magic. Art is, like magic, the science of manipulating symbols, words, or images, to achieve changes in consciousness. " - Alan Moore*

What if...

- we could take back control of the narrative for the future?
- we started telling the stories that haven't been told yet because we simply didn't allowed them to be.
- we weren't scared of "infernal alternative"?

A man in a white space suit with a clear helmet stands in a field of tall grass. He is holding a black sign with white text that reads "I'VE BEEN TO THE FUTURE. WE WON." The background is a hazy, open landscape under a clear sky.

**I'VE BEEN
TO THE
FUTURE.
WE WON.**

...we can fall in
love with the
future? (again)

**I'VE BEEN
TO THE
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“What would we do on Monday, if we were allowing ourselves to act as we think is best for libraries?”

What if we could ignore "what is" for a minute?

What if we could stop thinking that "what is" will be forever?

Write down what you think would be best for libraries.

Not what we should do

Not what we could be

But what would be best for them, to be libraries.

Remember, this isn't about predicting the future—it's about giving ourselves permission to imagine and create it, trusting our intuition, feeling and experiencing while rejecting conditioning.

What if...

- we were authorising ourselves to do what we think is best?
- we didn't need permission?
- we allowed more room for self-organisation and collaboration?
- we solved problems more locally and devolved decision making?
- we were allowing ourselves to write the story that would make us "fall in love with future"?

Close your eyes.

Embracing Rob Hopkins' idea of falling in love with the future through time traveling:
Let's travel in time to 2030.

You walk into your library.

You've been able to do everything you wrote down in Activity 3.

What do you hear?

What do you smell?

What do you see?

Write any meaningful observations/ feelings.

And finally, write everything that are actually possible to do once you gave yourself permission to think freely and let the stories emerges without resistance.

What can be done without permission?

Remember, this isn't about predicting the future—it's about giving ourselves permission to imagine and create it, trusting our intuition, feeling and experiencing while rejecting conditioning.

... we can fall in love with the future again?

*“David Lynch always said that magicians don’t tell how they did a thing. Be a magician.
I feel like we could use more magicians and fewer creators doing customer service.
Not least because very few people are happier after dealing with customer service.”*

— Warren Ellis

"Whatever happens here will create its own timeline, its own reality, a temporal tipping point.

The future revolves around you, here, now, so do good!"

—The Doctor

Any Questions?

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