Suggested Projects: Presidential Innovation Fellows
 # 16 - A New World of "Must Have" Applications and Library of Congress
Partnerships

It would be brilliant for a Presidential Fellow team to work with the Library of Congress to design basic software for a universe of new, "Must Have" applications developed by the private sector.

The (scanned) spines of books will be icons on the bookshelves of new, desktop, virtual libraries. The basic software engine/Level 1 software can be distributed, without charge, by the Library of Congress and the nation's public libraries. A Level 1 package will include basic personal library options: Jefferson's Library at Monticello, the Library of an English country house, Sherlock Holmes's study at 221-B Baker Street, Einstein's study, Hemingway's desk and view from his window, designer-created options for children, etc. [The libraries will have the design/visual quality of J. Pepin's kitchen - www.kqed.org/w/jpfastfood/home.html].

The private sector can offer Level 2+ modules: more options and pre-populated (expert selected?) collections. A mystery-lovers collection and smart software can open an Agatha Christie novel from the owner's desktop collection, or in the cloud; borrow it from a local library, or allow skimming and online purchase. The Library of Congress can offer a bookshelf of classic American cookbooks for $9.95. Children could get Dinosaur Rooms with books, model-display tables, and a clickable icon of the Jurassic Park DVD for Christmas. Level 2+ users can design customized bindings.

Beyond Level 2, lies a lifetime of software acquisition and virtual, holodeck-like environments and professional and other library rooms, growing into what scholars in earlier centuries called individual "memory palaces." Children could get Science Libraries with hidden panels leading to secret Prime Number Rooms and a world of 3-D environments/topics and books to discover as rich as any video game.

I would love to work on this. A good design might include licensing fees or other revenues that allow libraries to digitize their specialized holdings.

Lloyd S. Etheredge - June 12, 2012