

New Jersey Academic
Libraries Conference

Jan. 9 2026 | Kean University

Overextended and
Under-Resourced:
Redefining Success on
Our Own Terms

Eamon Tewell

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Overview

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1.

Who I Am

2.

**Higher
Education**

3.

Libraries

4.

**What We
Can Do**

Who I am





Ammon Hennacy



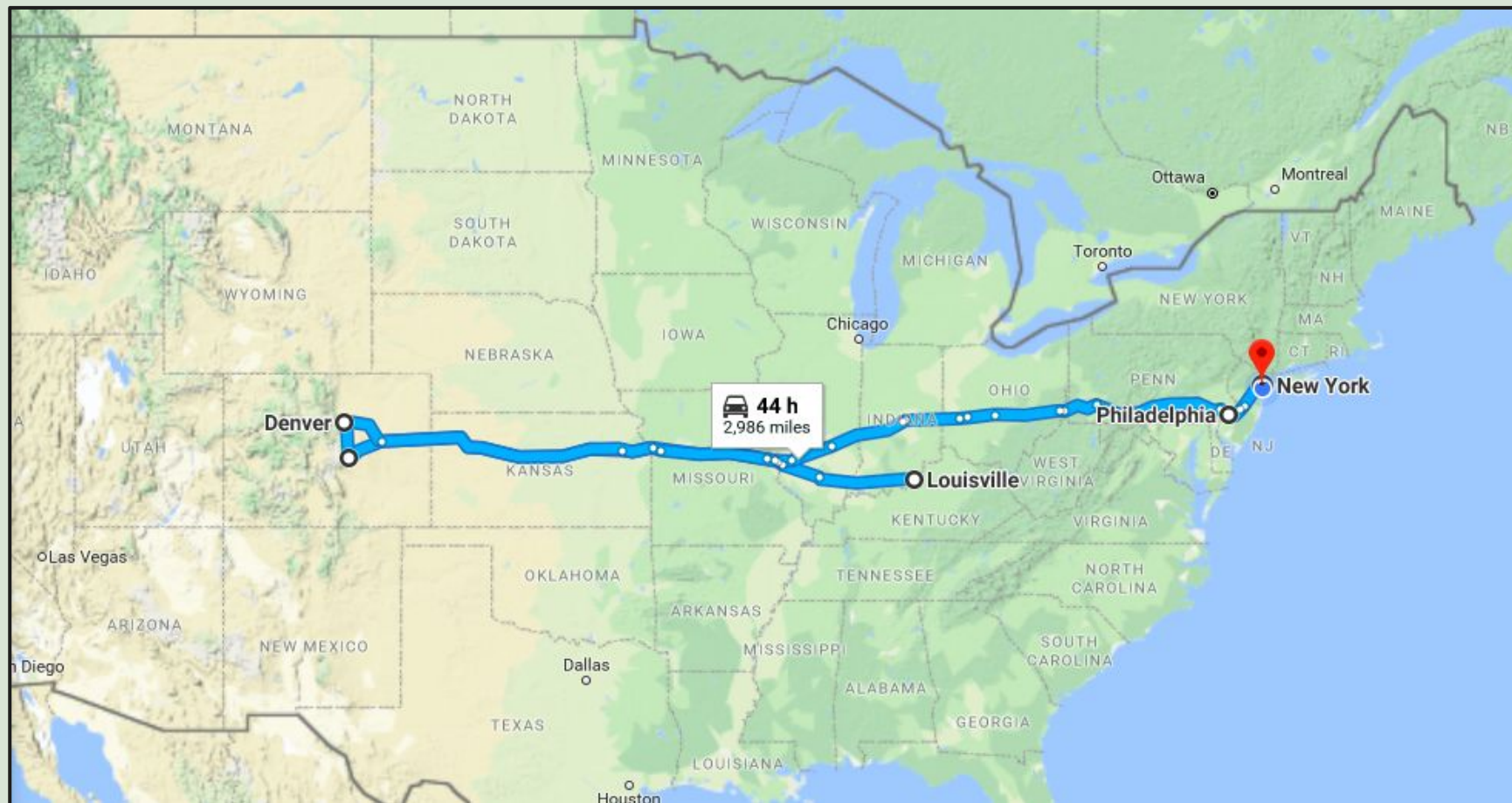
Colorado Springs



NORAD Entrance



Denver Zine Library





How are we **feeling**

About libraries?

About higher education?

tinyurl.com/NJALCpoll



Higher Education





check who's dominating the conversation

who's talking?



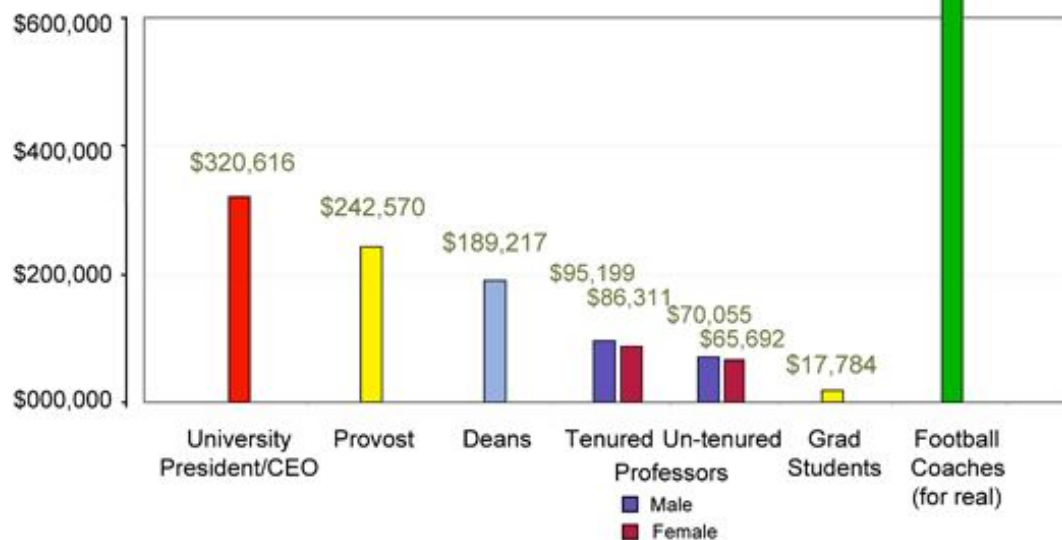
00:00



00:00

"Academic" Salaries

Actual average and median salaries at U.S.
Doctoral-granting Universities



Notes: Administrator figures are medians salaries, the rest are averages. All figures in 2008 dollars. Sources: College and University Professional Association for Human Resources 2005 Survey; American Association of University Professors 2007 Survey; The Chronicle of Higher Education 2001 Survey of Graduate Assistants; USA Today Survey of Div. I-A College Football Coaches Compensation 2007.

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

**IF STUDENTS ARE THE 'CUSTOMERS' OF
COLLEGES, AND CUSTOMERS ARE ALWAYS
RIGHT**

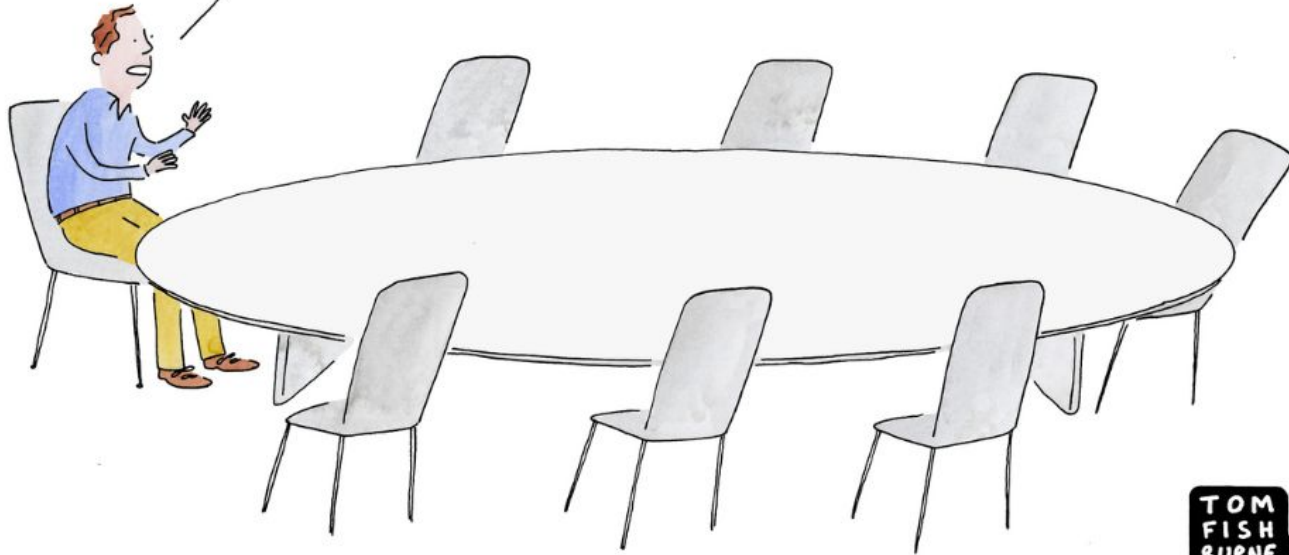


**SHOULDN'T I BE GETTING
100%?**



Libraries

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE
TO DO MORE WITH LESS.



**TOM
FISH
BURNÉ**

[← Return to Main Blog page](#)

3 Ways libraries are doing more with less

OCTOBER 30, 2025

Across the country, libraries are navigating tighter budgets, smaller teams, and growing community expectations. Yet instead of scaling back, many are finding new ways to expand their impact.

With modern systems like Polaris ILS and the Vega Library Experience (LX) suite, powered by intelligent automation and AI, libraries are simplifying work, connecting data, and reclaiming time to focus on what matters most: serving their communities.

UNC schools of data science and information science to merge, forming unnamed 'School of AI'



Manning Hall is photographed on Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024.

Photo by [Shirley Meunier](#)



By [Daneen Khan](#)

Community Engagement Managing Editor

October 9



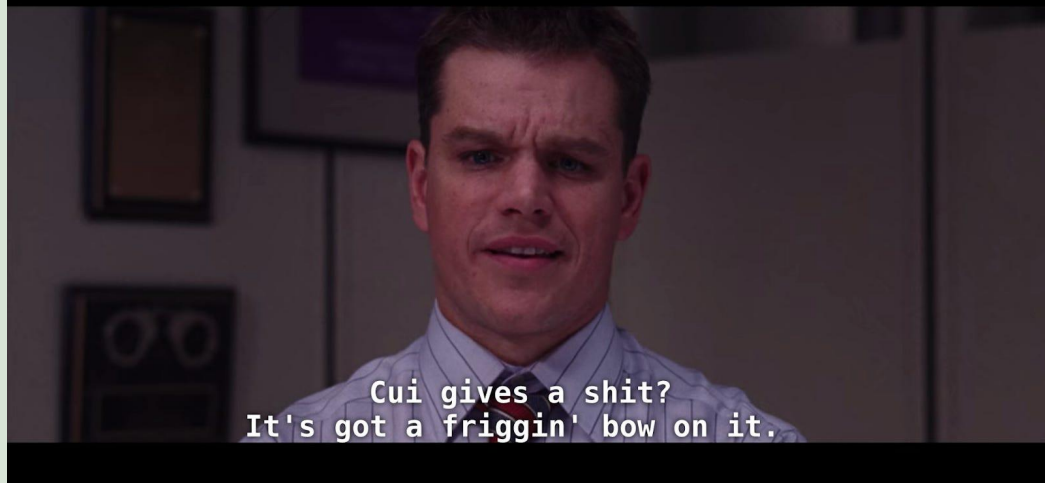
AI Is Supercharging the War on Libraries, Education, and Human Knowledge




JASON KOEBLER · NOV 6, 2025 AT 11:13 AM


"Fascism and AI, whether or not they have the same goals, they sure are working to accelerate one another."

www.404media.co/ai-is-supercharging-the-war-on-libraries-education-and-human-knowledge





“The library is not meant to be an on-demand service provider, a node in the just-in-time- economy...It’s meant to be an accessible portal to our government, our collective holdings, the place we go to access shared information, knowledge, wisdom... [and] to make meaning with others.”



- Shannon Mattern, “Extralibrary Loan” (2025)

The potential of higher education is that it:

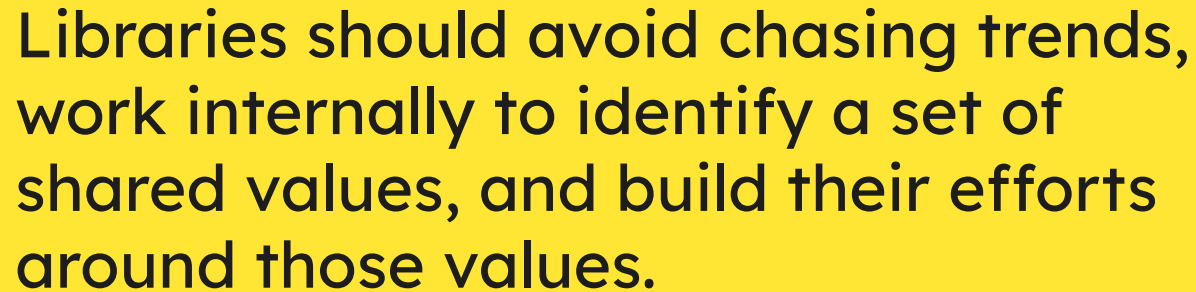
The potential of libraries is that they:

The importance of my work is that I:



What We Can Do





Libraries should avoid chasing trends, work internally to identify a set of shared values, and build their efforts around those values.



rishi mahesh ✓
@rishipuff

abolish the five day work week
please i need to do my dishes

15:45 · 11/29/21 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

34.5K Retweets **1,445** Quote Tweets **243K** Likes

...



KateDiMera
@Kate_DiMera

Replying to [@rishipuff](#)

Yes! I need to get some pants
hemmed and it will literally never
happen until we restructure our
entire economy

What We Can Do

Protect Your Time

- Take your paid time off
- Send email within work hours
- Schedule lunch breaks during busy days or hectic periods of the semester
- For managers: designate meeting-free days around holiday breaks
- For managers: set limits on classes or consultations per week, encourage boundaries

What We Can Do

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Act

- EveryLibrary - Legislation of Concern
everylibrary.org/billtracking
- Libraries for the People - Take Action
librariesforthepeople.org/action
- Library Freedom Project: Library Freedom Institute
libraryfreedom.org/institute

What We Can Do

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Find Joy



ACRL/NY 2025 Symposium

December 5, 2025

Pleasure and Play:

Finding Joy in LIS Work





Thank you!

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