BACK TO THE FUTURE... OF YOU!

Dana Thompson
Research and Instruction Librarian
Murray State University
**AGENDA**

- Review Futures Literacy
- Review Visual Literacy
  - Review Visual Thinking
- Practice
- Your turn
- Group Talk
LEARNING GOALS

• By learning about visual thinking and futures thinking, participants will leave the session with a lifelong opportunity to engage those mental skills and to continue to improve their understanding of themselves, and hopefully, their professional identities.
FUTURES LITERACY (IN A NUTSHELL)

• Is the capacity to explore the potential of the present to give rise to the future (Miller, 2006)
FUTURES LITERACY (IN DEPTH)

• Futures literacy involves the acquisition of the know-how required to “make visible” and “use the future” appropriately

• 3 levels
  – Awareness: change happens over time, and we are situated in moments in time
  – Choice: build our awareness and insights to act strategically today, in line with the values we prefer
  – Rigorous imagining: what is possible, what is probable, and what is preferable
FUTURE CONE: POSSIBLE, PROBABLE, AND PREFERABLE FUTURES
1st Way to Think of the Future

- Optimization: One future, separated from the now (going towards the future)
  - Focus on next step – incremental innovation
  - Focus on final result – planning (linear, statistical, etc.)
2nd Way to Think of the Future

- Contingency: More than one future, separated from the present (the future is coming upon me, from either a detectable or not detectable direction)
  - Focus on the visible, relevant, perceived aspects – I see where the future is coming from
  - Focus on less or not visible aspects – I have no idea where the future is coming from
3rd WAY TO THINK OF THE FUTURE

• Novelty: The future is present (the future is now)
  – Focus on ideas (concepts, values)
  – Focus on practices (behaviors, feelings, learning)
VISUAL LITERACY (IN DEPTH)

• Visual literacy is a set of abilities that enables an individual to effectively find, interpret, evaluate, use, and create images and visual media.

• Visual literacy skills equip a learner to understand and analyze the contextual, cultural, ethical, aesthetic, intellectual, and technical components involved in the production and use of visual materials.

• A visually literate individual is both a critical consumer of visual media and a competent contributor to a body of shared knowledge and culture (ACRL 2011).
VISUAL LITERACY
(IN A NUTSHELL)

• The ability to read (evaluate), write (create), and think visually
VISUAL THINKING

What is about?

SEEING
seeing what is
changing perspective
developing your mind's eye
improving the quality of looking

IMAGINING
developing your imagination
choose your frame

DRAWING
visualize ideas
get to the core
develop concepts

VISUAL THINKING
PRACTICE – IMAGINING

What do you envision when you think of “librarians”? 
PRACTICE – SEEING
PRACTICE – DRAWING

EVERY CHILD NEEDS A LIBRARIAN IN THEIR LIFE.
YOUR TURN
STEP 1

• Draw/sketch/mind-map/visually describe a scenario of what you think your future professional self will be doing in 5 years if you continue on your current trajectory:
STEP 2

• Draw/sketch/mind-map/visually describe your dream scenario of what you would be doing professionally in 5 years if there were no constraints and no judgement:
STEP 3

• Examine your two drawings. What underlying truths emerge? What remains consistent in the two scenarios? What changes?

• How can you use your underlying truths and “visions of the possible” to ensure you live your best self, right now in the present and moving forward to the future?

• What are some changes you can make on a day-to-day basis to make it happen?
STEP 4

• Draw/sketch/mind-map/visually describe your new, personal vision for your future.
GROUP TALK

• How is your understanding of yourself changed by images?

• How can you use visual demonstrations of the future to foster real, sustainable change?
REFERENCES


• Futures Literacy. (n.d.) Futures literacy Knowlabs. [Image]. Retrieved from https://futuresliteracy.nl/

• Herger, M. (2018, January 10). All the futures (Yes, there is more than one). [Image]. Retrieved from https://foresightmindset.com/2018/01/10/all-the-futures-yes-there-is-more-than-one/


• Miller, R. (2006). Futures literacy: A hybrid strategic scenario method

