



The library as fourth place

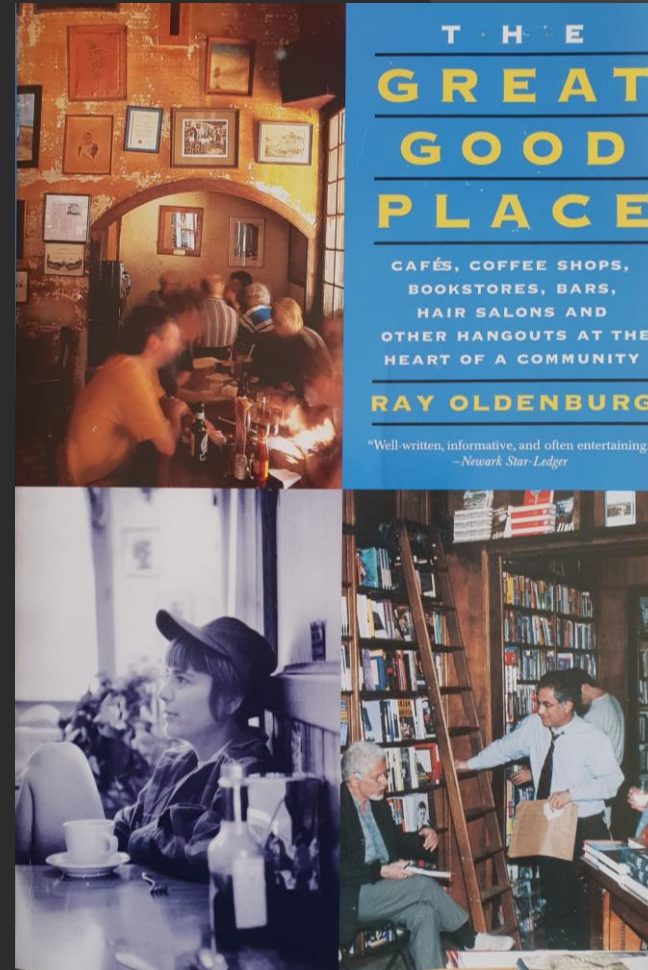
Catherine E Kerrigan

University of South Australia

@Uberlibris

The great good place

- Published 1999
- First place
 - Home
- Second place
 - Work
- Third place
 - Social and community



Libraries as third places

- On neutral ground ✓
- Acts as a leveller ✓
- Conversation main activity ✗
- Accessible and accommodating ✓
- Has regulars ✓
- Low profile ✗
- Playful mood ?
- Home away from home ✓



Libraries as fourth places

- Architecture
- Location
- Locality
- Conversation
- Sustenance
- Community
- Story
- For writers and artists



How does this help?

- Advocacy
- Programming
- Planning
- Collection development
- Evaluations
- User surveys
- Benchmarking



Libraries as fourth places

Library Land rating

Library: _____

Date of visit: _____

Parking/Transportation	
WiFi	
Meeting rooms	
Cleaniness	
Completeness	
Community	
Friendliness	
Restroom	
Noise	
Comfort level	
Good place to work	
Overall rating	

Source: <https://www.librarylandproject.com/>

SLQ Creative Spaces Framework

Library: _____

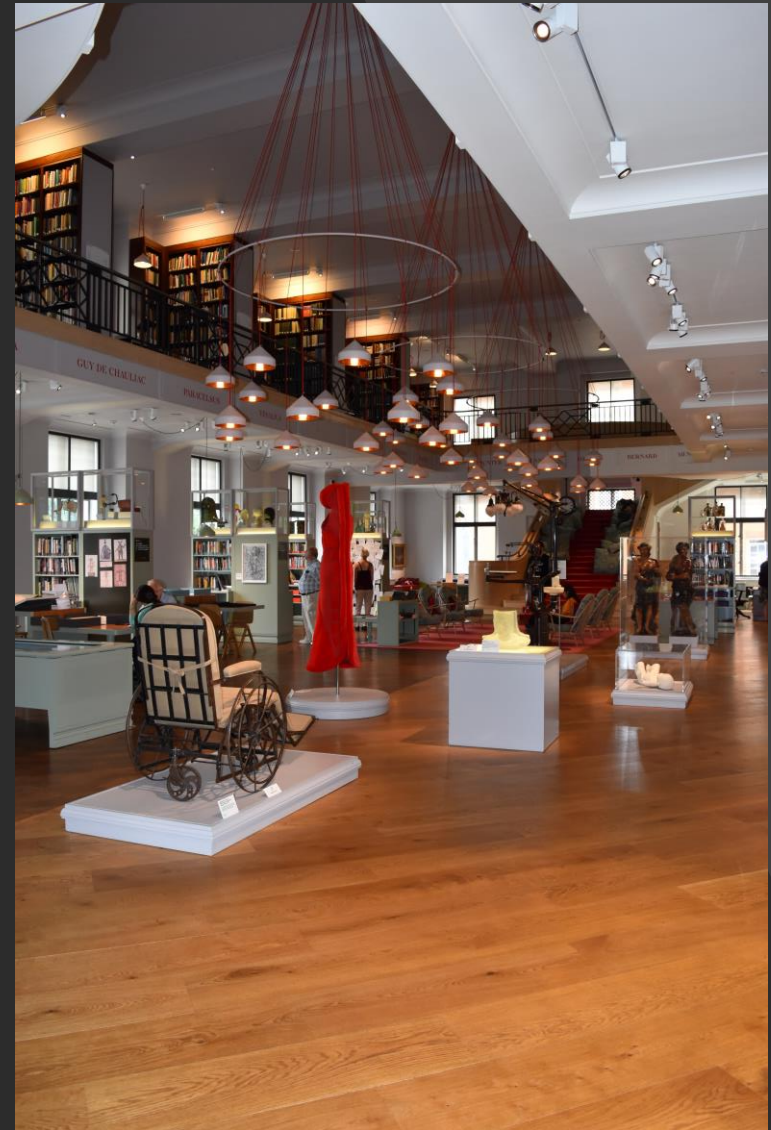
Date of visit: _____

Accessing resources	
Idea building	
Civic engagement	
Community development	
Cultural participation	
Health and wellbeing	
Educational attainment	
Economic productivity	

<http://www.plconnect.slq.qld.gov.au/manage/research/libraries-as-creative-spaces/creative-spaces-impact-framework>

Final thought

It celebrates both the tradition of exhibition visiting – of looking, talking and sharing – and that of the library, of reading, touching, thinking, writing and creating. We hope that you will find inspiration in the combination of these two very common (but usually separate) cultural spaces and indulge your curiosity in multiple ways. (Arnold & Chaplin, 2014)



Credits

Library images

- Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art Library, Helsinki, Finland
- Port Adelaide Library, Adelaide, Australia
- Portico Library, Manchester, UK
- Footscray Mechanics' Institute, Footscray, Australia
- The Reading Room, Wellcome Library, London, UK
 - All photos © Catherine E Kerrigan

Library ratings

- Library Land Project
 - <https://www.librarylandproject.com/>
- State Library of Queensland
 - <http://www.plconnect.slq.qld.gov.au/manage/research/libraries-as-creative-spaces>

References

- Arnold, K., & Chaplin, S. (2014). Introducing the reading room. In A. Faherty, *Reading Room companion: Consisting of a rare and valuable collection of diverse curiosities acquired by and for Henry Wellcome with a great variety of books*, (pp. viii-ix). London, UK: Wellcome Collection.