

Gary A. Wasdin

Thank you for considering me as a candidate to be your new Library Director, King County Library System.

KCLS has a reputation for excellence that is known across the country, and I am excited about the opportunity to build on this great success. Together we will ensure that our library anticipates and responds to the needs of our communities .



Professional Background

My experience in both public and academic libraries, coupled with my experience in retail management, gives me a broad and diverse understanding of leadership, organizational performance and talent management. While each library and situation is unique, there are challenges that are common to all of us.

At Omaha Public Library my priorities have been focused externally, building stronger relationships with elected officials, community and business leaders, and philanthropic foundations. These relationships have enabled us to develop a vision and strategy that is intrinsically tied to our city and county

11 years Public Library Management Experience

- Executive Director, Omaha Public Library
- Director, Office of Staff Development, The New York Public Library
- Public Training Coordinator, The New York Public Library

7 years Academic Library Management Experience

- Assistant Dean, University of Alabama Libraries
- Library Director, Fogelman Library, The New School
- Head of Access Services, Wesleyan University
- Reference Librarian, Wesleyan University

3 Years Other Management Experience

- Store Manager, The Bombay Company

Personal Background

I was born and raised in Jacksonville, FL, and completed my bachelor's degree in theater in Augusta, GA. I then moved to New Haven, CT where I obtained masters degrees in Library Science and English.

My partner, Luis, is a native of Montevideo, Uruguay. We have three kids, all grown, and two grandsons who are 7 and 9.

We have the best dog in the world, a chiweenie named Chico, and recently adopted two orange kittens named Fred and George (extra points to those who can name the literary source of their names.)

In my spare time I love to travel. I've been fortunate enough to take several fantastic trips, my favorites being a driving tour through Italy, and an adventurous week in Denali National Park.

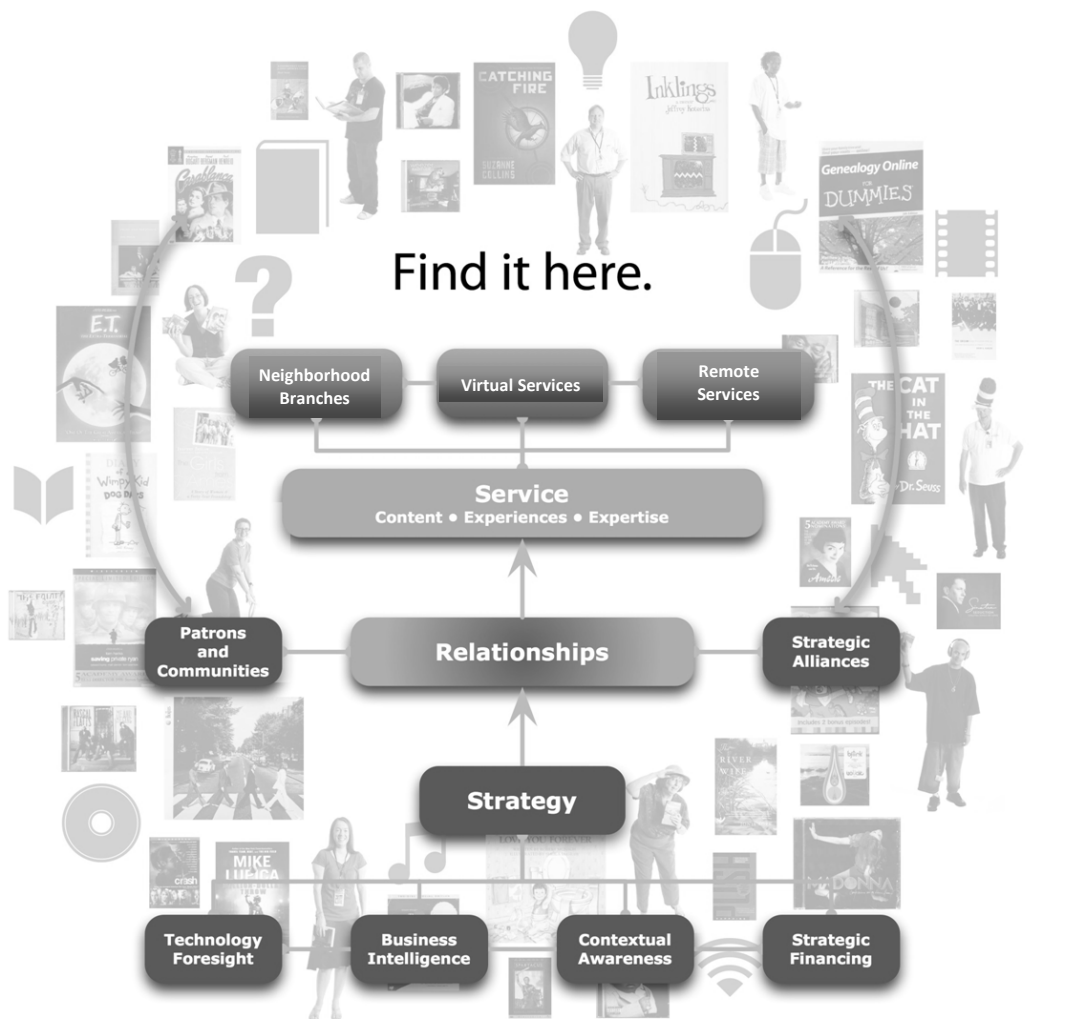
My favorite writers are Flannery O'Connor and David McCullough.

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Strategic Service Model

My vision of a successful and innovative library system is one that is organized into four key elements that build on each other:

- Strategy - the fundamental foundation for the library, informed by thoughtful insight and community engagement;
- Relationships - strong connections with community members, and organizational partnerships that provide strength, direction and support;
- Service Core - the valued services libraries provide including staff expertise, collections, technology and welcoming environments;
- Service Delivery - the critical moment of physical and virtual contact between the library and the people we serve.



What Is Strategy?

Strategy sometimes sounds cold and business-like, but its three simple components are at the heart of everything we do:

Purpose

What is our intent and why are we here?

Process

How do we align functions to do what we need to do?

People

Who do we hire, nurture and develop for dynamic service?