Contents

Tables	IIIX social inclusion
About the Author	VX Social exclusion
Acknowledgements	XVII
Introduction: Framework for the Future?	xix
An Independent Review of English Public Libraries	Na or nego visione que xix
Come Rain or Shine	XX
Why you should read this book	xxi
Literature review	xxi
Framework for the Future – or the present?	xxii
Books and learning	xxiii
Digital inclusion	xxiv
Social exclusion	XXV
Back to the future	xxvi
About the chapters	XXVII
1 The Soul of the Public Library: Equity or Excellen	ice?
Introduction	fi Social class and the Libra
Ignorance is not our heritage	1 Frakang Part
Excellence is for everyone	melderg ent 4
Equity, not excellence	6
Value popular culture	quore areshaw shell 7
The SINTO debate	8
Public libraries and social justice	11
Back to the future	13
2 Collection Development: Books or Baked Beans	? 19 29 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19
Introduction	15
The Strange Rise of Semi-literate England	15

X REIMAGINGING THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

	Library dispersals		18
	Giving libraries back to the people		19
	An axe to the roots of our national culture		19
	'Classics Swept off Library Shelves by Pulp Fiction'		20
	Building Better Library Services		21
	We might as well hand over the keys		22
	Back to the future		23
3	Open to All: Social Exclusion, Inclusion or Cohesi	on?	25
	Introduction		25
	New Labour		25
	The Social Exclusion Unit		26
	Libraries for All		27
	Social inclusion		30
	Social exclusion		50
	Open to All? The Public Library and Social Exclusion		31
	Transforming pablic libraries		34
	Superficially open to all		34
	Community cohesion		
			37
	Social cohesion		-
	Back to the future		40
4	Race and Class: The Final Frontiers?		41
	Introduction		41
	Social exclusion and social class		
	What is class?		43
	The public library and social class		44
	Library use and social class		46
	Social class and the Library Association		47
	rakingrait		48
	THE PICOLETT		49
	The solution		50
	Black Workers Group		51
	Back to the future		53
5	The 'War on Terror': Policing or Trust?		55
	Introduction		55
	'Hey, Minister – leave those books alone'		55
	Privacy		59
	Libraries and liberty		62

	What is to be done?	65
	Back to the future	67
6	The Vanguard Library: Traditional, Community Led or Needs Based?	69
	Introduction	69
	Dialectical and historical materialism	69
	New wine in old bottles: the traditional public library	70
	The community-led library: removing the barriers	73
	News from nowhere: the needs-based library	75
	Strategy, structures, systems and culture	77
	Back to the future	84
7	Lessons from Abroad: 'Friends' or Enemies of Cuban Libraries?	85
	Introduction	85
	Cuban libraries	85
	The 'Independent Libraries' project	90
	Who is behind the 'Independent Libraries' project?	94
	With 'friends' like these	97
	What are we to make of the 'Independent Libraries' project?	98
	Back to the future	99
8	Equality, Happiness and Well-being: Proxy Performance Measures?	101
	Introduction	101
	Libraries' Holy Grail	101
	The Spirit Level	102
	Equality measures and public libraries	103
	Impact of reading on health and well-being	106
	Economic and social impacts	108
	Willingness to pay and benefits of library activities	110
	The Inner Level	112
	Back to the future	113
9	Back to the Future: Come Rain or Shine?	115
	Introduction	115
	Late fees as social penalty	115
	Systemic racism in the library	116
	'Public library': an inherently problematic concept	116
	Needs-based public libraries	117
	Open to All?	119
	Come Rain or Shine	120
	The new model public library	124

EE What are we to make of the 'Independent Libraries' projection when a safety 35