The Difference Between Values, Vision And Mission

A library mission statement sets out your purpose. It shows how you serve your community every day. For mission statements, it’s good to start them with phrases like:

“We are…”

“Our purpose is to…”

“Every day we…”

A library vision statement sets out your community’s future. It shows what you want your visitors to have learned once they leave:

“We aspire for our community members to be…”

“We strive to develop a community with…”

“Our community will be….”

A library values statement sets out your principles. It shows your community what you value. Examples of things you value include:

Inclusion

Equity

Free access to information

Social justice

Serving others

Library mission statements are personal to the context in which they’re located. If you’re a library situated in a diverse city, it’s probably imperative that you focus on diversity in your mission and vision statement. Similarly, if you’re a school, your school library mission statement will be full of information about students and learning.

A collaborative approach that includes all stakeholders – including community partners, staff, parents, students and clients can help ensure your mission and vision statements reflect the community you serve.

And once you’ve created these statements, make sure they’re embedded in everything you do so they’re worth the paper they’re written on! The statement is a guidepost, but it’s up to the team to put it into action on a daily basis.